

The citizen and Government

Having your voice heard

The Electoral System in Canada

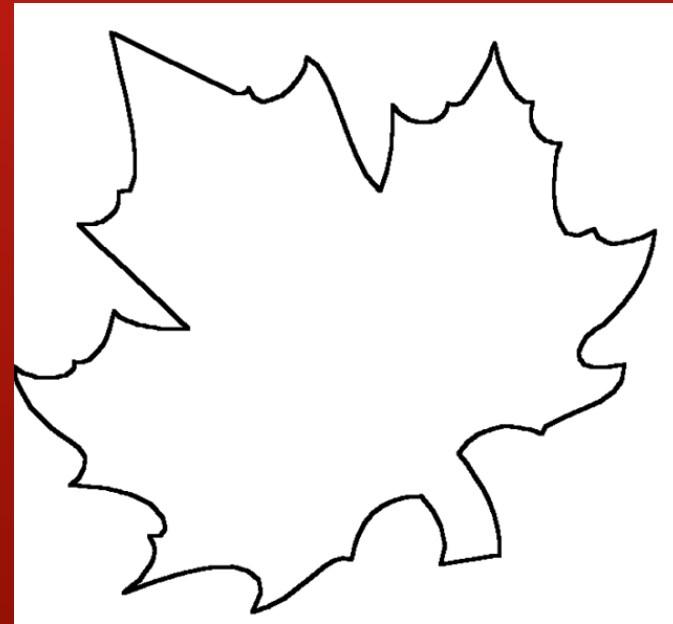
Choosing the Government

- You have the legal right to choose your government
- You have the legal right to express your views freely



Who can vote

- Canadian Citizen
- Over 18
- Why 18?
- Demeny Voting?



When?

- Federal elections
 - held at least every 5 years
 - (as of 2007 law passed for every 4)
 - Member of Parliament - **MP**
- Provincial elections
 - at least every 5 years
 - 4 in BC – 3rd Sat. in Oct (2017)
*2nd Tues in May
 - Member of Legislative Assembly - **MLA**
- BC Municipal elections
 - every 4 years
 - Councillors & Mayor
 - School Trustees



Voting Counts

- Voting is the most widely used method of influencing the government
- voter participation varies from region to region and from province to province



- During a federal election do you think votes in BC are more or less important than those of eastern Canadian's?
- Does your vote count?

