



To: [Committee, EM \(REPS\)](#)
Subject: RE: Alternative preferential voting system [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 12 December 2013 3:34:13 PM

To :-
The Committee EM [Reps]

Like so many others [Tony Abbott & Co included] I am aghast at the potential chaos that is likely to prevail as a consequence of the antiquated preferential [proportional representation] system that leaves a political party with a clear mandate likely to be impeded by a fragmented Senate. The voting system requires a total review and there is a very simple and accurate alternative.

As a semi retired professional and almost octogenarian I'm reminded of a simple preferential voting system that was used by the Apex Club of Australia more than 50 years ago. As an example of the system suppose there were 12 candidates competing for 6 board member positions. Ballot papers were completed by the voters on 1 to 12 basis and a spreadsheet prepared listing the candidates and the numerical votes that they attracted [all the 1's , 2's ,and 3's etc.]. The twelve columns were added up and an immediate order of preference was evident. Obviously the lowest in aggregate number was the most popular selection from which the preferred progression then followed. Such a system would extinguish completely the minority wannabes.

The same system could easily be adopted for Senate purposes [and yes a single marked vote for a particular party could confer a pre- ordained order of preference]. If such a system were adopted the election result would be known by 7:00 pm. on election evenings if not before and the composition of the Senate would also be similarly available.

It probably reeks of too much simplicity and common sense to be adopted but I live in hopeful expectation. By the way why not contract all the TAB agencies around the country to act as polling booths. Their existing computer systems would cope with appropriate pre issued voting stationery. The results could probably be available by 10 past 6. Timothy Green might have to throw away his crystal ball. I have sent a copy of this letter to the Australian Electoral Commission, who knows somebody might even read it.
Yours faithfully
Jim Callaghan