



# **MAKE EVERY VOTE COUNT—ALWAYS!**

**PPR123: 'Perfect Proportional Representation' + 'Instant Runoff Voting' = 'True' Democracy!**

## **PPR123: The Key to More Balanced Demographic Representation**

Some forms of *Proportional Representation (PR)* may enable somewhat more balanced demographic representation (e.g. the goal of gender parity).

**PPR123** facilitates this in new ways—while maintaining *Perfect Proportional Representation*— without increasing the power of any political party! It could also be used to ensure representation for the Government (and perhaps also the official Opposition) from all provinces and/or regions—with no adverse consequences.

The promise to “**Make Every Vote Count**” is a bold vision of a much more ‘*democratic*’ way to do Democracy!  
It’s an inspiring concept – and an ideal that every democracy should fulfill.

To “**Make Every Vote Count - Always**” is an extension of this concept,  
leading to the innovation that *really* makes it work!

## **THE CITIZEN’S VOTE IS THE FUNDAMENTAL UNIT OF DEMOCRACY!**

Our solution is called **PPR123** – “**Perfect Proportional Representation**” (with “*Instant Runoff Voting*”).  
**PPR123** focuses on the **Citizen’s vote**—unlike all other electoral reforms that focus on *members* and *seats*.

With **PPR123**, the **voting power of each party** in Parliament comes from – and is **exactly equal to**  
**their total number of Citizen’s votes** – *not* their number of elected representatives!

**PPR123** ensures that *no Citizen’s vote is ever wasted* – by entrusting every Citizen’s vote to an elected representative!  
Votes for all *defeated* candidates would be retained by each party – and reassigned to an *elected* representative;  
*each Citizen’s vote would be cast by a representative of their party – and counted – with every vote in Parliament !!!*

The only way to *truly* “**Make Every Vote Count**” is to “**Make Every Vote Count - Always**”!

No voting system can possibly produce *balanced demographic representation* simply by counting the Citizens’ votes. Even without any distortions caused by the voting system (which are typically quite large without PR) there is inevitably some degree of unbalanced representation of various kinds: regional polarization; gender inequality; ethnic and age imbalances etc.

One of the strong advantages of **PPR123** derives from the way it fulfills its promise to “**Make Every Vote Count**”. It does this by not wasting *any* of the Citizens’ votes. It does this by ensuring that all *1st-choice* votes for all *defeated* candidates are retained by each party – and reassigned to one of their *elected* representatives!

**PPR123** reassignment of what would otherwise be wasted votes provides substantial opportunities to alleviate the various problems of unbalanced regional and demographic representation! And the number of votes to be reassigned (all arising directly from Citizens’ votes that would otherwise be wasted) is typically more than half of all votes. Hence, with no impact on the Parliamentary voting power of any party, **PPR123** gives the possibility for significantly better balanced representation.

**PPR123** presents two methods that would promote more balanced demographic and regional representation:

1. **Vote reassignment.**

If the parties allocated their ‘*retained votes*’ (i.e. all 1<sup>st</sup>-choice votes for their *defeated* candidates) equally amongst all their elected candidates, this would squander the opportunity to improve demographic imbalances. However, if a party was committed to gender parity, this could be factored into their formula for vote reassignment. Other demographic factors might also be included.

The potential to improve demographic imbalances through vote reassignment would depend on the total number of votes to be reassigned (more specifically to the *ratio* of each party’s total votes for *defeated vs elected* candidates). The governing party would have comparatively fewer defeated candidates, and hence less potential to improve demographic imbalances.

However, across all parties, more than half of all votes would likely be for *defeated* candidates, as in almost all previous elections. Indeed that number would most likely increase under PPR123, given that it frees voters to vote for their ‘true’ 1st-choice, with the knowledge that this vote would always count for that party, with no concern whether that candidate can win (i.e. no need for ‘*strategic voting*’).

2. **“At-Large” representatives.**

The problem of regional polarization is a particular distortion of non-PR voting systems. **PPR123**, through which each representative is elected with majority support under the Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) voting system, would undoubtedly be vulnerable to this problem. But it would also afford a simple and direct remedy – the creation of one or more “*At-Large*” representatives for each province or region.

This could ensure that both the Government (and perhaps also the official Opposition) would have representatives from each province or region – resolving a major defect of our present system.

This could also improve *demographic under-representation* – especially to promote gender parity or ethnic balance etc.

The following implementation plan is suggested:

- Start with one “*At-Large*” representative from each province or region.
- These seats would either be new additional seats, or acquired by revisions to existing riding boundaries in each province.
- The suggestion is that the new “*At-Large*” seat for each province or region should be awarded to:
  - The party (i.e. Government or Opposition) most under-represented (*in that province/region*).
  - The gender most under-represented (*in that province/region*).
  - The defeated candidate of that party and gender with the most votes (*in that province/region*)
  - The “*At-Large*” representative would retain their own 1st-choice votes (which would therefore be a reduction of the votes for defeated candidates retained by their party).
  - The “*At-Large*” candidate would also be eligible to receive a share of the retained votes reassigned by each party.

A major objective in the creation of “*At-Large*” representatives is to promote gender balance. This should provide more incentive for more female candidates to seek election, and give more opportunity for those with the most promise to get the experience to assist them in becoming successful candidates in future elections. Hence, gender balance should continue to improve with each election. The situation should be reviewed after each election, to determine if it should be sustained, or perhaps accelerated.