

## Electoral Reform

My preference for electoral reform is the ranked ballot.

There are several reasons for this.

1. The candidate in each riding, who receives the support of 50% +, becomes the MP in that riding, as opposed to the situation with the current first past the post system in which frequently fewer than 50% of the voters in a riding support the MP.
2. The riding boundaries do not need changing. The number of elected MPs remains the same.
3. The same cleansing that can occur in an election with the first past the post system is still in effect & should be more effective. A poor representative or a poorly received political Party will be more likely to lose that seat with a ranked ballot.
4. The cleansing aspect of the first past the post system is one of its better characteristics, and it would be retained.
5. I wish that there were four major parties (two on each side of the political spectrum – which there used to be with the Reform & Progressive Conservative Party on the right & the Liberal & NDP on the left). That would make the ranked vote system more palatable to the present Conservative Party. But they have only themselves to blame for their unholy union of fiscal & social conservatives, and they've had the advantage of a split vote of the two parties on the left for too long.

Proportional representation (which only sounds good) in any form is by far the WORST choice, for several reasons.

1. Many ridings do not have their own representative.
2. Party leaders seem to remain FOREVER. The only way to get rid of a leader is by a leadership challenge instituted within the party, not directly by the electorate.
3. Depending upon the selected minimum % of the popular vote required to form a Party there can emerge a number of small Parties that are able to cobble together a significant voting block to have a disproportionate effect on passed legislation, i.e.: disproportionate to the overall number of voters.
4. Usually with proportional representation there are more MPs. YIKES.

Post Script: I strongly think that a referendum should NOT be held on this issue. It will be divisive, & doubtless constitutionally challenged, which means it won't get off the ground.

Or it will be impossible to convince the electorate that a new electoral system of government would be more representative - and this after a year or more of divisive politicking. YIKES.

PLEASE NO REFORENDUM

Sincerely,

Rod Williamson,

Peterborough, Ontario