

The Secretary
Joint Select Committee on the Republic Referendum
Parliament House
CANBERRA

SUBMISSION

By submission to the Referendum Taskforce, and recorded as Submission 37, I proposed a clause for inclusion in S60 (or wherever appropriate) in the following terms:

Quote

The President or an Acting President of the Commonwealth shall be ineligible to vote in any Federal, State, Territory or local government election while administering the government of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Unquote

Words to this effect did not find their way into the Bill tabled in the House on 10 Jun 99.

It is considered that any citizen has the right to vote unless specifically excluded. A President entitled to vote would have the potential to politicise the Office and leave the way open for the impartiality of the holder of the Office to be challenged.

The suggestion is accordingly respectfully resubmitted to the Joint Select Committee.

C.H. Longstaff, RFD, RD
10 Kardella Avenue
KILLARA NSW 2071

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