

Sex Party with a chance

Election | Raelene Morey

THE Sex Party will pick up preferences from the Liberals in the upper house electorate of Northern Metropolitan region in one of the oddest deals of the state election.

Group voting tickets show both Liberal and Labor supporters who vote above the line will be giving their preferences, and possibly a seat in the upper house, to the Sex Party's founder Fiona Patten.

The Sex Party was founded in 2008 in response to concerns about religion in politics.

Monash University political commentator Nick Economou said the Liberal's preference deal with the Sex Party was strange, though Labor might be trying to prove to the public and the media it was not interested in "playing preference games with the Greens".

He said with 93 per cent of all upper house votes cast above the line, group deals were vital.

"Both parties have had internal heartache about what to do with their preferences," Dr Economou said. "Maybe Labor is trying to demonstrate their unhappiness with the Greens."

He said there was a possibility the leg up from both major parties could give the Sex Party the 16.6 per cent needed to win a seat.

He predicted Labor would win at least two of the five seats, with one going to the Liberals and another to the Greens.

"Labor might get as high as 48 per cent and possibly three seats," he said.

Dr Economou said Parents, Families and Carers Party candidate Joanne Stuart had an outside chance of picking up the fifth seat with early preferences from Greens, the Sex Party, the DLP, Families First, Labor and independents.

Meanwhile independent Stephen Mayne says 1.5 per cent of the vote would be enough to get him over the line.

YOUR CANDIDATES: Bundoora

Karen-Joy McColl, Independent

Age: 50ish
Occupation: Security
Family: Single, lives outside the electorate.

Key issues

More help for the elderly; duplicate rail line from Macleod to Hurstbridge; free water tanks to every household in Bundoora.

Why vote for you?

I offer an alternative to the major parties. My commitment will be to Bundoora and not to a political party.

What is your view on urban consolidation / high-density development?

There should be none in Bundoora.



Colin Brooks, ALP

Age: 40
Occupation: MP since 2006
Married with three children, lived in electorate for 15 years.

Key issues:

It is really important that we have someone representing us in Parliament who lives in the electorate and who will continue to listen to local people and stand up for our community. We will keep improving services and investing in local infrastructure.

Why vote for you or your party?

To keep the jobs coming to Victoria through strong financial management. We need to keep investing in schools, hospitals and in more police, something Labor has done in every term of government.

What is your view on urban consolidation / high-density development?

We must balance the need for a variety of housing.



Goldy Brar, Liberal

Age: 26
Occupation: Restaurant manager
Married, lives in Mernda

Key issues:

Law and order; cost of living and public transport

Why vote for you or your party?

The Liberal Party is committed to putting more police on the streets and at rail stations. Easing the pressure on local families who are struggling with massive increases in utility bills and the cost of living. Providing public transport that is safe, reliable and clean.

What is your view on urban consolidation / high-density development?

This should only occur in activity centres, such as Greensborough around transport nodes. Should be integrated with improved public transport. This should not occur in residential areas.



Tim Roberts, Greens

Age: 42
Occupation: Plumbing engineer
One child, has lived here for four years.

Key issues

Health, education, and public transport.

Why vote for you or your party?

I will stand up for the people of Bundoora and give them a voice in government that the current sitting member is unable to deliver as his hands are tied by his party's marriage to big business and powerful lobby groups.

We will deliver a fair and equitable government built on the solid principles that bind the Greens.

What is your view on urban consolidation / high-density development?

I don't believe high-rise has a place in the suburbs, local people should have a say. The Greens will protect the green wedges.



Luke Conlon, Family First

Age: 19
Occupation: Engineering student
Single

Key issues:

Skyrocketing electricity, water and rates costs for families, damage by vandals on the streets at night and lack of police presence and peak-hour traffic congestion due to new suburbs in the North and under capacity of the Ring Road.

Why vote for you or your party?

A vote for Family First is a vote for common sense in parliament and a protest vote against the arrogance of the major parties.

What is your view on urban consolidation / high-density development?

We need to be careful about expanding the urban boundaries and not reduce the conservation zones of the green wedges. Density diversity is part of the solution, along with improved public transport.



Catherine O'Farrell, DLP

Age: 47
Occupation: Teacher in adult education
Married, has lived in the area for four years.

Key issues

Traffic congestion is worsening on Bundoora's roads. The traffic on Plenty and Greensborough roads is consistently heavy. We need to build a traffic overpass at the Grimshaw St/Greensborough Rd intersection.

Why vote for you or your party?

A main focus of mine will be to bring government money wasting to an end. The DLP is for smaller government and local people making local decisions.

What is your view on urban consolidation / high-density development?

High-density living is fine in the inner-city where there is the infrastructure that supports this lifestyle. People in Bundoora choose a different lifestyle.



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