

Tasman District Council--Public Notice

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Electors May Demand Poll on Voting System

Tuesday 23 January 2018

The Council has opted to retain the First Past the Post system for voting in the 2019 and 2022 local government elections. However, Tasman voters have the right to demand a poll on the electoral system if they would like that to change.

The choice is between First Past the Post (FPP) and the Single Transferable Vote (STV) systems. To be successful, 5% of eligible voters must demand the poll (that's 1827 [revised to 1839] registered electors in Tasman District) by 21 February 2018.

Notice is given under Section 28(1) of the Local Electoral Act 2001, that Tasman District Council resolved to retain the First Past the Post (FPP) electoral system for the next two triennial general elections, being 2019 and 2022.

Electors of Tasman District Council have the right to demand a poll to countermand the resolution to use the First Past the Post electoral system for the Council elections in accordance with Section 29 and 30 of the Local Electoral Act 2001.

The choice is between the First Past the Post (FPP) electoral system and the Single Transferable Vote (STV) electoral system.

A valid demand for a poll is to be made in accordance with sections 29 and 30 of the Electoral Act 2001, and must:

- Specify the electoral system proposed to be used;
- Be made in writing;
- Be signed by at least five percent of the number of electors enrolled as eligible to vote at the previous triennial election of the Tasman District Council (this will require a minimum of 1,827 elector signatures);
- Be delivered to the Richmond office of the Tasman District Council, 189 Queen Street, Richmond, by 21 February 2018, for the outcome to apply for the 2019 and 2022 triennial elections. For any demand received after this date, the outcome will apply from the 2022 triennial elections.

Every elector who signs a demand must also set out in it his or her full name and the address for which he or she is qualified as an elector of Tasman District Council.

SOME INFORMATION ABOUT STV

The notice from TDC about calling for a poll on which electoral system to use is [ATTACHED](#).

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- Voting using STV is fairer because it provides approximately proportional representation
- Instead of ticking the candidate(s) you want, you rank the candidates in order of your preference
- It reduces wasted votes because if your first choice doesn't get enough votes, your vote is transferred to your second choice, and so on
- Counting the votes is more complicated, but it's done electronically using reliable methods

### **Countries using STV**

- New Zealand (all District Health Boards and some councils)
  - Dunedin City Council.
  - Greater Wellington Regional Council.
  - Kaipara District Council.
  - Kapiti Coast District Council.
  - Marlborough District Council.
  - Palmerston North City Council.
  - Porirua City Council
  - Wellington City Council
- Canada
- Australia (Senate elections)
- Northern Ireland (Assembly, European and local government elections)
- Republic of Ireland (most elections)
- Malta

STV explained on YouTube:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLH\\_w5kHJpA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLH_w5kHJpA)

paper by Dr Janine Hayward looking at STV and FPP:

[http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/council-reports/Report\\_PDFs/2008\\_547\\_2\\_Attachment.pdf](http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/council-reports/Report_PDFs/2008_547_2_Attachment.pdf)

Nelson Mail 27/1/18

# Trio calling for change to voting system

**NINA HINDMARSH**

Three Golden Bay women want to change the way Tasman residents vote in local body elections.

Liz Thomas is leading the change, along with Victoria Davis and Penny Griffith in support.

The trio are using the Local ~~Government~~ Act in an attempt to change the Tasman District Council's (TDC) electoral system from the First Past the Post system (FPP) to a Single Transferable Vote (STV) system.

They are circulating a petition requesting the council conduct a public poll on which method its

\* Electoral

voters prefer. They need 1839 signatures, which is five per cent of Tasman voters, by February 21.

If successful, the council would then need to conduct a poll asking voters their preferred choice. If it was the STV system, it would take effect in the 2019 election.

Thomas said many voters mistakenly voted for both the council election, which uses FPP, and Nelson Marlborough DHB, which uses STV, under the same voting system. As a result, there were a large number of invalid votes.

There were 1491 invalid votes in the 2016 health board election, and 59 in the council election.

She said there was "great con-

***"[The petition] is not asking to vote for the change, we are just asking to have a poll which would then make the decision."***

**Penny Griffith**

fusion" amongst voters because the two systems were being used on ballots from the same envelope.

Eight councils around the country use the STV system.

"The STV system is a fairer voting system, and provides an approximate proportional representation," she said.

Under FPP, the candidate with the most votes wins. Under STV, voters rank candidates in their order of preference.

"It (STV) also reduces wasted votes, because if your first vote doesn't get enough votes, it's transferred to your second choice."

TDC recently voted 8 to 6 to keep using the FPP system, but Davis said under the Local ~~Gov~~ ~~ernment~~ Act they could make the council give that decision to the voters instead.

Griffith said they had been

\* Electoral

working with council staff who were "very helpful".

"[The petition] is not asking to vote for the change, we are just asking to have a poll which would then make the decision, and in that time we will have three months to spread more information on the voting system, so people can decide for themselves."

By law, local government has to hold the poll within 89 days after the petition is lodged.

The trio are also working on local places people can go to access hard copies of the petition.

For more information, or for a copy of the petition, email lizthomaspost@gmail.com.