



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
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Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into 2020 ACT Election and the Electoral Act

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Monday, 12 April, 2021

Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly
Inquiry Into the Electoral Act and 2020 Election

Dear Honourable Members,

Regarding electoral reform.

The ACT is well poised to be a national leader in electoral reform, below are my recommendations as to how and why we can achieve that.

Electronic Voting, I believe all voting should be electronic; this is not only inevitable but removes the requirement for timely paper ballots and eliminates donkey voting.

To achieve this, a greater trust in electronic voting is required by the community, and better education is needed within polling booths over where voters are to place their completed voting card.

Early Voting Period, Longer early voting periods unfairly advantage certain candidates. A shorter early voting period allows for an efficient and clear campaign to be undertaken.

Corflute Signage, It is long established that corflutes are an inefficient and unenvironmental way of campaigning that primarily benefit businesses overseas and interstate.

I would recommend that roadside corflutes are banned, except where they are placed in an individual's; window, business, front yard or nature strip. This should only be done with the home/business owner's express permission and should be exempt from exclusion zones. If the above suggestion is not ideal, another option is to only allow roadside corflutes made from cardboard, or to only allow corflutes 300mm high by 600mm wide.



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Voting Age, As a young person, I am not in favour of lowering the voting age. The voting age of 18 is well established in Australia.

Posters, Political posters on community noticeboards became messy and unsightly during the campaign; my suggestion is the following rules or similar should be put in place;

Political Candidates can have two, non-identical, A4 sized, posters on each side of the board, with a maximum of five A4 sized posters per notice board.

Each Community Group can have one A3 sized poster or two non-identical A4 sized posters on each side of the board. With a maximum of three A3 sized posters or five A4 sized posters per notice board.

The Electoral Commission should also crack down on posters placed in illegal places such as light posts and on the sides of buildings.

Restrictions on Donations, Any restriction on any individual, entity or corporation that can not donate is simply undemocratic. All arguments favouring a ban on developer donations could easily be replicated for any other individual or business, including gambling, alcohol or tobacco. At the heart of it, we must remember that we are a capitalistic democracy.

Expenditure and Donation Caps, As to my previous point, any restriction on the amount of funds one can spend does not have the required effect. Especially in a territory with such a high median income, caps do not make sense.

Restrictions on Campaigning, As is used in other Australian jurisdictions, and because of the 100-metre campaigning exclusion zone, there should be a campaigning ban on election day. This also allows political volunteers to enjoy the day.



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We should strive for the most efficient, effective and equitable electoral system, which does not favour some candidates over others, for the sake of democracy.

I would also remind the inquiry that by the ACT Government's own recommendation, the Territory has well surpassed the population marker for the Assembly to expand to 35 members, noting that the ACT has some of the lowest political representation per capita in the country.

I would suggest that it is perhaps time to revisit the structure of the way the ACT is governed, perhaps looking to Tasmania for a system which suits a jurisdiction of close to 500,000.

Kind Regards,



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