

GOOD SYSTEMS AGREEMENT

OF THE MAKE VOTES MATTER ALLIANCE



Alliance



Green Party
for the common good



Plaid Cymru | Party of Wales

SNP



WOMEN'S
EQUALITY
PARTY.

The best voting system for the UK would ideally be determined by citizens through an evidence-based, deliberative process. The agreement below sets out the principles that the Alliance believes are the crucial tests of any such system.

PRINCIPLES OF GOOD VOTING SYSTEMS FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS:

- 1. PROPORTIONALITY:** Good systems ensure that seats closely match votes, with parliamentary representation at least as proportional as the Scottish Parliament.
- 2. REPRESENTATION:** Good systems ensure MPs and governments represent the views of the voters.
- 3. EQUAL VOTES:** Good systems ensure the value of individual votes is not distorted by factors such as geography, and minimise the need for tactical voting.
- 4. LOCAL LINKS:** Good systems maintain links between MPs and specific geographic areas.
- 5. DIVERSITY:** Good systems encourage the election of parliaments reflecting the population.
- 6. VOTER CHOICE:** Good systems allow voters a wide choice of parties, and allow voters to express preferences for people rather than just parties. Any lists used must be democratically determined.
- 7. ACCOUNTABILITY:** Good systems ensure MPs and governments are accountable to the voters.
- 8. BALANCE OF STABILITY AND FLEXIBILITY:** Good systems engender stable, flexible government that has the ability to compromise.
- 9. SUSTAINABILITY AND ADAPTABILITY:** Good systems are able to respond and adapt to changing needs without requiring frequent or fundamental change.
- 10. VOTING SIMPLICITY:** Good systems and ballot papers are easy for voters to understand and use.

The Make Votes Matter Alliance of parties, organisations and individuals collaborates to bring in a system of Proportional Representation for the House of Commons. By coming to cross-party consensus about what good voting systems look like, the Alliance is in a stronger position to work together to achieve this goal.

The Make Votes Matter Alliance has pooled collective knowledge and carried out extensive research to agree the principles above which are required of 'good' voting systems. We have drawn on the work of official expert panels and consultations from around the world, a wide range of academic literature and a wealth of knowledge from other expert sources.

This agreement is not intended to alter allies' existing system preferences, but to seek broad consensus about the key principles that any voting system considered for UK general elections must meet. The overriding objective is to ensure that the seats won in Parliament are in proportion to the votes cast.

As such, the Alliance confirms its support for voting systems that meet the principles.



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GOOD SYSTEMS AGREEMENT SIGNED BY



Alliance



Green Party
for the common good

Liberal Democrats
DEMAND BETTER



Plaid Cymru | Party of Wales

SNP

WE
WOMEN'S
EQUALITY
PARTY.

OTHER PARTIES AND ORGANISATIONS:

Common Weal

Compass

**Conservative Action for
Electoral Reform**

Federalist Party

Forum for the Future

**Joseph Rowntree Reform
Trust**

**Labour Campaign for
Electoral Reform**

Labour Future

**Make Votes Matter - many
groups around the UK**

Peter Tatchell Foundation

Radical Party

Represent

Sheffield for Democracy

Social Democratic Party

Something New

The Alternative

Unlock Democracy

Young People's Party

SIGNED IN A PERSONAL CAPACITY:

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OpenDemocracy**

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and Co-operative Party**

**Angela Smith MP,
Independent**

**Bambos Charalambous
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Ben Heald, Chair of Sift

**Chuka Umunna MP,
Liberal Democrats**

**Clive Lewis MP, Labour
Party**

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**David Wheeler,
Footballer, Portsmouth
Football Club**

**Debbie Abrahams MP,
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**Derek Thomas MP,
Conservative Party**

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**Ella Saltmarshe,
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**Rory Bremner,
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comedian**

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Party**

**Stephen Kinnock MP,
Labour Party**

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