

# DECIDE WITH DOTMOCRACY

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## COLLABORATION AND WORKING IN GROUPS

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### THIS TOOL WILL HELP YOU TO:

- ★ identify collective points of agreement, priorities and themes
  - ★ recognise agreement on unique and specific ideas
  - ★ give an equal voice to all participants
  - ★ support friendly discussions while efficiently leading to practical conclusions.
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### HOW TO:

Dotmocracy is a decision making tool that helps you to tap into group wisdom and prioritise a brainstormed list of ideas in a way that is transparent, equal and participatory. Dotmocracy is a popular term for 'range voting'. Range voting is statistically proven to achieve better results than normal voting.

As a facilitator of dotmocracy you will be authoritative and responsible for the process, but will maintain neutral opinions on the session's content. By following these steps, you will build trust with participants and observers, and in yourself as a facilitator. These rules will also help you keep the process reliable, accountable and fair for all participants.

- 1 Write out the list of ideas. It can help to use a large sheet of butchers paper or a whiteboard. There are no changes to ideas once dotting has started.
- 2 Allocate an equal number of dots to each person in the group.
- 3 Ask participants to 'vote' with their dots, distributing their dots according to how strongly they feel about an idea. Participants may dot as many or as few ideas as they wish. There are no changes to ideas once dotting has started.
- 4 Keep marking dots next to ideas until all of the participants dots have been used.
- 5 Tally up the number of dots next to each idea.
- 6 The idea/s with the most dots are the ones the group has collectively prioritised.

Note that participants may wish to keep their dotting choices secret and their comments anonymous. To facilitate this, dotting could be coordinated using a ballot paper system.



## BRING IT TO A MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN MEETING

### Report back

Describe the process of using the Decide with Dotmocracy tool on your project. What insights did you gain? What changes will you make to your project as a result? Did you have any difficulties your fellow change makers could advise on? What tips on the tool do you have for your fellow change makers?

### Practice run

Think of some competing ideas or options people could vote on. It's best to use your project you are working on. However, your Make Change Happen group will have to understand it enough so that they can contribute meaningful insights. An alternate topic could be as simple as 'what are the most important ingredients in a soup?'. You'll need a whiteboard or large piece of butchers paper. Follow the 'How to' and capture any insights generated. If you do this practice run on your real project, these insights from the group will be very valuable. Use them.

**DECIDE WITH DOTMOCRACY**

**TAP INTO GROUP WISDOM.**

### COMBINE THIS TOOL WITH:

Pool Your Ideas

Decide with Consensus

Give and Receive Feedback

### NOTES

*We acknowledge Jason Diceman and [dotmocracy.org](http://dotmocracy.org) in developing this tool - if you'd like to explore Dotmocracy in more detail check out: [dotmocracy.org/what\\_is](http://dotmocracy.org/what_is) and [www.idearatingsheets.org](http://www.idearatingsheets.org)*