

W. J. GABRIEL

14/10/1998

to

The Research Director
Legal Constitutional and
Administrative Review Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane 4000

Dear Sir

I have participated in several elections and become upset numerous times by the subversion of the electoral process which occurs by the handing out of what are called 'Second Preference Cards', which direct those voting for party A to give second preferences to a party B even if party A officially was asking voters to give preferences to party C.

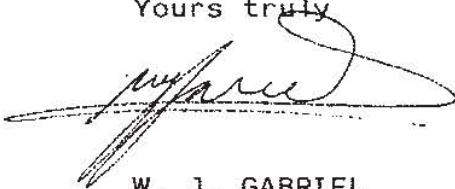
I believe that there are any number of ways to subvert the electoral process. The only guarantee that some method or other won't be used to surreptitiously enhance one candidates vote over another is the honesty of political parties and their agents.

It is an indictment on political parties and the system that this inquiry has to held.

In the following pages I will detail my suggestions as to how to have an honest election and what design I favour for How To Vote cards (HTVs).

The main sanction against 'Second Preference Cards', under the following rules would be negative publicity just before the election, when parties and individual candidates are trying to put across their most positive message. Hopefully the last thing candidates will want is to be diverted by questions of the probity of their HTVs just before the election.

Yours truly



W. J. GABRIEL

Rules to Control HTVs

(1) The usual authorisation to be maintained AT THE BOTTOM of the HTV.

(2) The Political Party or Independent, Organisation or the Authorising person's name to be printed in the TOP LEFT CORNER. The party or organisational logo or candidate's name should substantially occupy at least one quarter of the width of the top edge of the ballot paper and half that distance down the left top edge.

(3) On the HTV card following each candidate the FULL PARTY NAME (eg Australian Labor Party, Liberal Party, Australian Democrats, etc.) or ACCEPTABLE ABBREVIATION (eg ALP, Lib, Nat etc.) should be printed. Where there is no official party affiliation the term 'Independent' should follow the candidates name.

(4) At least 20 (twenty) sample HTVs are to be submitted to the returning officer for that particular seat or the central office of the AEC for Queensland, at noon, 8 (eight) days prior to the day of the election. The AEC should provide a form (to include the name and address of the person delivering the HTVs and a contact phone number and address) in duplicate to be completed by the person delivering the HTV samples. A copy of the form is to be given to the person delivering the HTVs as a receipt (date and time stamped) for the delivery of the HTVs.

The HTVs are to be reviewed by the AEC for legality and if they are not acceptable the AEC must contact the Authorising person via the supplied contact number or contact the political party to have any problems corrected before noon the following Tuesday.

Copies of all submitted HTVs are to be displayed and made available to the public at noon the following Tuesday, 5 (five) days before the election, at the respective returning officer's address for the respective electorate and at the central AEC office for Queensland.

(5) Any material that is advocating anything other than a number one preference for a particular candidate or a specific last vote (eg putting a particular candidate or party last) which has not been submitted by noon 8 (eight) days before the election and made public 5 (five) days prior to the election, to be prohibited from distribution less than 1.5km from a polling booth on the day of the election from the opening of the polls at 8.00am to the closing time at 6.00pm. Penalties to be decided by parliament (eg \$10,000 for each instance).

(6) Any material advocating any preference distribution other than a number one vote or a specific last vote (eg putting a particular candidate or party last) to be banned from distribution after noon Tuesday 5 (five) days before an election via any method (eg letterbox drops, newspapers, television, radio, handouts, etc.) subject to the same penalty as above for each instant.

(7) The specific electorate to be prominently marked in large type at the top of the card.

(8) A number of parties have similar colour schemes (eg the National Party and the Australian Greens who both use green). As long as the political party or organisation is clearly marked in the TOP LEFT HAND corner then this should be acceptable.

SAMPLE HOW TO VOTE CARD

William
James
GABRIEL
INDEPENDENT

ELECTORATE

ELECT AN INDEPENDENT

Mark the ballot paper as below

- | |
|---------------------------|
| [2] A. Smith (ALP) |
| [3] B. Smith (Lib) |
| [4] C. Smith (DEM) |
| [5] D. Smith (Green) |
| [6] E. Smith (One Nation) |
| [7] F. Smith (Nat) |
| [8] G. Smith (AAFI) |
| [1] W. Gabriel (Ind) |

Authorised and printed by
W. J. GABRIEL 228 Richmond Road
Morningside 4170