ELECTORAL REFORM

Jane Harrison

Calgary, Alberta

What I don't want:

- A voting system that is difficult to understand
- Increased cost to the electoral system by a very complicated voting system.
- Increased cost to the parliamentary system, e.g. by inflating the number of representatives.

What I do want:

- To eliminate (or at least reduce) voting for a second-rate candidate because the voter prefers the leader, the platform or values of the party that the candidate represents.

- To endorse a preferred candidate and also be able to show support for a party which that candidate does not represent, e.g. give a vote to a strong NDP candidate and show support for the Liberal Party, or give a vote for the Green candidate and show support to the Conservative Party. I always want to give my vote to the person whom I consider to be the best candidate no matter which party he or she represents. I believe that this should be the basis for a strong and vital parliament. I want to encourage parties to run really good, capable candidates.

- To elect any candidate who has a clear majority of votes cast, i.e. more than 50%.

- To never again hear the leader of a party, which has polled 40% of the popular vote, tell me that he or she has a clear mandate from the voters. In this scenario, opposing viewpoints are still the majority. Under our current FPTP system, this leader simply has a win enabled by the limitations of the system.

- To create a democratic system that encourages and rewards participation.

Mixed Electoral System to support the goals above:

Every voter gets two votes: one for the preferred candidate, the other for the preferred party. The voter could choose to: 1) vote for preferred candidate and preferred party, 2) vote for a candidate, but not a party, or 3) vote for a party but not a candidate, without spoiling the ballot.

All candidates who receive a clear majority of votes cast in their riding, i.e. more than 50%, are elected.

Seats where there is no clear majority would become part of a pool for proportional representation.

Rank the candidates for these remaining seats by the percentage of votes the candidate received for their riding.

Choosing one representative for each riding, members would be elected from this list based on their rank and in proportion to the votes that were cast for the party.

Establish requirements for qualifying parties as per the suggestions in the background paper, e.g. 5% of popular vote or one member elected by more than 50% of popular vote in the riding.

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Mandatory voting:

I suggest a non-refundable tax credit for voting, providing a ballot for the returning officer that has a removable stub to record the fact that the ballot has been submitted by the voter but severed from the vote to maintain privacy. This would allow the voter to spoil the ballot completely, either by accident or in protest, and still get a tax credit.

Online voting system:

We should be working on it (and I'm sure we are). An online system would facilitate adjustments to the system when inequities are revealed. A program could be written to identify that a voter has cast a ballot for tax purposes. We are already creating voters lists from tax returns.

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Jane Harrison, Calgary AB