

To: [Committee, EM \(REPS\)](#)
Subject: Senate Voting - Submission
Date: Wednesday, 4 December 2013 1:14:49 PM

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Department of House of Representatives
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
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Re: Senate Voting Paper

I would like to suggest a possible modification to the senate voting paper that would simplify the voters preferences. At present there are two options.

1). Select one option on the top line which then allocates all the preferences as specified by that party or independent candidate.

or

2). The voter allocates their selection for each individual candidate. This option is a long and tedious operation and has the potential for the voter to make an error by missing a number or repeating a number and hence making the vote invalid. It must also be a long and tedious operation during the counting process.

I would assume that a large portion of voters would be daunted at the task of assigning 80 to 100 numbers in individual boxes and would take the simple option of a single number in the top line. This does not give them the option of voicing their preferences and by default accept the allocation of preferences nominated by the selected party or independent.

My suggestion is to insert an additional line on the ballot paper which is the same as the current top line only it asks the voter to enter a number in each box that reflects their preferences for each party or independent. This would mean having a single column for each independent candidate.

If the voter enters 1 for party G who have four candidates then they would be assigned votes 1, 2, 3, 4 and if the voter enters 2 for party B who have two candidates then they would be assigned 5, 6 and so on..

This would also eliminate the current practice for parties to manipulate preferences that currently results in the election of some very minor irrelevant candidates.

Regards

Ian Richardson