

**Submission
No 7**

INQUIRY INTO THE 2015 NSW STATE ELECTION

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [ElectoralMatters Committee](#)
Subject: submission to JSCEM
Date: Monday, 24 August 2015 1:41:57 PM

Dear NSW legislators:

I have fairly recently moved here with a permanent residency visa from the USA where for several years I served as Executive Vice President of the nonpartisan organization Californians for Electoral Reform. I thought it fitting to share with you

my observations on how the New South Wales election process might be improved.

Below are several suggestions which you may wish to consider.

-- Casey Peters

The primary problems of the 2015 NSW elections were:

(1) overcrowded ballot for Legislative Council

(2) lack of Legislative Assembly representation for a large percentage of voters - for instance, Sydney's north shore elected Liberal LA members while the west elected Labour, both excluding representation for voters who supported candidates

of other parties. Thus, Green and Labor viewpoints on north city problems and Liberal viewpoints on west city problems will be ignored on the NSW state level.

Proposals for the consideration of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters:

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

A – Restrict ballot assess as follows: (1) each party with at least 10 seats in the LC will be allowed up to 4 extra names above its open seats; (2) each party with 5 to 9 LC seats will be allowed up to 2 extra names above its open seats; (3) each other party or slate will be allowed 1 extra name above its open seats on the LC ballot.

B - If a party, slate or independent ticket wins more seats than it has candidates on the LC ballot, that party, slate or independent candidate may name sufficient persons to fill the remaining seats allotted to it by the voters of NSW.

C - Enable Above the Line voters to choose independent candidates as well as parties and slates.

D - If Above the Line is retained, it should (1) require voters to place a rank number beside each option – that is, compulsory enumeration of parties, slates and independent candidates; or, (2) require voters to choose at least 3 options then remainder of choices revert to those selected by each voter's first choice of party or slate.

E - Below the Line - Require that voters enumerate at least as many candidates as there are seats to be filled.

F - Draw for random placement of columns as at present, for first division alphabetically. Then for each subsequent division, move leftmost column to far right and all other columns one space to the left.

G – Rotate each party or slate's list of candidates division-by-division alphabetically, moving top name to the bottom of the list.

H - Conduct count by original Droop formula (Threshold for election is $\lceil V/S+1 \rceil + 1$ votes where V = votes cast, S = seats open).

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

J - Establish eleven multi-seat electorates with 9 persons to be elected from each, for a total of 99 seats to be filled.

K - Conduct count by original Droop formula (Threshold for election is $\lceil V/S+1 \rceil + 1$ votes where V = votes cast, S = seats open).

L – Limit listing of names from each party: (1) in divisions where 4 or more seats are held, a party may list up to 2 extra names along with the number of its open seats; (2) in divisions where 1 to 3 seats are held, a party may list 1 extra name; and (3) all parties with no seats held may list 1 name.

M - If a party wins more seats than it has candidates on a division's LA ballot, that party may name sufficient persons to fill the remaining seats allotted to it by the voters of that division.

Thank you for your consideration.

-- [REDACTED]

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