

How voting works in a federal election for the House of Representatives ('Lower House')

Hello Australia. It's me, your good friend Dennis the Election Koala.

It's that time again, so let's meet the candidates hoping to represent your electorate in the House of Representatives of the Federal Parliament...



MAJOR PARTIES



BAMBOOT SPITVALVE

Complete Scumbag Party

POLICIES:

- Kick puppies
- · Beat the poor
- · Pineapple on pizza



FLOUNDRA MACWHATNOT

Discreet Scumbag Party

POLICIES:

- Put puppies to work
- · Chastise the poor
- · Pizza under pineapple

MINOR PARTIES & INDEPENDENTS



GORT BUTTERSON

Independent

POLICIES:

- Televised puppy torture
- Mandatory constipation
- Toot toot, I'm a boat

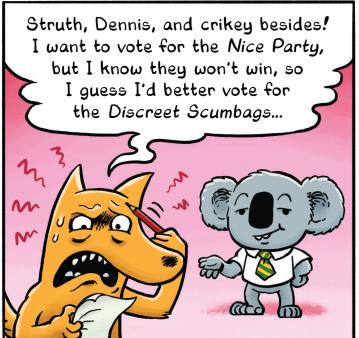


AGGY-WAGGY FLUFFTUMS

Nice Party

POLICIES:

- Huas
- A cup of tea
- Smash the state





WRONG, KEN THE VOTING DINGO!!!





PREFERENTIAL VOTING EXPLAINED

To win a seat, a candidate must end up with an ABSOLUTE MAJORITY — that is, over 50% of the total votes. Imagine your electorate has 100 voters: 51 votes are needed to win.











BAMBOOT 39

35

AGGY-WAGGY

GORT

06

First the "1" votes are counted. But look — no-one has 51 votes or more!

The loser, Gort, is eliminated. But the six people who voted "1" for Gort now have their "2" votes (second preferences) counted and transferred to those candidates.









AGGY-WAGGY



BAMBOOT

39

+04

FLOUNDRA

35

+ 0 1

20

+ 0 1

06

2nd count:

43

36

Still no-one has an absolute majority of 51 or more! So Aggy-Waggy is eliminated, and her votes transferred according to the next preferences.











BAMBOOT

43

+ 05

FLOUNDRA

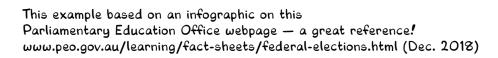
36 + 16

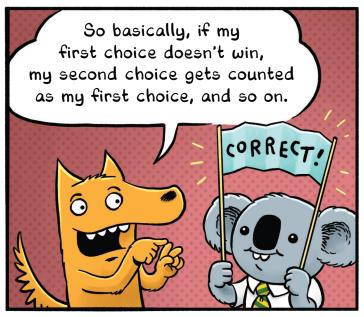
AGGY-WAGGY GORT

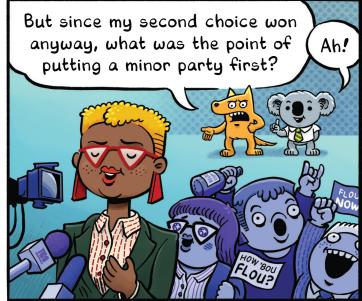
48

52

A surprise victory for Floundra!







FIRSTLY...

Minor parties and independents can and do win seats if enough people vote for them. Since you lose nothing by voting "1" for whomever you like most, why wouldn't you?



SECONDLY...

This might happen:

Preferences from

Nice Party voters made

a big difference!

I'll need to keep them happy if I want to beat Bamboot again next time.



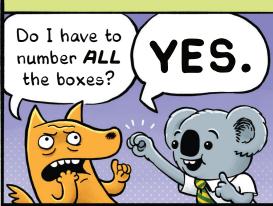
THIRDLY...

If a candidate gets at least 4% of first preferences ("1" votes), they'll receive election funding for each of those votes*, which will help their next campaign!



* Approx. \$2.76 at the 2019 election. The amount is indexed every 6 months in line with CPI. Source: AEC (Nov. 2018)

ANY MORE QUESTIONS, KEN THE VOTING DINGO?





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Vote thoughtfully!
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