

7. RESOURCES

- 1 www.elections.org.nz
- 2 Party websites
- 3 Candidate Meetings
- 4 Major Newspapers
- 5 Television Channels: TV1 & TV3
- 6 www.valueyourvote.org.nz (Family FirstNZ)
- 7 Electoral Commission
- 8 Check Party Lists (See Party Website)
- 9 Check Polls (Newspapers)
- 10 Rasik Ranchord's pamphlet on 2017 Election (prayeratparliament.org.nz)

9. IMPACT

Consider the **moral, economic and social justice** impact of various Parties' philosophies, values and policies.

10. SCRIPTURES

Study Matthew 5:13-16; Matthew 22:21; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-6; 1 Peter 2:13-17

11. ELECTION DAY—SATURDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2017

- **VOTING** is a **REAL PRIVILEGE** YOUR VOTE IS EQUAL IN VALUE
- **VOTING** is a **RIGHT**, and TO PRIME MINISTER'S VOTE!
- **VOTING** is a **RESPONSIBILITY**
- **SO** do **VOTE** on **ELECTION DAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2017!**

Our Election Policy

We are non-partisan; we want to promote growing Christian influence ('salt & light') in the public square; We endeavour to be educative, not directive. We inform - You decide!



RASIK RANCHORD

Has been a minister for over 40 years. He has a passion to educate Christians regarding their civic responsibilities. He is the Convener for Prayer@Parliament. Email: ranchords@alc.org.nz

Please circulate this pamphlet to others.

8. VOTING PROCESS

Enrolment is **COMPULSORY**:
Voting is **VOLUNTARY**

- 1 Must enrol to vote (www.elections.org.nz/enrolme)
- 2 Must be 18 years or over. If turning 18 before 23 September 2017, enrol to vote.
- 3 Citizen or Permanent Resident, in NZ continuously for at least 1 year.
- 4 You can vote early in NZ from 11 September 2017. You can vote from overseas from 6 September 2017.
- 5 Please encourage others to enrol and vote.
- 6 In 2014, **about 1 million eligible people did not vote!**



VOTE SMART 2017

FACTORS IN THE ELECTION EQUATION

Simple Step-by-Step, Non-Partisan Guide

Points to Ponder, Pray & Pursue

by Rasik Ranchord

1. ACTION PLAN

Three Action Points (P.I.V)

- (a) **Pray** (b) **be Informed** (c) **Vote**

2. TWO VOTES

You have two votes.

- (a) **Party Vote** helps decide how many seats **each party** gets in Parliament. This is the **critical** vote.
- (b) **Electorate Vote** helps decide who becomes **your local MP** (Electorate MP).

3. PARTY VOTE

How to decide who to give your Party Vote to.

Consider 6 factors:

F.1 Major Parties

Which **Major Party** do you want to see **lead** the Government?

| | | |
|-----------------|----|---------------|
| NATIONAL | or | LABOUR |
|-----------------|----|---------------|

Consider the Major Parties:

- (a) Their core values, voting record, policies.
- (b) Who do you want to see be the next **Prime Minister?**
Bill English (National) or **Andrew Little** (Labour)
- (c) Consider the likely **cabinet composition**.

F.2 Minor Parties

Which **Minor Party** do you want to vote for as a **support** to the Major Party? Under the MMP electoral system it is rare for a major party to be able to govern alone; in most cases it will need support parties to form a governing coalition.

Probable Alignment of Support Parties

| | | |
|-------------|------------------------------|----------|
| LABOUR | May go either way ←—————→ | NATIONAL |
| GREEN PARTY | NZ FIRST | ACT |
| | MAORI PARTY | |
| | UNITED FUTURE | |
| | OTHER PARTIES | |

F.3 New Parties

Which New Party (not presently represented in Parliament) e.g. The Opportunities Party or others you want to support. Consider their alignment.

F.4 Threshold

Which Minor Parties & New Parties **do you think** are likely to cross the Threshold (i.e. **5% Party Votes** (approx. 90-100,000) a little less than the population of **Dunedin**), or **win one electorate seat**.

| MINOR PARTIES REPRESENTED IN 2014 PARLIAMENT** | | | |
|--|-------------------------|----------|---|
| 1 | GREEN PARTY | 14 seats | Coat-Tailing: When a party crosses the Threshold by winning one electorate seat, additional MPs are brought in, in proportion to the share of Party Votes . |
| 2 | NZ FIRST | 11 seats | |
| 3 | MAORI PARTY | 2 seats | |
| 4 | UNITED FUTURE | 1 seat | |
| 5 | ACT | 1 seat | |
| NEW MINOR PARTIES NOT REPRESENTED IN 2014 PARLIAMENT | | | |
| 1 | The Opportunities Party | | **At start of 2014 term |
| 2 | Other Parties | | |
| 2014: NATIONAL 60 + LABOUR 32 + OTHER PARTIES 29 = 121 | | | |

VOTE prayerfully, intelligently and strategically.

F.5 Excluded Votes

If you are voting for a Minor Party or New Party, you need to consider the following:

- ♦ Can they cross the threshold in 2017? If they do not, then their share of party votes will be **'excluded'**. The net effect is the party votes of qualifying parties are **scaled up** proportionately.

F.6 Pray

That God will guide you regarding which Party to give your Party Vote to.

4. ELECTORATE VOTE

Consider 3 factors:

F.1 Sitting Electorate MP

- Are you satisfied with his/her **performance**?
- Is he/she in a **safe seat or a marginal seat**?
- Is he/she **retiring**?

F.2 New Candidates

- Do you want to vote for a New Candidate, whose values are closer to yours?
- Tactical Voting: Do you want to give your **electorate vote** (E.V.) to a candidate of **the same party** as your **party vote** (P.V.), or do you want to **'split vote'**? (P.V. to one and E.V. to another.)
- Understand **Coat-Tailing*** (see opposite page).
- Consider the new candidate's **core values** and **competence**.

F.3 Pray

God will guide you.

5. TWO TYPES OF MPs / TWO WAYS TO ENTER PARLIAMENT

- Electorate MPs** are chosen by the Electorates (63 General, 7 Maori).
- List MPs** are chosen and ranked by the **Parties** (50 List MPs). It is possible for a candidate in an electorate to also be on the Party List. The higher the ranking, the greater the likelihood of getting into or returning to Parliament. **Total 120 MPs (usually)**.
- Electorate seats won + TOP UP from Party List = share of seats in Parliament**. When a party wins **more electorate seats than its share of party votes**, the extra seats, above 120, are called **'Overhang'**.

6. GOVERNMENT FORMATION

Under MMP **Government Formation** takes place **after Election Day**. Which Major Party can form a governing coalition? 61 seats are usually needed — **National + Support Parties OR Labour + Support Parties**.