

You've got a list of options and want to pick the top ones fast

Dot Voting

All participants get the same number of votes to split and distribute on the options however they like. Fewer votes mean faster counting. 3 votes per person is a popular number. In this case 1:1:1, 1:2 and 3 votes for the same topic are all valid.

In the name-coining form of Dot Voting the facilitator hands out stick-on dots to the participants. 1 dot per vote. If you're not concerned about someone manipulating the votes, you can also use X's, drawn with big markers. That way it also works on whiteboards.

Ways to Vote # # # #

In agile, self-organizing teams often take decisions for themselves instead of relying on managers. This can call for votes to settle a discussion. Check out these basic ways to vote!

“Was that a decision?”

In a discussion the participants seem to have reached consensus yet it's not explicit

You don't always need a vote. In unclear situations, encourage everyone to loudly ask “Was that a decision?”. This question often gets enough silent people to voice a “Yes” so that people know that they indeed just took a decision. If they object, people are forced to speak up.

Gauge the support for one proposal

Roman Vote

Everybody votes at the same time by showing a thumb up, horizontal or down. Thumb up shows support, thumb to the side means "I'll support whatever the majority wants" and thumb down means that you want to speak. Beware of lots of horizontal thumbs. Support is lukewarm at best.

