

## **Allocation of seats**

The central electoral committee divides the seats and residual seats between the lists. The number of seats which is directly allocated to a list is equal to the number of times the electoral quotient was obtained. All lists submitted by a party and all lists in a list combination are regarded as one list for this purpose.

For a list combination, a calculation is first made to establish if the parties taking part in that combination would also have secured a seat independently. If that is not the case, the results are calculated as though these parties were not taking part in the list combination concerned. If, as a result, there are fewer than two parties left in a list combination, that list combination will of course be disregarded.

## **Residual seats**

Seats are usually left over after the first assignment of the seats to the parties. These residual seats are distributed according to the “rule of the highest average”.

Only in small municipalities, where the municipal council consists of fewer than nineteen members, is another system used: the “rule of the highest average”.

If parties obtain equal numbers of votes and there is an insufficient number of residual seats which can be allocated to these parties, lots will be drawn to see which party gets the residual seat. This applies to both systems.

## **Rule of the highest average**

- First, a calculation is made to establish the number of votes that would have been cast per seat for a particular party if that party were to get one additional seat;
- The results of this calculation are the averages; they are ranked according to size;
- The first residual seat goes to the party with the highest average. The resulting average is then calculated for this party, going by the number of full seats, the allocated residual seats and one additional seat;
- If there is still a residual seat to distribute, it will once again be allocated to the party with the highest average;
- If necessary, this procedure is repeated until all the residual seats have been distributed.

## **Rule of the largest remainder**

- First, a calculation is made to establish the number of votes a party has left over after the initial allocation of the seats. To do this, the number of directly allocated seats is multiplied by the electoral quotient. This number is subtracted from the number of secured votes. The result is the “remainder”;
- The residual seats are distributed in order of the largest remainder, whereby only a single residual seat can be allocated to each party. Only parties which obtained at least 75% of the electoral quotient qualify for the allocation;
- If, then, there are any remaining residual seats, these will be distributed according to the rule of the highest average. In that case, the threshold of 75% of the electoral quotient does not apply. As in the previous case, each party is only entitled to one residual seat.

## **Exceptional situations: Absolute majority and insufficient candidates**

If a party or list combination has more than half the votes (so, an “absolute majority”) but not more than half the seats, it will be allowed one additional (residual) seat. If a party does not have a sufficient number of candidates available to hold the seats assigned to it, these “surplus” seats will pass to other parties.

## **In case of more than one List (list combination and groups of lists)**

- If seats are allocated to a list combination of several parties, the seats will first be divided between the parties taking part in the combination, according to the method used for dividing seats between parties. The calculation is made on the basis of what is referred to as the “combination electoral quotient”;
- The rule of the largest remainder is applied to the distribution of residual seats;
- Then, if the parties taking part have submitted several lists in several electoral districts (a group of lists), the seats will still be divided between the lists of the parties concerned. A so-called “group electoral quotient” is used here.
- The rule of the largest remainder is applied to the distribution of residual seats.