

**From:** [Saskia ten Dam](#)  
**To:** [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Submission to the Committee on electoral reform.  
**Date:** Thursday, 16 January 2014 4:53:10 PM

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I write to express my concern that the proposed changes to voting laws will adversely impact on the rights of many people who do not hold documentation to establish their identities. In a free and fair democracy where compulsory voting is required, it is the responsibility of governments to ensure that the process is made easy for the WHOLE community. Not only will the proposed changes disenfranchise many voters but they may also penalise those who are unable to vote as they lack documentation to verify their identity. All photo ID carries a cost and therefore it is assumed that everyone has the means to bear that cost.

I am also aware that with compulsory voting those who do not vote are hit with substantial fines. Has this also been considered or is the proposal and underhand method of disenfranchising the most vulnerable and already poorly represented in our community?

I trust that the Committee consider these matters with a genuine understanding that this proposal will in no way enhance participation in a true democratic process.

Your faithfully,  
Saskia ten Dam

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