

# PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA



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Ms Maddison Connaughton  
The Editor  
*The Saturday Paper*

Dear Ms Connaughton,

[K Woldring's letter](#) (25th August) advocates a [party list system](#) to replace Australia's single transferable vote (STV) systems.

A party list system restricts the voter to a vote for a single slate of candidates, with no power to choose between individual candidates.

Australia's STV systems empower voters to show their priority among the candidates, even within a party group.

Australia's best STV systems do not require, as Woldring asserts, "extensive preferencing". For example, a single 1 does count as a formal vote in ACT elections.

Australia's Constitution mandates [direct election](#) of individual candidates, which a party list system does not provide; it could never be advocated by the Australian Electoral Commission.

It would be a challenge indeed to persuade Australian voters to give up their right to direct election.

Regards,

Dr Jeremy Lawrence  
President  
Proportional Representation Society of Australia