



PURPOSEFUL DEMOCRACY

Vision:

United**Future** seeks to extend the systems and processes we currently have to better reflect a true Parliamentary democracy for a small 21st century nation. We see a move away from two-party domination towards more constructive politics that better represent multicultural New Zealand. We want all forms of Government to be highly efficient and productive yet remain in touch with the wishes and needs of its citizens.

Key issues:

1. The public of New Zealand do not fully understand our MMP system.
2. There has been a decline in voter turnout over the past twenty years.
3. Most of our Parliamentary procedures support two-party politics; however the concepts of Government and Opposition have changed under MMP.
4. We have 76 Ministries/Departments, 85 Local Government institutions and numerous Crown Entities. We have over 3000 elected individuals, the highest of any OECD country per head of population.

Key Policies we have already promoted or supported over the last six years:

- Promoted a Code of Conduct for MPs.
- Advocated the use of Binding Citizens' Initiated Referenda whenever there are key conscience issues at stake.
- Sponsored legislation to celebrate our nation through a 'New Zealand Day'.
- Initiated and led the multiparty repeal of sedition as a crime.

POLICIES:

Inquiry into New Zealand's Constitutional Arrangements

It is United**Future** policy to:

- Embark on a public education process on constitutional matters, leading towards consideration of New Zealand as a republic within the Commonwealth in the future.
- Develop a timetable for considering constitutional reform issues by public referendum, with a view to implementing changes from 2017.
- Establish a New Zealand Day separate from Waitangi Day to celebrate our nation's history, multicultural society, and to discuss the potential for the future
- Introduce a Multicultural Act, similar to Canada, for the preservation and enhancement of multiculturalism in New Zealand.

The Electoral System

It is United**Future** policy to:

- Investigate an extension of the Parliamentary term to four years, with a fixed election day.

- Hold a referendum on the future of MMP, in 2010, to allow the New Zealand people to review the effectiveness of the system to date
- Initiate a referendum on the future of Maori seats in Parliament to be held in conjunction with the MMP referendum, with a view to abolishing the seats by 2014. This would give effect to the recommendation in the 1986 Royal Commission on the Electoral System.

Conscience Issues

It is United**Future** policy to:

- Send automatically to a public referendum any conscience issue passed by Parliament with less than 60% support.
- Make binding the result of the subsequent referendum only if the motion is supported by more than 50% of registered voters.

Local Government

It is United**Future** policy to:

- Task the Local Government Commission with a review of the size and shape of all local government areas in order to reduce local government activity to a pre-1995 level.
- Rationalize and align all boundaries of elected and appointed government entities by 2012.

Citizenship promotion

It is United**Future** policy to:

- Ensure that school pupils understand their civic rights and responsibilities, the structure of the New Zealand Parliament and of Local Government and their means of access to them.
- Nationally televise the Youth Parliament to give credence to the efforts of young people to lift the bar.
- Require immigrants to take a civics course as part of becoming a New Zealand citizen, to promote civics understanding and teach immigrants what it is to be a "Kiwi" & what the norms & expectations of New Zealand society are.
- Introduce a graded system towards citizenship to develop the idea that citizenship is a privilege and not a right.