

Counting the votes

How voting for best picture for the Academy Awards works:

Voting procedure

- Instead of voting for one film, members will rank best picture nominees from 1 to 10

- If no film wins more than 50 percent of first-choice votes, film with lowest number of first-choice votes will be eliminated

- On ballots with removed film, second choice now counted as first choice

- If a film still does not have 51 percent, process is repeated

Organized by first-ranked film; no film has 51 percent to win

"True Grit" taken out since it has least votes

Second-ranked film becomes first

Second place could win

Voting method may mean a film wins best picture without getting the most first-place votes

Example of how that is possible; nine ballots ranking top three films:

1 "The King's Speech"
2 "Black Swan"
3 "True Grit"

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After first count

| | |
|---------------|---|
| King's Speech | 4 |
| Black Swan | 3 |
| True Grit | 2 |

After second count

| | |
|---------------|---|
| King's Speech | 4 |
| Black Swan | 5 |

Black Swan has more than 51 percent; wins best picture



Source: The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences
Graphic: Melina Yingling, Lee Hulteng