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**Sent:**  
**To:** Casey Submissions 2023  
**Subject:** Submission

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Thank you for accepting my submission.

I would like to contribute some suggestions on candidate campaign accountability, and possible actions to be considered by the VEC.

As for naming wards... or reviewing boundaries in Casey, whilst important to some...it's important to all, that fairness strengthen the foundations that all elections are built upon.

I would suggest one vote one value is currently difficult to assume to be guaranteed, especially at the local level.

Council ballot papers need be printed randomly to ensure no individual candidate benefits by drawing the top spot on the ballot paper.

Currently they are all printed identical once the candidates are drawn for the ballot.

This gives one candidate the significant advantage of the donkey vote. That scenario is contrary to fair and equal elections.

Technology allows for the printing of ballot papers to easily place, an equal number of ballot papers with each candidate placed on top of the ballot equally.

Example ...If 10 candidates nominate for a ward, and there are 10,000 voters in that ward, each candidate is printed on top of the ballot, on 1000 ballot papers only. No candidate will have the advantage of the donkey vote.

- The postal system thru VEC funding should offer all candidates the inclusion of at least one of their drop cards or brochures to be included within the postal election pack the electoral commission posts out with ballots to every voter in the ward. Assuming postal voting continues in Casey.

Currently candidates can only write a 150 or 200 word statement, advocating why the community should vote for them, with all the candidates catalogued into a booklet or similar by the VEC.

Again this also needs be fairer, as often only the first few candidate statements are read by voters. The VEC lists candidates page after page in a booklet or often on a huge fold out brochure with candidates printed both sides.

They are currently all printed in identical order of candidates on the ballot. A candidate could be at the back of the booklet, or one of a few candidates on the back of the leaflet detailing candidates, and not viewed or seen by all voters.

The system definitely needs to be fairer to candidates, who often can not letterbox the entire ward. All candidates need have the option of their campaign material being included in the VEC ballot pack mail out.

The resources needed to letterbox an entire ward are often too prohibitive due to the size of Council wards, especially since Council amalgamations. Plus one letterbox drop is usually not sufficient.

- The electoral commission needs to consider approving all election material by capping candidate marketing expenses, and by mandating they view candidate campaign material before distribution by candidates.

The VEC needs to require all candidates to demonstrate print and campaign expenses, including receipted evidence demonstrating the source of the payment for campaign expenses, and it made public in real time.

This will help ensure more face to face campaigning over candidates who attempt to buy votes through marketing predominately. It will also demonstrate before the election results, and voting completed, of all candidate campaign funding sources.

Too often Casey residents have received expensive campaign literature, only to later claim they have never seen a candidate or ever been door knocked by one.

- All candidates need to be given access to contact the hundreds, often thousands of voters who reside outside of the ward, at the expense of the electoral commission.

This will level the playing field.

Currently well resourced cashed up candidates can spend hundreds, or possibly thousands of dollars mailing their material to secure these votes. It's an unfair advantage that needs cash to compete, and denies less financed and less resourced candidates an equal chance of securing an election win.

Not all candidates can compete against well resourced candidates or even aware of the many 100's or 1000's of potential votes that need to be canvassed outside of their nominated ward.

These voters live outside of the ward, however own property within the ward, so entitled to vote, and posted ballot papers by the VEC.

It is easily assumed these non resident voters are unaware of many, or all candidates, even what candidates have achieved or advocated locally. They possibly only know of those candidates who have written and posted their campaign material to them.

Candidates resourced to contact non resident voters, by writing and posting literature, give themselves a significant advantage.

To contact these non resident voters you need to source them off the electoral roll, then have their details printed onto address labels, then placed on envelopes filled with candidate campaign literature, postage purchased and then mailed. The VEC needs to address fairness here.

It's very costly to include non resident voters in a campaign. More concerning is how many Council candidates are unaware of the number of non resident voters who live outside of the ward they are campaigning within. This potentially risks these candidates losing the election, as they did not write or contact these non resident voters.

The expense is prohibitive to most anyway, and gives well resourced candidates a significant advantage.

It is also believed and spoken in the community of how political membered candidates have their political organisation to call upon to letterbox, distribute, and help produce their campaign material.

Political involvement needs be scrutinised and fully documented by candidates.


Much needs be done to return democracy locally to our communities, and away from political or cashed up candidates who are too often believed to be compromised or beholden to the source of their campaign financing.

- Running mates need be scrutinised by the VEC and preferential voting done away with, to stop this practice being used to manipulation of the system.

- Those next elected to Casey need raise the need to split Casey in two, and push for Cranbourne and Southern Casey to govern itself. Casey was never envisioned, when amalgamations took place, to exceed the current population size. That is the boundary that submissions also need be focussed.

- Finally, everything possible needs be done to ensure all candidates have an equal chance of securing a win. Casey needs a new start.

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Sent from my iPhone