

PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

CITIZEN-INITIATED REFERENDA

We, the undersigned, citizens of Canada draw the attention of the House to the following:

THAT, WHEREAS the Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees and protects the democratic rights of all Canadians, including the rights to full, free and fair elections;

WHEREAS it has become evident that voter suppression techniques, including the use of phone banks or automated “robo-calls” that impersonated other parties and/or Elections Canada, were used during the May 2011 federal election;

WHEREAS such tactics were intended to deliberately mislead voters and therefore constitute a crime, an attack upon our democratic institutions, and a serious violation of our democratic rights as Canadians;

WHEREAS despite the ongoing investigations by Elections Canada, these illegal tactics may have successfully affected the results in multiple electoral districts, calling into question the integrity of our electoral system;

WHEREAS given its nature as “winner-take-all”, Canada’s outdated first-past-the-post electoral system is particularly susceptible to such political interference, and the adoption of different electoral systems should be considered as a means to prevent this kind of election fraud from happening in the future;

THEREFORE, YOUR PETITIONERS call on the Government of Canada to enact legislation that will explore the adoption of alternative electoral systems, including a national referendum on the replacement of the current system, and will introduce a system of citizen-initiated referenda that will help to rebuild Canadians’ trust in the integrity of our democracy.

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Guidelines

1. Petitions must not be altered or have any text added.
2. Petitions can be either double-sided, or have a blank back page.
3. A petition should contain signatures of residents of Canada only.
4. There is no minimum age requirement for anyone signing a petition.
5. Each petitioner must sign, not print, their name directly on the petition.
6. If a petitioner cannot sign because of illness or a disability, this must be noted on the petition and the note signed by a witness. Aside from this exception, you can only sign for yourself.
7. A petition must contain original signatures written directly on the document and not pasted, taped, photocopied or otherwise transferred to it.
8. No photocopies, scans, e-mails etc. as petitions are only admissible in hardcopy.

Please return all original signed petitions, postage free, to:

Elizabeth May, M.P.
518 Confederation Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Please email elizabeth.may@parl.gc.ca or call 613-996-1119 if you have any questions.