

# Multi-Voting

**What** Multi-voting is a way of selecting the most important items for discussion. When a large number of items have been generated it is difficult to choose using NGT, or any other method, which ones to work on. Multi-voting helps by openly narrowing the size of the list and if desired, setting priorities based on the voting.

**When** After generating a list of issues, as in a brainstorming session, and that list needs to be narrowed or prioritized and consensus is desired to ensure support for the selected issues. This tool gives members an equal number of votes.

**How** 1. **Generate a list of items:** Clearly identify the purpose of the session. After group discussion combine items that seem similar.

2. **Determine the Number of Votes per person:** Prepare for voting by identifying a desirable number of items to reduce the list to a number of items or to prioritize.

*Tip: For more than 20 issues, reduce the number before prioritizing.*

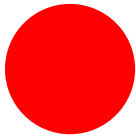

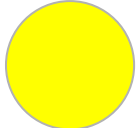
*To reduce, formula to identify number of votes for each person:  $N/3+1$*

3. **Conduct the voting:** There are several methods; voice, by show of hands, or by ballot or hot dot. Each person can have multiple votes.

*Tip: The "Hot Dot" method gives each member colored self-adhesive dots to use to cast their votes by sticking them next to issues.*

*Tip: When the number of dots are limited, votes can be assigned different weighted values based on their color, when multiple colors are available, #1 = 5 points, #2 = 3 points, #3 = 1 point or something similar.*

4. **Talley the votes:** Add up the votes for each item. If weighting is used add up the votes using the weighting scheme. Start with the issue with the highest number and work down until you have selected the agreed number for reducing or prioritizing.

#1-		5
#2-		3
#3-		1

$$N / 3 + 1 =$$

$$36 / 3 + 1 =$$

$$12 + 1 = 13$$

## **CAUTION!**

The advisor must remain neutral, not showing bias for or against any person or item being voted on.