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How to Vote in a KILT Referendum

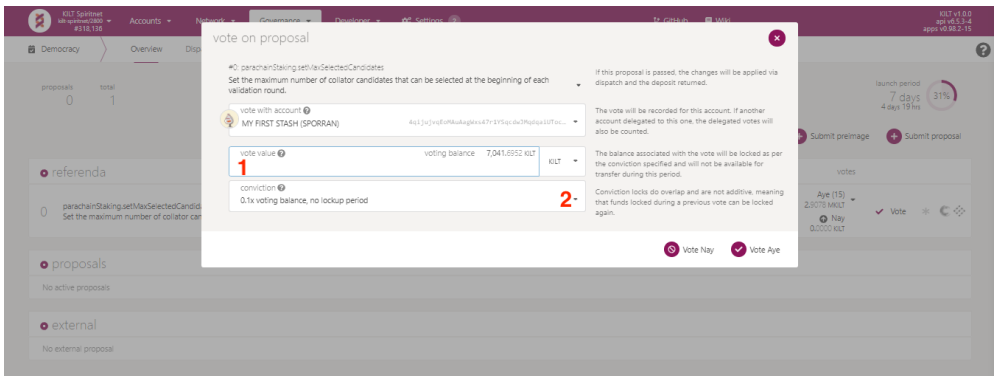
Before voting on any referendum, you can read more about it and join the discussion on Polkassembly. Polkassembly is an open-source platform for providing information, context, and a discussion forum for proposals and referenda in the Polkadot ecosystem.

Note, coins that are locked for staking may be used to vote.

Voting via Polkadot-JS Apps

Voting can be done via the Polkadot-JS Apps interface. This will request a connection to your wallet (e.g., Sporran) for signing the transaction.

1. Go to KILT Spiritnet on Polkadot-JS Apps.
2. Under the "Governance" → "Democracy" section you will see active referenda and proposals.
3. Scroll to the referendum you want to vote on.
4. Click "Vote".
5. This opens a separate pop-up. Enter the amount of coins you want to lock (1 in the image below). The minimum required to vote is 1 KILT.

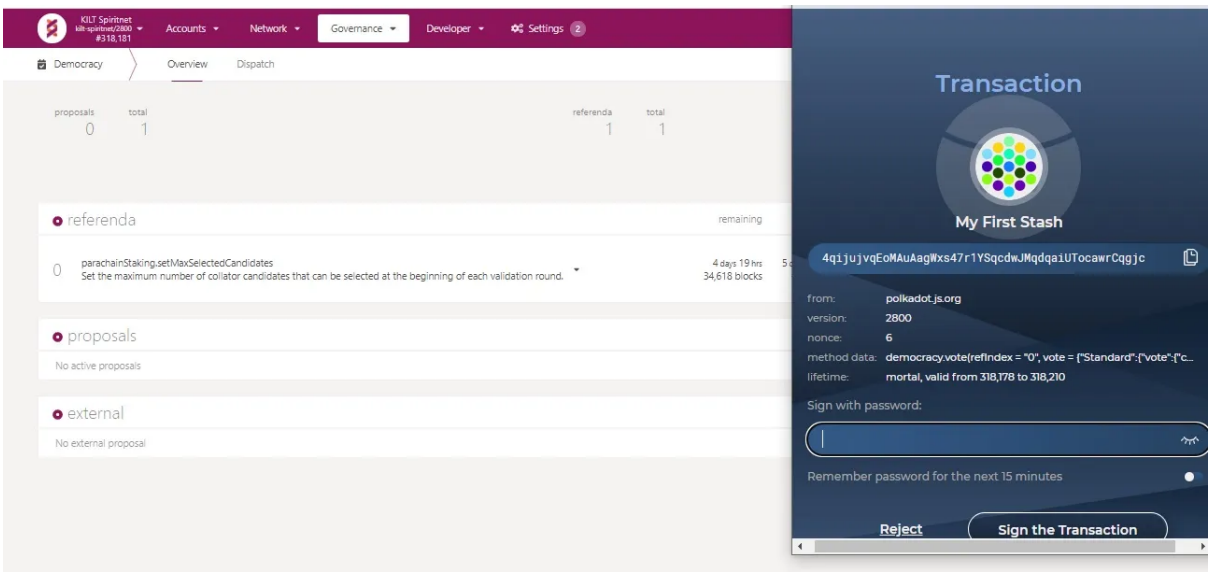


6. Voting with multiplier 0.1 (voting power of 10% of your voting coins) locks your coins only for the duration of the referendum.

If you wish to increase your voting power by selecting a longer period of time to lock your coins, click the arrow next to conviction (2 in the image above). Choose your conviction in the drop-down menu. (See more in the “Conviction Voting” section below.)

Please note: if the referendum is successful, your coins will remain locked for this period; if unsuccessful, your coins will be unlocked when the referendum has finished. Also because voting happens transparently on-chain, it requires a small transaction fee (currently around 0.017 KILT). While locked coins or coins used for staking can be simultaneously used for voting, a usable, unlocked balance to cover this fee is required.

7. Vote “Aye” if you agree with the proposal and “Nay” if you disagree.
8. Click “Sign and Submit” in the pop-up.



9. Sign the transaction by entering your password (Sporran, Polkadot.JS, etc., depending on where you are connected).
10. That’s it!

