

Date Printed: 04/22/2009

JTS Box Number: IFES_67
Tab Number: 116
Document Title: Why you should vote for MMP
Document Date: 1993
Document Country: New Zealand
Document Language: English
IFES ID: CE01214



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The Electoral Reform Coalition

The ERC is a non-profit society. It was formed in 1986 to campaign for a better voting system.

The ERC is not linked to any political party or business interest. It is funded by donations and subscriptions from ordinary New Zealanders.



Colin Clark
Chairperson of the ERC

I want MMP!

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I can make a donation:

☐ \$10 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100
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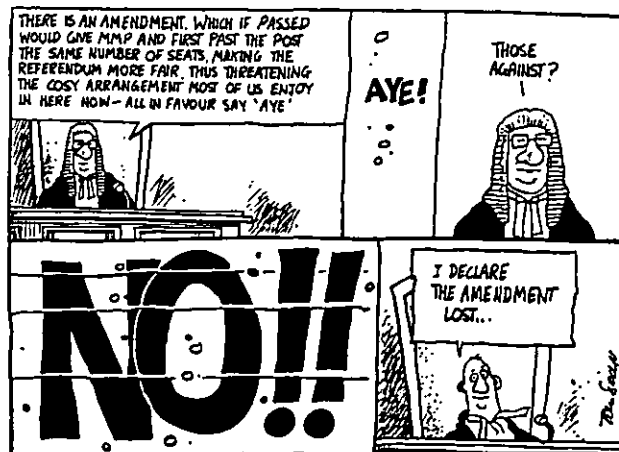
The Royal Commission on the Electoral System

In 1984 the government set up a Royal Commission to study our voting system. It was chaired by the Honourable Mr Justice Wallace.

After a \$2 million, 2-year study, the Commission unanimously recommended MMP as "the best voting system for New Zealand's present and future needs." It said that MMP was fairer, it could give us better government, and should give all New Zealanders fair representation in parliament.

Why MMP has 120 MPs

The Royal Commission argued for more MPs whatever the voting system. More MPs means fewer mistakes in law making, less power for Cabinet, and better representation for the people. Parliament agreed. But only for MMP.



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Referendum '93

Why you should vote for MMP

MMP

Make Your Vote Count

ELECTORAL REFORM COALITION
Information Hotline: 0900-333-88

Five good reasons for voting MMP

It's Fair

MMP is a 100% fair voting system. The number of seats a party gains will be set by the share of votes the party wins across the country.

First-Past-the-Post is a very unfair voting system. It lets the big parties - National and Labour - get almost all the seats. Smaller parties often get no seats even when many thousands vote for them.

With MMP, you won't waste your vote.

Example: 1990 election:

National won:	48% of the votes 69% of the seats
The Greens won	124,915 votes (7%) no seats

The People Choose the Government

With MMP, every vote counts equally. To get a majority in Parliament a party must get over half the vote.

Under First-Past-the-Post, governments often get in with much less than half the vote - sometimes less than four votes in ten.

In New Zealand, no party has won more than half the votes since 1951.

Examples:

1981:	National elected with only 38.8% of the votes
1984:	Labour elected with only 43.0% of the votes

Local MPs who Serve Local Interests

With MMP you will have two votes. One vote chooses the government. Another vote chooses your local MP. You can vote for the government you want, and vote for the best person to be your MP, even if they are from a different party. That means that local MPs will have to serve the interests of local voters.

Under First-Past-the-Post, parties appoint candidates to safe seats. Voters have no real say.

With MMP, some MPs will be elected from party lists. Parties must publish their lists before the election. They will be shown in each polling booth. If people don't like the list, the party will lose votes, and the list candidates won't get elected.

Better Government

First-Past-the-Post can produce unstable and extreme government. Radical changes - often with little public support - have been forced on New Zealand in recent years.

MMP will mean sensible, stable, middle-of-the-road governments. They will have to work hard to build broad support for their decisions. They will have to listen to the people.

Proven Record

MMP has a proven record. Germany has used MMP for 40 years and today has strong stable government and a successful economy. This gives the lie to claims that MMP means "chaos", or "MMP means economic collapse". Most countries with voting systems like MMP also have stable government and successful economies.