

Electoral Laws (Restoring Electoral Fairness) Amendment Bill 2025

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I vehemently oppose the proposed change to legislation that will prohibit persons serving sentences of imprisonment or detention of one year or more from voting in State elections, referendums and local government elections, on the basis that it is unethical, immoral and undemocratic to remove that right from people on the basis of being incarcerated.

Carceral systems uphold systemic oppression of marginalised and vulnerable groups of people and prison populations reflect this unfair disadvantage and lack of access to equitable opportunities. Indigenous People account for almost a third of people in Queensland prisons. Approximately one third of people in Queensland prisons have a Disability. Approximately twenty per cent of people in Queensland prisons are culturally and linguistically diverse.

It is profoundly unjust and a violation of human rights to deny people in prison the right to vote. Removing this right from people in prisons serves to doubly disenfranchise people whose voices are already missing from government decision making processes and is unconscionable.