



RESEARCH NOTE

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Tasmanian Elections 1992

The Tasmanian House of Assembly elections held on 1 February 1992 resulted in a landslide victory for the Liberal Party. The Labor Party recorded its worst result since the end of the second world war.

The Liberal Party received 54.1% of the vote, a swing to them of 7.2%, and won 19 seats in the 35 seat House of Assembly. The Labor Party received only 28.9% of the vote, a swing against them of 5.9%, and won 11 seats. The Green Independents, despite recording a 3.9% drop in support retained their 5 seats in the Assembly.

	Seats	Votes %	Swing %
ALP	11	28.9	-5.9
LP	19	54.1	+7.2
GI	5	13.2	-3.9
Others	..	3.8	+2.6

The Liberal Party polled strongly in all five divisions with Bass (56.5%) Braddon (65.9%) and Lyons (57.9%) being their best results. The result in Braddon was particularly significant with five of the seven seats being won by the Liberal Party. The southern Divisions of Denison (43.9%) and Franklin (46.3%) were the worst results for the

Liberals although they still managed to secure three seats in each Division and substantially outpoll the Labor Party. Conversely, the Labor Party performed best in Denison (33.3%) and Franklin (33.8%), where three seats were won in each Division. The result in the north-western Division of Braddon was a disaster for the Labor Party, receiving just 20.8% of the vote and securing only one seat. Support for the Green Independents was highest in Denison (17.9%) and Franklin (15.8%).

	Bass	Braddon	Denison	Franklin	Lyons
Votes - %					
ALP	29.6	20.8	33.3	33.8	26.9
LP	56.5	65.7	43.9	46.3	57.9
GI	11.4	8.8	17.9	15.8	12.3
Others	2.6	4.7	4.8	4.1	2.8
Seats					
ALP	2	1	3	3	2
LP	4	5	3	3	4
GI	1	1	1	1	1

Hare-Clark System

The Tasmanian House of Assembly is unique among State lower houses of Parliament in that a form of proportional representation, (known as Hare-Clark), is used to elect members to multi-member constituencies. The Hare-Clark system is similar in many ways to the single-transferable vote system used to elect the Australian Senate but does contain a number of important differences. The main features of the Hare-Clark system are:

- The State is divided into five multi-member Divisions, each Division returning seven members. The Divisions are the same as used for the House of Representatives.
- To secure election a droop quota of votes is required. The droop quota equals the number of formal votes cast in the Division divided by the number of seats plus one and adding one to the result. A quota represents 12.5% of the formal votes.
- Each voter is required to indicate at least seven preferences for a vote to be regarded as valid.
- Party groups are indicated on the ballot paper and the position of party groups is determined by lot. Candidates' positions within party groups are determined by a system of rotation (Robson Rotation) so that each candidate appears the same number of times at the top of the party group.
- Candidates receiving more than the quota of votes are elected and then surplus votes

are distributed to the voter's second preference at a diminished value. Once all surplus votes have been distributed and not all seats filled, candidates with the least number of votes are excluded and their votes are distributed to the voter's second preference and so on until all seats are filled.

- Casual vacancies in the House of Assembly are not filled by by-elections but by a system of recounting the votes cast at the last general election.

Legislative Council

The Tasmanian Legislative Council is also unique among State upper houses of Parliament in that it is traditionally a non-party house and that no general elections are held. The composition of the Legislative Council at October 1994 was 16 Independents one Liberal Party member and two Labor Party members. Members of the Council are elected by 19 single member constituencies for six year terms by preferential voting. Elections are held each year to elect three members except for every sixth year when four members are elected. By-elections are held to fill casual vacancies with the winning candidate serving the remainder of the original term.

References:

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