



# **MAKE EVERY VOTE COUNT-ALWAYS!**

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

## **VOTER EQUALITY AS A FUNDAMENTAL DEMOCRATIC RIGHT**

**PPR123** guarantees to deliver **Perfect Proportional Representation** and **Voter Equality**—by design!

Most people understand that any non-PR electoral system produces distorted results; this is inherently unfair and undemocratic. But most people don't understand that the source of systemic electoral distortions is the lack of Voter Equality. Specifically, some votes count while others are wasted. And some votes count more than others.

This is not right. The lack of *Voter Equality* is a violation of our fundamental democratic rights. Here is an outline of the problem:

- In the name of Democracy, 'We the People' have been divided and ruled by our electoral system.
- We are nominally free to choose our governments, but these governments have never been a *true* reflection of the *freely expressed 'Will of the People'*
- In the name of Democracy, 'We the People' have been divided by our differences, in ways that appear fair but produce unfair results.
- *How have been we been divided?* We have been '*sliced*' by geography, and '*diced*' by the political party system. The slicing and dicing is quite unequal, where some areas of geography (*ridings*) are much larger while others have considerably more people, and some political parties hold strong electoral advantages over others.
- The result is that **votes are not equal**. Some votes count more than others. Many votes don't count at all, and are known beforehand to be '*wasted*' votes. Some people don't even bother to vote because they know their vote won't make any difference.
- Some votes are in so-called '*safe seats*' where the outcome is known before the election is held; hence *no* vote in such ridings could make any difference.
- Some votes are for parties in ridings that are known to be losers before the election is held. And because this is widely believed by most voters, it becomes a self-fulfilling expectation.
- Under such beliefs, many people feel they cannot afford to vote for their preferred candidate or party, and instead vote '*strategically*' for the '*lesser of evils*' to prevent electing a perceived '*greater evil*'.
- So the voting system, acting upon a sliced and diced electorate, results in a *dishonest* expression of the '*Will of the People*'—who can't vote freely but only under severe duress, compounded by negative campaign strategies that win by exaggerating and exploiting the differences and beliefs of the electorate.
- Our voting system further extends its abuse of democracy by failing to produce honest results that fairly represent the coerced expression of the '*Will of the People*'.
- So some votes count whereas other votes do not, and some votes count more than others, depending on which party, which riding and how others vote in that area. In other words, votes are not all equal.

- The result of votes not being equal is that the People are denied their inherent democratic right of *Voter Equality*, under an unfair electoral system operating upon a sliced and diced electorate.
- The right to vote is the most essential element of democratic *self-rule* of *free* people. But that right is seriously compromised without *Voter Equality*; this constitutes an outright violation of the fundamental principle of Democracy.
- Hence, the integrity of Democracy requires that *Voter Equality* **must** be recognized as a basic democratic right that must be sustained by a truly democratic electoral system.

**Voters' rights are Citizens' rights.** And the principle of *Voter Equality* is based upon the equal rights of all voters, as part of the equal rights of all Citizens. Hence, citizens' rights advocates should champion the cause of *Voter Equality*.

But first, we need a working definition of *Voter Equality*. Simply put, *Voter Equality* requires that **every vote must not only be counted—but must also count equally—regardless** which party it is for, regardless whether their candidate wins or loses, regardless where a voter lives, regardless how any other people voted. As example, a vote for party A (e.g. Liberal etc.) or party B (e.g. Conservative, or Green etc.) should always count *equally* in any city X (e.g. Calgary etc.) or city Y (e.g. Toronto, or Montreal etc.) or province Z (e.g. PEI).

However, the crucial importance of *Voter Equality*, as an essential part of 'true' Democracy, extends well beyond what is 'right' for voters. In fact, what is 'right' for voters is simply democratic justice, which is precisely what's necessary to make an electoral system fair for all politicians and all parties.

Hence, in the absence of *Voter Equality*, an electoral system will produce results that are not only unfair to voters, but similarly unfair to candidates as a class, and also unfair to the political parties.

Of course there are two sides to *Inequality*: the 'losers' who are unjustly disadvantaged, and the 'winners' who are unfairly advantaged.

This is the core problem which always confronts electoral reform. Under any unfair electoral system, the 'winners' (i.e. the Government) are always the beneficiaries of a systemic electoral distortion (which gave them disproportionately more power than the People gave them through their votes). Hence, they'd need to be highly altruistic to change a system that gave them a considerable (sometimes decisive) advantage. Even the Opposition, the most recent victims of such distortion, might not support electoral reform—if they think that a more fair system would be to their future disadvantage.

Based on the fundamental principles of Democracy, there can be no justification—and should be no acceptance—of any electoral system that fails to provide *Voter Equality*. But the hard fact of political life is that there are entrenched forces that are addicted to the *Inequality* that advantages certain parties.

The challenge is for all Parliamentarians to check their conscience and act with integrity: to rise above short-term partisan interests and do what is only 'right'—for all voters, candidates and political parties—now and for future generations—by adopting the electoral reform that provides the highest standard of *Voter Equality*.

*Voter Equality* is the cornerstone of Democracy, upon which rests the integrity of a democratic system.

**PPR123** is the *only* electoral system that guarantees to deliver *Perfect Proportional Representation* and *Voter Equality*—by design!