



**TED RADKE MLA**  
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Chairman Judy Gamin  
Legal Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE Q 4000

Dear Chairman Judy Gamin,

Please find attached my submission to the Committee's inquiry into 'Truth in Political Advertising'.

Yours sincerely

**TED RADKE MLA**  
Your Member for Greenslopes

## **Submission: Truth in Political Advertising**

**By: Ted Radke MLA**  
**Member for Greenslopes**

### **Firstly: (Issue 1 & 3)**

Generally, this submission supports the Electoral Amendment Bill 1995 (Qld) introduced by Honourable Denver Beanland on 16 November 1995 for the following reason.

Many voters actually demand to know how differing policies of political parties will affect their lives. In order to make an informed decision, this type of voter relies on the comparison of publicised factual statements. Should any candidate from a Political Party or Independent blatantly publish a misleading statement, then I believe a suitable legislative deterrent (fine or imprisonment) is warranted.

On the other hand, I accept the argument that no government can legislate for honesty! Even if the current Electoral Act is amended to account for truth in political advertising, unscrupulous individuals will distribute untrue, misleading and deceptive unsolicited material at any time of the day or night into letter boxes.

However, to amend the current Electoral Act to incorporate truth in electoral advertising reduces the creative propagandists endeavours to mislead the voting public.

### **Secondly: How to Vote Cards (Issue 11 & 12)**

At this point in time, I am of the opinion, unless otherwise persuaded, that the distribution of 'How to Vote Cards' at polling booths at elections should be prohibited; that is, outlawed by amending legislation.

Currently, on a ballot paper there is printed along-side each candidate their Political Party Status. Therefore the voter knows the political identity of each candidate.

Any argument that states that 'How to Vote Cards' are needed to ensure that the flow of preferences follows the ordained Political Party preference distribution is unfounded, since optional preference voting is now the norm. Should voters still require a 'How to Vote Card' then the following should occur:

When Political Party Scrutineers go into the booth at 7.58am on Election Day to check the ballot boxes, these scrutineers should be allowed to hand over to the Returning Officer, laminated 'How to Vote Cards; to be affixed in each polling booth.

Size of these displayed 'How to Vote Cards' can be legislated. Position in a booth can be determined by lot or according to the order on the ballot paper, and should be positioned above the booth's desk at an average eyeline height.

Additionally blanket distribution of the electorate's letter boxes with the party's 'How to Vote Cards' would continue. This is a very common electioneering tool. Voters would be free to bring this with them to the booth.

Mass produced 'How to Vote Cards' remain an expensive exercise and a waste of paper - a valuable resource.

### **Thirdly: The Order of Candidates**

Another idea, which would assist to strive towards fairness, is to do as is done in Tasmania, rotate the order of candidates on a ballot paper after a specified number of printed ballot papers.

### **Fourthly: Management of Electoral Rolls**

There is one extremely important area of the Electoral Act not addressed by your enquiry. This remains the state of the electoral rolls. The existence of:

- (i) names of voters no longer living in the electorate,
- (ii) names of voters enrolled at residences which do not exist,
- (iii) names of voters enrolled at residences where the current long term resident has never heard of them, and
- (iv) the current practise of accepting enrolments of voters who only use a P.O Box number.

These examples open the door to far more electoral fraud than does truth in political advertising or bogus 'How to Vote Cards'.

From my experiences, (supporting evidence of this can be provided if required) it is my belief, that the **management of Electoral Rolls should be an urgent area for investigation!**