

COUNTERPOINTS – SS11
NOTES
THE CITIZEN AND
GOVERNMENT CH. 10

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Why hold an election?

The Electoral System

- ⌘ *First-past-the-post system*
 - ⌘ What is it?
 - ⌘ Pros?
 - ⌘ Cons?
- ⌘ *Proportional representation (PR) system*
 - ⌘ What is it?
 - ⌘ Pros?
 - ⌘ Cons?

The Electoral System

- Some countries (e.g. Germany, New Zealand) have developed systems that combine elements of PR and first-past-the-post.
- The first-past-the-post system accentuates regionalism in Canada. (what does this mean?)



Choosing the Government

- Public Opinion Polls**
 - Parties typically spend 15% of their election budget on polling.
 - Polling companies contact a cross-section of the population that is believed to represent the views and opinions of Canadians in general.
 - Public opinion polls showing the level of voter support for parties are not allowed to be published in the 24 hours immediately prior to an election.
 - On election day, voting takes place in private, behind a small screen, and no campaign signs or literature are allowed at or around the polling station.

Public Opinion Polls

- PROS**
 - Believed to represent the views and opinions of all Canadians
 - Political parties can address particular concerns during speeches
- CON**
 - Believed to affect voter's choices (voting with the majority vs. own opinions or withdrawing)
