

Councils for PR - Motion to North Somerset Council

This cross-party motion is presented by Cllr Catherine Gibbons (Labour) and has been developed in collaboration with Cllr Ashley Cartman (Liberal Democrat), Bridget Petty (Green), and Steve Bridger (Independent).

Council notes that:

- The UK general election of 2019 resulted in 44% of voters electing 56% of MP's who hold 100% of the power.
- Greater Somerset returns 8 MP's to Westminster, they are all Conservative and were elected with 56% of the vote.
- In the 2019 general election 886,400 people voted for the Green Party with only 1 MP returned to Parliament. On average it took 25,900 votes to elect each SNP MP. Over 600,000 voted for the Brexit Party without a single Brexit Party MP being elected.
- Proportional Representation (PR) is already used to elect the parliaments and assemblies of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- The Elections Act 2022 replaces the Supplementary Vote system with First Past the Post (FPTP) for mayoral and Police and Crime Commissioner elections.

This council believes that:

- FPTP is an outdated and unfair electoral system that suppresses political diversity and disenfranchises millions.
- All votes should count equally. FPTP results simultaneously in safe seats with little democratic accountability, and a small number of marginal constituencies where the votes of a few thousand people determine the result.
- For local and national elections in the UK FPTP should be replaced with PR to ensure that all votes count and seats won better reflect the diversity of political opinion.

Council resolves to:

- Write to H.M. Government calling for a change in our outdated electoral laws to enable Proportional Representation to be used for UK general elections and local elections in England.