

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

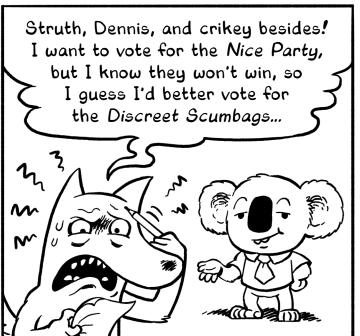


### AGGY-WAGGY FLUFFTUMS

Nice Party

#### POLICIES:

- Hugs
- 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.











39

35

20

**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.









20



**BAMBOOT** 

39

+04

43

**FLOUNDRA** AGGY-WAGGY

35



36

+01

06

2nd count:

21

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

A surprise victory for Floundra!

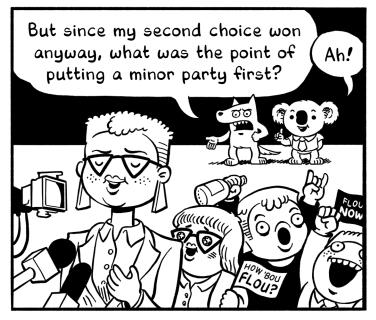
3rd count:







So basically, if my first choice doesn't win, my second choice gets counted as my first choice, and so on.



#### 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.



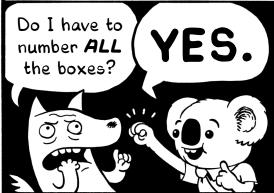
#### THIRDLY...

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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