

An Overview Of The  
**Absolute Representation**  
Electoral System



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Transforming the democratic ideal of  
“One Person One Vote”  
from an illusion to a reality!

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### **Direct Democracy**

**All citizen's can vote on all questions at all times**

Viable...

**...only in small societies**

Potentially Viable...

**...via technology in large societies**

but...

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The lack of  
desire and/or ability  
in most citizen's, in most societies,  
to be personally and perpetually involved  
in every discussion and decision in their society  
has given rise to elected representatives and to

### **Indirect Democracy**

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### **Indirect Democracy**

Up to now the most common electoral systems have been:

First Past The Post (FPTP)

Proportional Representation (PR)

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## Redirected Democracy

A New Contender:  
Absolute Representation (AR)

A currently little known underdog  
with huge potential!



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## Absolute Representation (AR)

We can improve FPTP, and remove the need to replace it with PR, by changing how the votes cast in each election are allocated, utilized and administered after the election and between elections.

To do so we only need treat each citizen's vote as a

**D**elegated, **A**ctive & **E**ffective **V**ote

FPTP + DAEV = AR

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## The Absolute Representation Electoral System

First Past The Post

Every  
Delegated, Active & Effective Vote  
Counts

Proportional Rep.

### Absolute Representation – How?

#### Winning Candidates

The winning candidate in each electoral district becomes, as under FPTP alone, the Sitting Member in government for that electoral district. In any vote held in the governing body the sitting members cast the number of votes delegated to them in the election instead of just the current one vote per member.

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### Absolute Representation – How?

#### All Losing Candidates...

...become “Constituency Members” and can serve the interest of their constituencies by assigning the votes delegated to them to any Sitting Member and subsequently re-assigning them to any other Sitting Member.

#### All Sitting Members...

...cast all votes “assigned” to them by Constituency Members, along with all their own delegated votes, in any vote taken in the Governing Body.

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$$\text{FPTP} + \text{DAEV} = \text{AR}$$

## Delegated

In each election the power of each citizen's vote is delegated to the candidate that the citizen votes for until the next election.

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$$\text{FPTP} + \text{DAEV} = \text{AR}$$

## Active

Each candidate for election, win or lose, has the power to ensure that **all** the votes delegated to her/him are cast in **all** votes held in the governing body until the next election.

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The Absolute Representation Electoral System

First Past The Post

Every Delegated, Active & Effective Vote Counts

Proportional Rep.

$$FPTP + DAEV = AR$$

### Effective

When every vote cast in an election is delegated and active for the life of the elected governing body then each vote is an "effective" vote.

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The Absolute Representation Electoral System

First Past The Post

Every Delegated, Active & Effective Vote Counts

Proportional Rep.

### Fulfilling the Democratic Ideal

Every vote cast in every election is eligible to be counted in all votes in the governing body from one election to the next.

One Person, One Vote

Delegated, Active & Effective

$$FPTP + DAEV = AR$$

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**The Absolute Representation Electoral System**

Every  
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Counts

**Absolute Representation**

| SOME ADVANTAGES  | SOME DISADVANTAGES   |
|--|--|
| AR is a viable alternative to both FPTP and the various forms of PR.   | Never implemented anywhere and it's very new to our "electoral reform" discussion.   |
| No change in our election processes as it retains our current, well tested electoral system, infrastructure and legislation. | It may be hard to accept for anyone heavily invested in supporting one or another of the multiple PR alternatives to FPTP.                                   |
| Easy implementation due to simply adding a new way to utilize votes cast in elections while leaving FPTP intact.             | Unless the system to assign, re-assign and tabulate votes in the governing body is digital, dynamic and interactive it may slow down that body's activities. |
| No change in the costs of running elections.   | Tracking and tabulating votes will marginally increase government operational costs.   |

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**The Absolute Representation Electoral System**

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**Absolute Representation**

| SOME MORE ADVANTAGES   | SOME MORE DISADVANTAGES  |
|--|--|
| Constituency Members will have the power to influence the government on behalf of their constituencies actively and effectively from election to election. | A technologically fluid process set-up for assigning, re-assigning and tabulating votes may make it difficult to predict the outcome of votes in the governing body. |
| The new Voter / Constituency Member / Sitting member communications channel will create a very open and active link between voters and government.         | The political establishment will be very unsettled until the new processes become the new normal. That reality will cause some resistance to implementing AR.        |
| Such an open and active link will result in a much more interested, actively involved and substantially better informed electorate.                        | There will be an extended learning curve for all citizens, parties, politicians & media for the first few AR elections.  |

Continued on the next slide

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*The Absolute Representation Electoral System*

Every  
Delegated, Active & Effective Vote  
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First Past The Post Proportional Rep.

## Absolute Representation

| SOME MORE ADVANTAGES  | SOME MORE DISADVANTAGES   |
|---|---|
| AR will minimize/eliminate wasted votes, voter apathy, strategic votes and FPTP's various degrees of disenfranchisement | Larger voter turn out may slow down the voting process and could slightly increase the cost of elections.                           |
| AR will be fair to voters, large parties, small parties, independent candidates and even single issue candidates.       | Established parties may resist AR due to the prospect of such increases in small constituency representation in the governing body. |
| AR will create "absolute representation" in the governing body for every voter in every constituency.                   | It will cause a fundamental shift in our political process which will challenge us all and will be unwelcome to some.               |
| AR will cause a fundamental shift in our political process for the better!  |   |

A longer list of advantages can be found on the AR web site

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First Past The Post Proportional Rep.

# Absolute Representation!

For full details visit:

[www.AbsoluteRepresentation.ca](http://www.AbsoluteRepresentation.ca)

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