



# MAKE EVERY VOTE COUNT—ALWAYS!

PPR 123: 'Perfect Proportional Representation' + 'Instant Runoff Voting' = 'True' Democracy!

## PPR123 vs MMP—Representation of the People vs Membership of the Politicians

- **Mixed Member Proportional (MMP)** is the most common and widely recommended form of Proportional Representation (PR). It works as a 'proportionality patch' applied on top of the **First-Past-the-Post (FPTP)** electoral system, and MMP approximately offsets the *disproportionality* (i.e. *distortion* of the 'will of the People') of FPTP (which is still used to elect about *two-thirds* of the members).
- As such, MMP does not eliminate the problem (FPTP)—it simply provides a partial remedy, with mixed consequences. MMP requires some combination of larger ridings or more members (about 50%) to create a new class of members to be drawn from party lists; this number of 'party favourites' (often unelected), added to those members elected under FPTP, brings the total for each party into approximately proportional representation. There's something inherently undemocratic about all of this—both FPTP and the MMP part—with its two classes of members, and indeed the entire process as well as its consequences. While it certainly does represent a major improvement for voters, it also gives more power to the political parties, and it has proven to be quite difficult for the People to unseat the privileged members drawn from party lists.
- MMP is also vulnerable to 'tactical voting', whereby some voters intentionally split their two votes (party and constituency) to score 'double representation'—which some parties (i.e. in coalitions) may exploit through a strategy of *collusion*.  
Ref.: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mixed-member\\_proportional\\_representation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mixed-member_proportional_representation)  
[http://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Mixed-member%20proportional%20representation&item\\_type=topic](http://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Mixed-member%20proportional%20representation&item_type=topic)
- The greatest merit of MMP is that it has provided widespread public awareness of PR as being the essential standard of 'true' democracy, and the systemic failure of FPTP to produce representative bodies that truly reflect the 'will of the People'. That said, MMP is itself conceptually flawed—by its focus on members rather than voters.
- **Perfect Proportional Representation (PPR)** gets it right, by focusing on voters—not members! Indeed, as a matter of principle, it's recommended that the term 'Member' (as in MP) should be abolished—and replaced by the more appropriate term 'Representative' (as the USA did more than two centuries ago)!
- The conceptual foundation for **PPR123** is a new and simple principle: '**The Primacy of the Citizen's Vote!**' This implies 'the equality of the Citizen's vote'—and that means that every Citizen's vote must always count, and never be thrown away. This is in direct contrast with the prevailing premise of 'the equality of the Member's vote'—which has been the unrecognized flaw that has in fact precluded the possibility of truly fair representative democracy under any existing voting system.
- With **PPR123**, rank-ordered voting (as with Instant Runoff Voting) ensures that each representative would be elected by a *majority* (>50%) of the electorate (through an iterative process of elimination—in the same way that party leaders are elected). This element of **PPR123** ensures that every representative is the democratically 'rightful' winner—i.e. the candidate with the most public support. But this does *not* elect a body of representatives that is proportional in its composition.

With **PPR123**, Perfect Proportionality is achieved through the Parliamentary voting power of each party, by ensuring that: (1) no Citizen's vote is ever thrown away; (2) each Citizen's vote is counted with every vote in Parliament!

Here's how **PPR123** voting power works (based on 1<sup>st</sup>-choice votes only):

- Each elected representative retains all of their *1<sup>st</sup>-choice* votes.
  - Votes for all *defeated* candidates are retained by each party—and reassigned to an elected representative.
  - Each elected representative—through their own single vote in Parliament—casts 'proxy' votes on behalf of all Citizens whose votes have been entrusted to them (very easy with computers). (This is just like the proxy process used for corporate shareholder voting. In a democracy, every Citizen is effectively a 'shareholder'—owning one equal share.)
  - Total voting power of each party is precisely equal to their total Citizens' votes (i.e. Perfect PR)!
- **PPR123** also provides numerous other advantageous opportunities:
- Party vote reassignment (i.e. *1<sup>st</sup>-choice* votes for defeated candidates) can be used to ensure Government representation from all provinces, and for demographic rebalancing of voting power (e.g. gender parity etc.).
  - Riding size flexibility (natural boundaries, smaller size in under-populated areas); permanence (independent of population changes).
  - Provides much greater incentives for more Citizens to vote—and for provinces to promote Citizen participation to increase their influence in Parliament.