

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
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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 **Jacinda Ardern** (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

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

F.2 New Candidates

- (a) Do you want to vote for a New Candidate, whose values are closer to yours?
- (b) 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.)
- (c) Understand **Coat-Tailing*** (see opposite page).
- (d) 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

- (a) **Electorate MPs** are chosen by the Electorates (63 General, 7 Maori).
- (b) **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)**.
- (c) **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**.

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

YOUR VOTE IS EQUAL IN VALUE

- VOTING is a REAL PRIVILEGE TO PRIME MINISTER'S VOTE!

- VOTING is a RIGHT, and

- VOTING is a RESPONSIBILITY

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.

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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!**