

From: Alex Jaeger
Sent: Sunday, 23 February 2014 7:18 PM
To: Committee, EM (REPS)
Subject: Sub053 Alex Jaeger



To the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters

The recent results in the Federal Senate Elections has highlighted some issues with the current preference ticket system. I believe that some changes need to be made so that people take more responsibility for who they are voting for. Many voters would never have heard of some of the minor parties that ended up winning a seat and would feel disappointed that their preferences unknowingly helped elect them because they went with the preference ticket that was created in backroom deals by their party.

I'm a below the line voter because I care about my preferences to the very last one. However with the number of candidates, it took me a good 45 minutes to preplan my vote.

I believe there are two solutions.

One would be to abolish above the line voting altogether and have people number their first 10 preferences below the line. They may continue up to whatever number they wish, but everyone has to number at least their first 10 preferences.

The other solution would be to allow voters to do above the line preference voting, so that they write the parties they support in order of their preferences above the line. I would favour this option as all voters would then be indicating their preference for all parties/independents.

In both scenarios, preference tickets would be abolished.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Jaeger