

Hello, and thank you for considering this email as my brief as I cannot send you a pdf version on my device.

And brief I will be. I welcome the promise of electoral reform before the next election, as I have been frustrated all my adult life by the knowledge that my vote has had virtually no impact on who represents me and leads the government.

Here are my thoughts on electoral reform:

1. Do away with political parties. They bring out the worst aspects of tribal behaviour. I vote for the individual who keeps responsibly informed and acts with intelligence, humility, wisdom and compassion. To me, this is what makes a good politician strong. Elizabeth May, Karen Ludwig, Nathan Cullen and Keith Martin are examples.

2. Make voting compulsory. Too many lives have been lost to preserve the clumsy idea called democracy. The least we can do is show our gratitude by making our mark on the ballot.

3. Design a system that uses preferential voting combined with a hybrid of weighted and proportional representation. Our country with its large land mass and small, but highly concentrated population of people needs some degree of weighting. However, we have to get beyond this chronic situation that allows a party - and prime minister - to form a majority government by winning less than 40% of the votes cast. How can this possibly be seen as democratic?

4. In light of Point No. 3, study Australia's electoral system. It uses preferential voting and may have something to offer since it is the western country most like ours in demographics, population distribution and land mass.

5. Outlaw attack ads and the grotesque amount of money that gets spent by a party or candidate during an election campaign. Design a system that ensures that each candidate gets the same amount to spend on their campaign. Candidates should win by merit, not because they have very rich supporters.

Thank you for your consideration.

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