

**CARP Fair Elections Act Poll Report
April 7 2014**

Key Findings

The vast majority of CARP members disapprove of the provisions of the Fair Elections Act when they are described to them (80%), and fully two thirds disapprove “strongly” (63%).

Furthermore, a similarly overwhelming number of members say the Act will diminish democracy (79%), and, once again, fully two thirds say it will diminish democracy “a great deal” (62%).

When asked if the measures in the bill will mostly reduce voter fraud or mostly reduce turnout, four times as many say turnout will suffer (63%) as say fraud will be prevented (15%), and fully three quarters say the provision banning vouching as a form of voter ID will create barriers to voting (75%).

The effect of the Fair Elections Act on CARP support for the government has been catastrophic. Electoral preference for the Conservatives, relatively steady at 33% two weeks ago, has tumbled to 26% now, putting them close to third place.

In contrast, support for the Liberals has soared from a relatively slim lead of 36% two weeks ago to more than half today (52%), a record high for the Liberals since we began polling CARP members, and a record low for the Conservatives. This is a demonstration of the importance CARP members attach to their franchise.

Detailed Findings

The government has introduced a Bill revising the Elections Act in several ways, including:

- A) a person will no longer be permitted to vouch for the identity of another,***
- B) the Voter Information Cards can no longer be used as proof of residence;***
- C) The Chief Electoral Officer will no longer be able to promote voting turnout among youth and other under-represented groups,***
- D) Nor will he be able to investigate or prosecute violations of the Elections Act,***
- E) Campaign donation limits will be raised and***
- F) Election officials will be nominated by political parties.***

Do you approve or disapprove of these proposals?

APPROVE	17%
Approve strongly	6%
Approve	11%
DISAPPROVE	80%
Disapprove	17%
Disapprove strongly	63%
DON'T KNOW	3%

The government has claimed that the main purpose of the new Bill is to prevent voter fraud. Critics claim it will reduce voter participation. Will this Bill mostly reduce voter fraud, mostly reduce voter participation, do neither or do both?

Mostly reduce voter fraud	15%
Have no effect one way or another	8%
Mostly reduce voter participation	62%
Will do both	11%
MARGIN IN FAVOUR OF "REDUCE FRAUD"	- 47
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	4%

Will the banning of vouching as a means of voter identification impose barriers to voter participation?

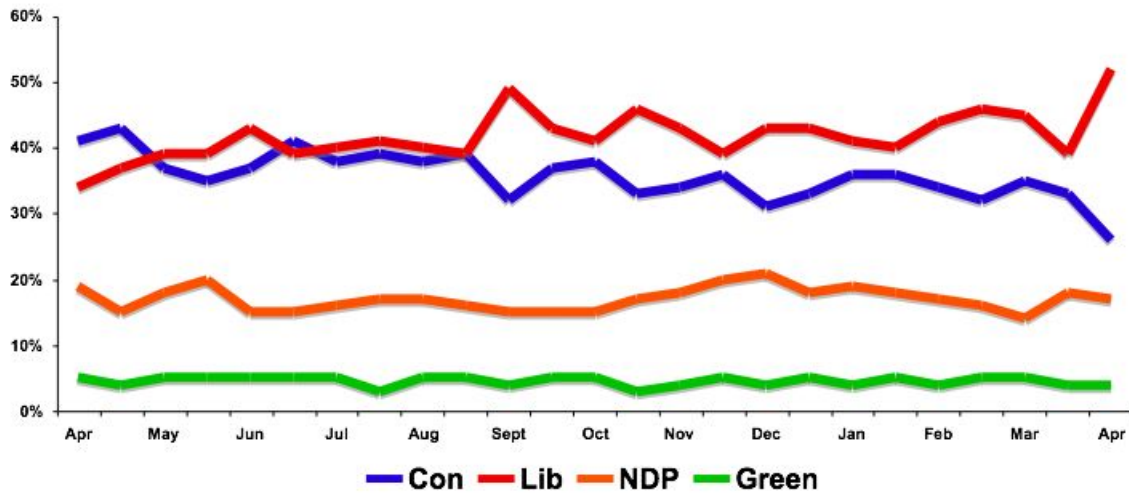
Yes	75%
No	18%
DON'T KNOW	7%

Taken all together, will the provisions of this Fair Elections Act improve democracy or diminish it?

IMPROVE IT	17%
A great deal	4%
Somewhat	13%
DIMINISH IT	79%
Somewhat	17%
A great deal	62%
DON'T KNOW	4%

Electoral Preference

The Liberals have increased their share among decided voters dramatically from 36% to 52%, a new high in our 6 years of polling, while the Conservatives have tumbled from 33% to 26%, a new low for them. The NDP is in third place with 17% of the vote



More than 2500 CARP Poll™ online panel members responded to this poll between April 4 and 6, 2014. The margin of error for a probability sample this size is about plus or minus 2%, 19 times out of 20