



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY  
Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA (Chair), Dr Marisa Paterson (Deputy Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA

## Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into 2020 ACT Election and the Electoral Act

**Submission Number: 001**

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In direct answer to your questions.

(1) the impact of COVID-19 on the ACT election and mitigation measures taken by the ACT

Electoral Commission;

I think the ACT election ran very well during COVID and the mitigation measures were more than was necessary, which is exactly what you should have done.

(2) the report of the ACT Electoral Commissioner into the 2020 ACT election;

No comment

(3) the timeframe and accessibility of early voting;

I felt it was much improved from previous years, though this may be my perception base doff changed circumstances such as COVID

(4) the number and location of ordinary polling places;

No comment

(5) the implementation, security and transparency of electronic voting;

The implementation of electronic voting is essential for our democratic systems into the future. I wish it was rolled out more fully.

(6) the efficacy of the six-week campaign period, including restrictions on roadside signage;

Road sign signage is a significant waste. It should be blanket banned. It does not have enough information to be digestible in passing on the road and is a distraction on the road. It is bad for the environment and does not increase the level of informed decision that voters make.

(7) improving donation rules and donation reporting timeframes;

I think a live registry, managed by the ACT electoral commission should be created. All donations, of any value, should go through the EC managed donation service which reports publically about the donations.

(8) increasing voter turnout and participation in elections and encouraging political activity;

Il think we, in the ACT, have a good voter turnout, I think you will struggle to increase it further.

(9) restrictions on campaigning activities outside polling places;

During the last election there were multiple days that I got back to my car to find election pamphlets, with no actual information, on my and other cars. Frankly I think all drops under car windscreens should be illegal, it is littering. Additionally I think the rules on what constitutes political should be changed, those fridge calendars, do not have political information on them, they are promotional only and should constitute junk mail.

Additionally, there should be limitations on where supporters can spruik. Multiple times during the last election, I had people blocking walkways and doorways. When you have a line of people trying to shove pamphlets into your hand standing outside entrances to shopping centres, it creates a fire and accessibility hazard.

(10) lowering the voting age;

Do it, the best thing to come out of the US democratic system is the argument that there should be no taxation without representation. If someone is paying tax to the

government they should, by any reasonable consideration, have a say in how that tax is spent. At 14 and nine months, you can be employed and pay tax. So if you are actively paying tax you should be required to declare how you want that tax spent.

(11) any other relevant matter

No further comment.

**Kind regards Michael**