

Miskin, Sarah (REPS)

From: GWE [gracyn@big.net.au]
Sent: Thursday, 31 March 2005 10:12 AM
To: Committee, EM (REPS)
Cc: Smith, Tony (MP)
Subject: Fw: Electoral Reform

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters	
Submission No.	98
Date Received	31-3-05
Secretary	<i>[Signature]</i>

----- Original Message -----

From: "GWE" <gracyn@big.net.au>
To: "*" <Tony.Smith.MP@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, December 29, 2004 9:38 AM
Subject: Fw: Electoral Reform

My apologies for not including a postal address which is:-

G.W. Ebbage,
P.O. Box 526,
Kingaroy,
Q'ld 4610.

----- Original Message -----

From: "GWE" <gracyn@big.net.au>
To: <Tony.Smith.MP@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2004 12:15 PM
Subject: Electoral Reform

Tony Smith, M.P.,

Dear Sir,

I read with great interest an article in THE SUNDAY MAIL of 19th December that Prime Minister Howard is planning an overhaul of the Australian voting system, and that you have been selected to head the relevant parliamentary committee. Congratulations.

I have long felt that the present voting system is inadequate, indeed discriminatory, unnecessarily complicated, and should be discarded in favour of a fairer system.

Let me explain:-

I agree that preferential voting is necessary whenever more than two candidates are standing for election. It is only fair that whenever a simple majority is not achieved by any candidate then the electors, ALL ELECTORS, should be allowed to express a second choice.

However, what I strongly disagree with in the present system is that the only electors who have their second preference counted are those who voted for the LEAST popular candidate. How stupid is that ?? Not only do the preferences of this least popular person probably decide the outcome, but the preferences of the rest of us are ignored. I wonder if this aspect could be the basis of a legal challenge because, to me, it is so discriminatory.

A possible solution, in my eyes, is a weighted voting system where points are awarded to candidates to reflect the preferences of each and every voter.

I would suggest that, no matter how many candidates, above two, are on the ballot paper, only three, or in the case of the Senate six or twelve, candidates are voted for in the order of 1, 2 and 3. (modified in case of Senate) Points are allotted in the order of 3 for candidate number 1, 2 for candidate number 2, and 1 for candidate number 3. The candidate accruing the most points is elected.

This means that all preference votes are counted properly and the least wanted candidate does not have the major influence on the result.

I have tried to have this subject raised in the public arena via John Laws's talk-back

radio programme, by email, but with no success. I suspect that his email vettors do not realise or suspect the significance of the matter. I am sure that John would be interested if he were broached on the subject.

I am sure he would be only too pleased to hear from you!!

I would love to hear your thoughts on this most important matter.

Regards

Graham Ebbage