

How are Rajya Sabha Members Elected? Detailed Process Explained

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India follows the British parliamentary system, so the Rajya Sabha, or the Upper House of Parliament, is **equivalent to the House of Lords in the United Kingdom**. The Rajya Sabha currently **has 245 members**, including **233 elected members and 12 nominated**. As **per the constitutional limit**, the Upper House strength **cannot exceed 250**. While **233 members are elected from states and Union Territories (UTs)**, **President of India nominates the remaining 12** from from the fields of art, literature, science and social services. Every Rajya Sabha MP has a **tenure of six years** and **elections to one-third seats are held every two years**. According to Section 154 of the Representation of the People Act 1951, a **member chosen to fill a casual vacancy will serve for the remainder** of his predecessor's term of office. The **Indian vice-president is chairperson of the Upper House**, while it also has a deputy chair.

How are Rajya Sabha Members Elected?

Check How are Rajya Sabha Members Elected in the points provided below:

- While Lok Sabha members are elected directly by the voters, **Rajya Sabha members are elected indirectly by the people**, that is, **by the elected Members of a state's Legislative Assembly (MLAs)**.

- How many Rajya Sabha **members a state can send depends on its population.**
- MLAs vote in the Rajya Sabha elections in what is called **proportional representation with the single transferable vote (STV) system.** **Each MLA's vote is counted only once.**
- In this system, **MLAs don't vote for each seat.**
- Instead, the MLAs are **given a paper with the names of all candidates.** **They have to give their order of preference for each candidate,** marking 1,2,3... against their names.
- The **ballot is open but MLAs have to show their ballots to an authorised agent from their party** to prevent practices such as cross-voting. A vote cannot be counted if the ballot is not shown to the agent. **Independent MLAs cannot show** their ballot to anyone.
- **If a qualifying number of voters choose a candidate as their first choice, he or she is elected.**
- The **remaining votes go to the next candidates, but with a lesser value.** So, MLAs also vote for candidates from other parties.
- The **candidate that gets rank 1 from an MLA secures a first preference vote. In order to win, a candidate needs a specific number of such first preference votes.** This number **depends on the strength of the state Assembly and the number of MPs it sends to Rajya Sabha.**
- **To win, a candidate should get a required number of votes which is known as quota** or preference vote. **The formula is = [Total number of votes/(Number of Rajya Sabha seats + 1)] + 1.**
- However, the formula is **changed in case more than one seat needs to be filled.** The total number of votes required for a candidate in the case is = [(Number of votes x 100) / (Vacancies + 1)] + 1.

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/how-are-rajya-sabha-members-elected/>

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