

Democracy Jargon:

DEMOCRACY JARGON:

Refers to the specialised words, phrases, and terminology used when talking about democracy, government, politics, elections, and students' rights. Here are some examples:

Accountability- elected representatives being responsible to the students they represent and being open about the decisions they make and the work that they do.

Activism- is taking action to bring about change or raise awareness of an issue that you care about.

Agenda- a list of items to be discussed at a meeting.

Amendment- a proposed change to a motion, proposal, policy, or other formal document.

Ballot- the method or form used to cast a vote. Our Student Union uses an online ballot system during the voting period.

Board- a group of people responsible for overseeing our organisation and making important decisions about how it is run.

Bylaws- a document containing the Students' Union's rules, which are created by the Students' Union and its students. They set out the rules and procedures for how the organisation should run certain activities, such as elections.

Candidate- a student running for a particular role.

Chair- the person responsible for leading and managing a meeting. They make sure the meeting runs fairly and smoothly, keep the discussion focused, and ensure that everyone has an opportunity to contribute.

Collective action- students working together to achieve a shared goal.

Committee- a group of people who are given responsibility for discussing, managing, or making decisions about a particular area or issue.

Debate- a discussion where people consider different sides of an issue before making a decision.

Democracy- a system where people, such as you as students, have a say in how they are governed.

Democracy Review- a periodic evaluation used by Students' Unions to update how they engage students and distribute power.

Election- the process of choosing someone for a position by voting.

Executive Committee- is the SU's leadership group, responsible for putting the decisions and priorities agreed by the AARC and EDIWC into action.

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Governance- the systems, rules and processes used to run and oversee an organisation like a Students' Union.

Grassroots- activities led by students rather than by staff or people in positions of power and authority.

Guerrilla campaigning- a form of campaigning that uses creative and unconventional methods to attract attention to a particular campaign or cause.

Majority- receiving more votes than any other candidate or option.

Manifesto- a document that each candidate produces and publishes online for students to read. It outlines priorities and the work a candidate plans to focus on if elected. It helps students understand what candidates stand for when deciding who to vote for.

Minutes- an official record of what was discussed and decided upon at a meeting.

Motion- a formal proposal suggesting that the Students' Union should take a particular action or adopt a specific position.

Nomination- the process of putting yourself forward for a position. Once you nominate yourself, you become a candidate.

Policies- a set of ideas that reflect your opinions, goals and beliefs, which you use to try and get people to vote for you.

Policy- an agreed position or approach on a particular issue.

Procedure- the established system or way something should be carried out.

Quorum- the minimum number of people who must be present for a meeting to officially make decisions.

Referendum- a vote in which students are asked to make a direct decision on a specific question or proposal.

Regulations- detailed rules governing a particular process.

Representation- when someone acts or speaks on behalf of others.

Resolution- a formal decision or position agreed by a group.

Single Transferable Voting (STV)- the voting system used by us and many other Students' Unions. This system gives voters the ability to rank their candidates in order of preference.

Transparency- making decisions, processes and information as clear and accessible as possible.

Turnout- the percentage or number of eligible students who actually vote.

Volunteer- someone who freely offers to take part in a task.