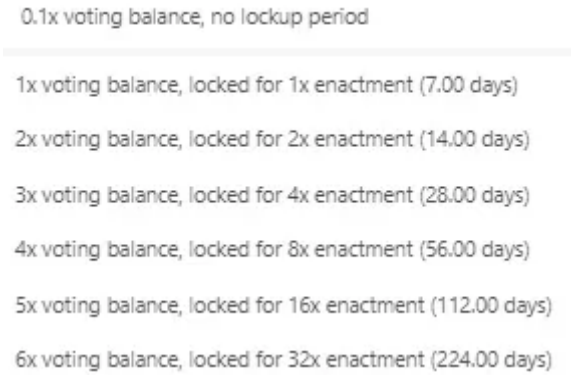
If you make an error or change your mind later, you can remove your vote within the voting period.

Backgrounder: Conviction Voting

Like Polkadot and Kusama, KILT Protocol has conviction voting. This means if you feel very strongly about a proposal, you can lock up coins for longer periods to increase your voting power up to a maximum factor of 6. The longer you lock your coins, the stronger your vote will be weighted.

The times range from no lockup to a period of around 224 days, with the lockup time beginning after the voting period ends. Coins used for voting will always be locked until the end of the voting period, no matter what conviction you vote with.

Of note: the lock time is based on the standard block time of 12 seconds per block and hence may vary due to differences in the real block time.



If you choose not to lock any coins, your vote only counts as 10% of the coins that you commit to the voting (vote value), while the maximum lockup of around 224 days means you can make your vote count for 600% of the vote value. You can choose to lock all or some of your coins for any range between 0.1x and 6x, with a lockup time as outlined above.

For example: You have a wallet with 1,001 KILT Coins. This could include staked or vested coins.

Example 1 — minimum

- You want to vote but don't want to lock any coins.
- You enter 1,000 into the "vote value"
- You choose "0.1 x voting balance, no lockup period"
- This gives you a voting power of 100 KILT Coins
- Note that all your 1,000 coins are locked for the time of the voting period (7 days).

Example 2 — maximum

- You strongly believe in the referendum and want to vote with your full balance and maximum conviction.
- Choose "6 x voting balance, locked for 32x enactment (224 days)"
- This will give you a voting power of 6,000 KILT Coins
- if you use your full amount, or 6 times the voting power of the amount you chose. The chosen amount will be locked for a period of around 224 days after the voting period ends (7 days).

Note: rounded numbers are used as an example only — make sure that you always leave enough free, usable balance to cover the transaction fees.

Conviction voting allows users with a small number of coins to increase their voting power, and deters a KILT Coin holder from creating and voting on a malicious proposal and then leaving the network.

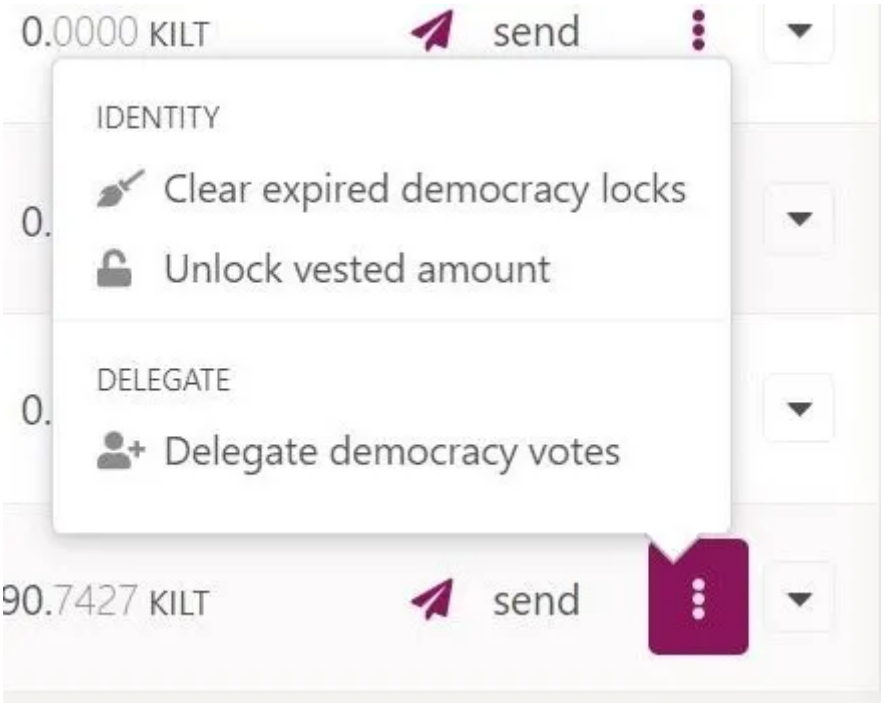
If the referendum is successful, your voting coins will remain locked for the time specified (which means that you will be unable to transfer them, but they will still be usable for staking during that time); if unsuccessful, your coins will be unlocked after the referendum has finished.

KILT also uses an algorithm to adapt the amount of “aye” (yes/agree) votes needed to pass depending on voter turnout: the greater the number of voters, the lower the threshold required to pass. Therefore, when voter turnout is low a supermajority is generally required; with a high turnout a simple majority is sufficient.

Unlocking Coins After Lockup Expires

After the lockup time has been reached, a transaction is needed to clear the lock. Of note: this will also require a transaction fee.

1. Go to KILT Spiritnet on Polkadot-JS Apps.
2. Click the three dots on the right of your account. This opens up a pop-up.
3. Click “Clear expired democracy locks”.



Confirm the transaction. This will clear the lock.

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