

The Hon Jay Weatherill,
Premier,
Parliament House,
North Terrace,
Adelaide, 5000

The Secretary,
Kensington Residents' Association Inc.,
Mr A Dyson,
42, Regent Street,
Kensington, 5068.
13th June 2013.

Re: Local Government Elections

Dear Sir,

Our Association seeks your support for changing the current Local Government Election system from the current Postal Voting System back to the Polling Booth system that served very well for a number of years. We seek this change because we are aware of numerous anecdotal reports that the current system is open to widespread abuse.

According to reports we have received, there appear to be two methods of abuse as follows:

- Ballot papers are systematically stolen from letterboxes so that they can be completed by supporters of particular candidates. Apparently the letterboxes of flats and groups of units tend to be targeted as there is considered to be less interest by the occupiers of flats and units in local government elections and thereby less likelihood that the ballot papers will be missed.
- Relatives or friends visit electors soon after the receipt of ballot papers and exert undue influence on the elector in completing their ballot papers and may on occasions actually complete the papers for them.

The Postal Voting System was introduced relatively recently in an attempt to increase the level of participation in local government elections. It may have succeeded in doing so or it is possible that any apparent increase in participation is due to corrupt practices and abuse of the system.

For both Federal and State elections attendance at a polling booth on the day of the election works very well and is seen as the most transparent and honest system. Postal voting or pre-polling day voting is permitted when there is a valid reason why the elector cannot attend a polling booth on the day and this is appropriate, but there is no good reason why postal voting should be the normal method of voting.

We seek your support for the abolition of the current election system and a return to the Polling Booth system in time for the 2014 Local Government Elections. This would restore the integrity of the election system, reduce significantly the possibility of corrupt practices and ensure that the election results reflect the genuine wishes of those that choose to vote.

Similar letters are being sent to the leaders of all political parties represented in Parliament as indicated below.

We would be more than happy to meet with you to discuss our concerns regarding this matter.

In conclusion we request an acknowledgement of receipt of this letter and a response to our request for your support.

Yours faithfully,



Sara White
President (8331 7811)



Andrew Dyson
Secretary (8331 9654)

cc Leader of the Opposition
Minister for State/Local Government Relations
Shadow Minister for Local Government
Independent Members of the House of Assembly
Government Leader in the Legislative Council
Opposition Leader in the Legislative Council
Family First SA
Australian Greens
Dignity for Disability
Independent Members of the Legislative Council
Local Government Association of SA
The Mayor NPSP
NPSP Residents' Associations
Community Alliance South Australia
Eastern Courier