

# Campaign for **MMP**

## **Keeping it fair: Three key points from the Campaign for MMP you might want to include in your submission**

### **We support the proposed referendum wording**

We support the current wording of the questions proposed by the Government because it is unbiased and offers clear voting choices. The Select Committee should keep the current wording, and reject any calls to complicate the referendum by adding in issues such as the size of Parliament as this will make the choice less clear for the public.

### **We support the plans to review MMP independently if the public votes to retain it**

Any electoral system can be improved. We strongly support the proposal that a vote for MMP will trigger an independent process aimed at improving the current electoral system. This provides genuine choice for those who support proportional representation and the retention of MMP but would like the current system to be improved.

### **We urge Parliament to put a spending cap on advertising for the referendum**

Spending caps in elections and referendums are crucial to ensure fair outcomes. Under current law, political candidates and parties cannot spend as much as they like on election campaigns. Spending caps ensure wealthy candidates cannot spend their way to power. For citizen-initiated referendums all groups have their spending limited to \$50,000 each. The Government has made an exception for the MMP referendum and the Bill as it stands contains no spending caps on advertising. This is inconsistent with current practice. It risks undemocratic influence of big spending lobbies, something that New Zealand electoral law has been designed to minimise for over 100 years. The referendum must be democratically decided by the New Zealand people, not by big-spending lobby groups.



Submissions on the Electoral Referendum Bill 2010 are due by 10 June 2010 to the Electoral Legislation Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

## What will be the 2011 referendum question?

The proposed ballot for the first referendum has two parts. In the first section voters are asked if they want to keep MMP or change to another electoral system. The second part of the ballot puts forward four alternative options: single transferable vote (STV); preferential vote (PV); first-past-the-post (FPP); and supplementary member (SM).

The proposed voting paper is in Schedule 1 of the Electoral Referendum Bill. It is reprinted below. You can view the Bill online at: [www.legislation.govt.nz](http://www.legislation.govt.nz).

[INSERT ELECTORATE NAME AND NUMBER] [Consecutive Number]

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## INDICATIVE REFERENDUM ON NEW ZEALAND'S VOTING SYSTEM

[INSERT ELECTORATE NAME AND NUMBER] Official Mark

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### EXPLANATION


1. This voting paper has two parts.
2. Vote by putting a tick in the circle immediately after the option you choose.
3. You may vote in Part A **and** Part B **or** in Part A **only** if you wish.

#### Part A

Should the current MMP voting system be retained?

**Vote for only one option**

I vote to <b>retain</b> the MMP voting system	<input type="radio"/>
I vote to <b>change</b> to another voting system	<input type="radio"/>


 Vote Here

#### Part B

Regardless of how you voted under Part A, if there was a change to another voting system, which voting system would you choose?

**Vote for only one option**

I would choose the <b>First Past The Post</b> system (FPP)	<input type="radio"/>
I would choose the <b>Preferential Voting</b> system (PV)	<input type="radio"/>
I would choose the <b>Single Transferable Vote</b> system (STV)	<input type="radio"/>
I would choose the <b>Supplementary Member</b> system (SM)	<input type="radio"/>

 Vote Here

### FINAL DIRECTIONS

- If you spoil this voting paper, return it to the officer who issued it and apply for a new paper.
- After voting, fold this voting paper so that its contents cannot be seen and **place it in the referendum ballot box**.
- You must not take this voting paper out of the polling place.