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Electoral Justice Now!

Liberating Democracy from an unjust electoral system, to better reflect and serve the 'Will of the People'!

EJN Newsletter #3: OUR PROPOSED PR & REFERENDUM QUESTION!

Electoral Justice Now raises two important questions of principle:

1. Whose vote should be the **fundamental unit of Democracy**: the **Citizen's vote** or the **Representative's vote**?
2. Whose votes should be counted in the legislature: **every Representative's single vote**—or—**every single Citizen's vote**?

British Columbia's new government will soon begin public consultation leading up to its promised referendum on Proportional Representation in Nov. 2018. While the process details have not yet been announced, we anticipate opportunities for citizen input to help determine the best form(s) of PR and formulate the referendum question(s).

EJN will be a participant, and we're ready to present our proposed PR solution and referendum question—both of which exemplify the powers of *principle* and *simplicity*!

OUR RECOMMENDED REFERENDUM QUESTION IS:

WHICH SYSTEM SHOULD BE USED FOR VOTING IN THE LEGISLATURE?

- A. Do you want to **change** how voting is done in the legislature, to produce perfectly proportional representation, **by using the votes of all Citizens?**
- OR---
- B. Do you want to **retain** the existing voting system in the legislature, that uses only the single vote of each Representative, which is a disproportional distortion that is typically based on **only about half of the Citizens' votes?**

Our recommended form of PR is called **PracticalPR (PPR)**! This *made-in-BC* solution fulfills the promise of perfectly proportional representation by directly using the Citizens' votes in the legislature. PPR features the *simplicity* of its core design (i.e. **Core-PPR**), plus the *flexibility* to include *options* designed to address a broad range of electoral issues. Hence, **PPR is customizable**—to best meet a particular set of requirements—as would be determined through the PR evaluation and selection process.

*For practical considerations (i.e. to minimize changes and to make the referendum as clear and simple as possible), it's recommended that **PPR should be implemented in two stages**—probably with the **initial implementation limited to Core-PPR**.*

THE CORE FEATURES OF PRACTICALPR (I.E. CORE-PPR) ARE:

1. ***It can be implemented with no changes to existing ridings or voting procedures.***
 - All other forms of PR require more members, larger ridings or multi-riding districts.
 - Other forms of PR require voters to learn a new system with more complex choices.
 - Less costly, less problematic, simpler for voters—and fair to all incumbents.
2. ***The Citizen's vote (the natural unit of Democracy) becomes the fundamental unit of voting in the legislature (rather than the Representative's seat)!!!***
 - The voting power of each party in the legislature is derived directly from (hence is precisely equal to) their total number of Citizen's votes—thus perfect proportionality!
 - Representatives cast proxy votes on behalf of all Citizens whose votes are entrusted to them (i.e. the votes they personally received plus their share of votes for defeated candidates—equitably reassigned by their party).
 - Computers would be used in the legislature to automatically convert each Representative's vote into their assigned number of Citizen's votes.
 - PPR recaptures the true meaning of the word 'Democracy' (i.e. 'the People rule'), as the Citizen's vote was the basis of Athenian democracy. This is also how democracy would probably have been done long ago if computers had been available—and it's the primary basis of the superiority of PracticalPR over standard forms of PR.
3. ***Eliminates any possibility of geographical injustice, for both urban and rural voters, as every vote always counts equally—regardless which party, and how others vote.***
 - Gives every Citizen the same good reason to vote—even in 'safe seats'.

PRACTICALPR'S OPTIONS—OFFERING PRACTICAL REMEDIES TO REAL ELECTORAL ISSUES:

1. Protection against an increased risk of instability of minority governments under PR.
2. Protection against the '*tail wagging the dog*' syndrome, whereby a third-party might hold extortionate power over a minority government.
3. '*Balanced Representation*' option—by party, region and gender—to remedy regional polarization and reduce under-representation, by adding a small number of regional representatives (e.g. 10%), while maintaining perfectly proportional representation.
4. Option of representation for leaders of small parties that obtained a threshold (e.g. 5%).
5. Option of *non-partisan* representation for other small parties and independents.
6. Option of redistricting to make more effective use of existing seats, by reducing sizes of vast rural ridings and allocating more seats for balanced representation.
7. Option for Citizens to assign their vote to a chosen party if their candidate is defeated.
8. Option of Citizens voting directly to elect the leader/party they want to govern (i.e. to avoid a '*third-party*' leader holding '*kingmaker*' power over a minority government).
9. Option for each riding to choose whether to use a preferential ballot to ensure that each Representative has the support of a majority (50%+1) of voters.

{Refer to "[Announcing PracticalPR](#)" for more details.}