

From: [Ian Spence](#)
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015
Date: Wednesday, 8 April 2015 8:57:50 PM

I note that the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee is required to report to the Parliament by 1 May 2015 on the Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015.

In my view, many of the provisions of this bill are wise and sensible. For example, I totally support the \$1000 definition of a "gift".

However, clauses 3, 4 and 5 are, to my mind, very disturbing. Of particular concern are phrases like:

"if the issuing officer has asked questions under subsection (6) and suspects a person claiming to be a particular elector is not the elector."

This makes the validity of polling at some booths likely to be inferior to that at other booths. Some booths will have more perceptive, more "suspicious" issuing officers than those staffing other booths. The whole concept of one vote one value is called into question. Booth A might have a 0.5% fraud rate; while Booth B has a 3.6% fraud rate.

It seems to me that the only sensible thing to do at this stage in the development of electoral procedures in Queensland, is to require all voters to present some valid form of identification. Personally, I think that this should be a photo ID with some legal gravitas, e.g. drivers license or passport, but I'm sure that such a requirement would be a bridge too far for much of the electorate. But I'm sure that more a modest (i.e. less robust) ID requirement would be very widely accepted by the community. We are much more urbanized than we once were, and the people manning the polling booths no longer know very many of the voters personally. Electoral fraud is now easier than it was, and these proposed amendments will only make it easier to get away with it.

So, please retain the requirement for ID to be presented.

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