IF YOU DON'T
VOTE
YOU LOSE
THE RIGHT TO
COMPLAIN



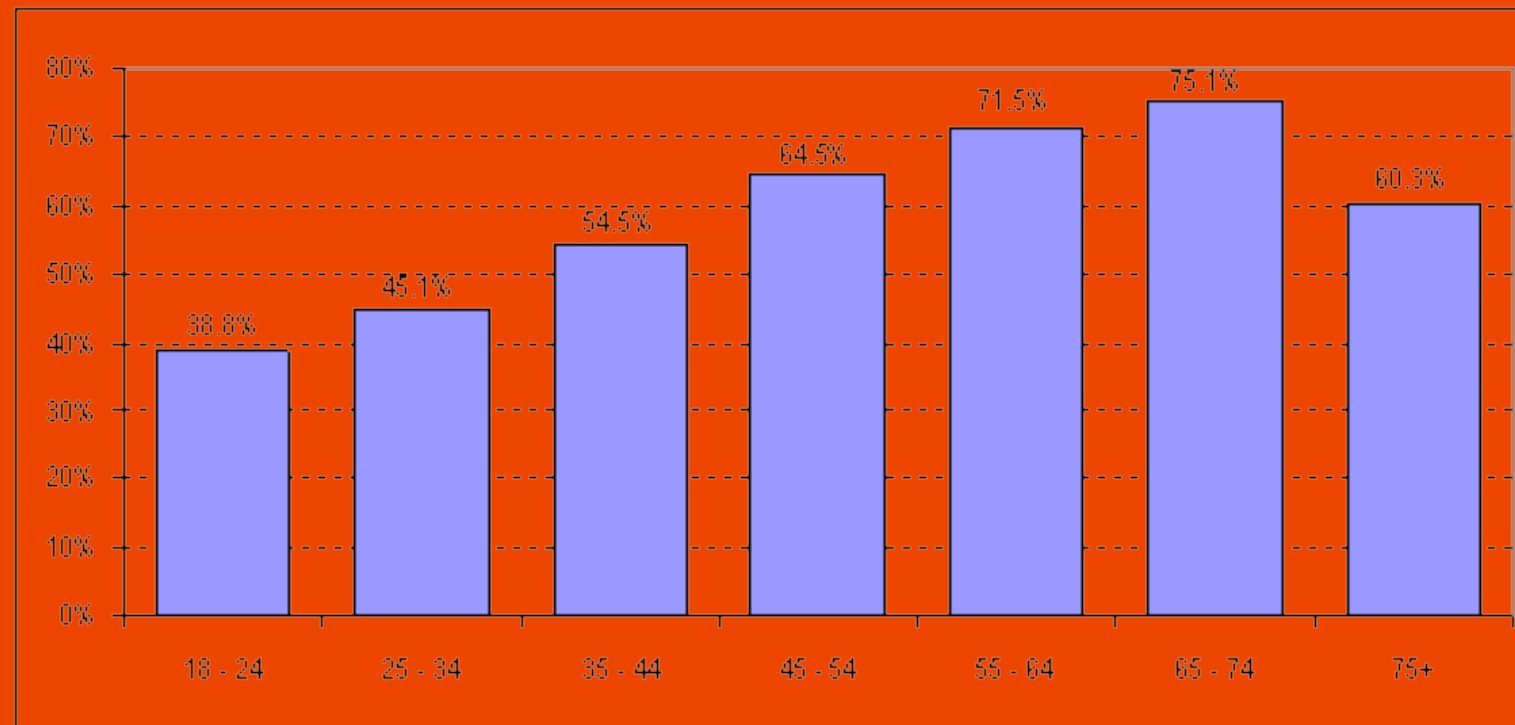
Voter turnout

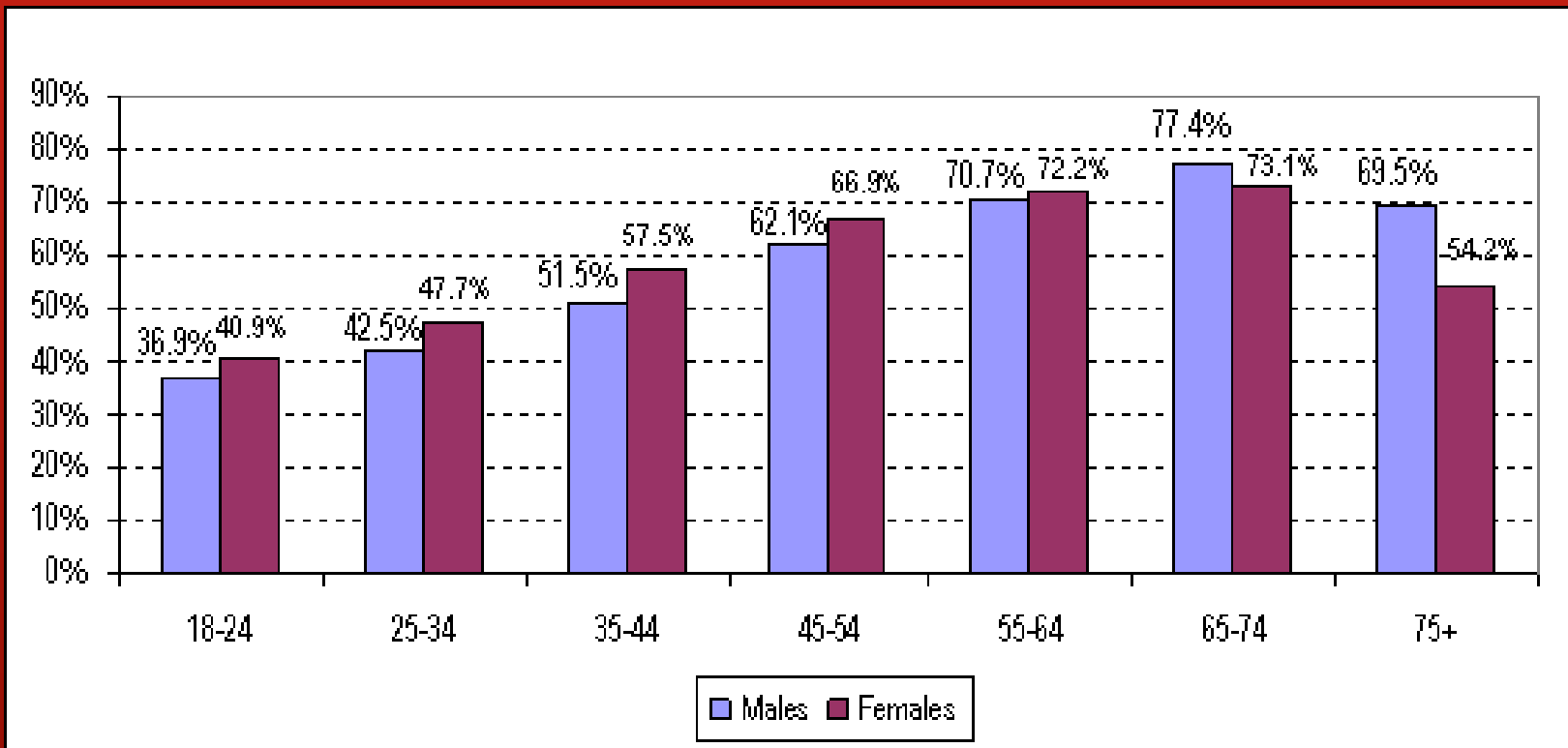
- 2019 Federal Election
 - 65.95 % turnout
- 2017 BC Election
 - 61.2%
- 2018 Prince George Municipal Election
 - 24%
- 13184 ballots cast out of possible 54900

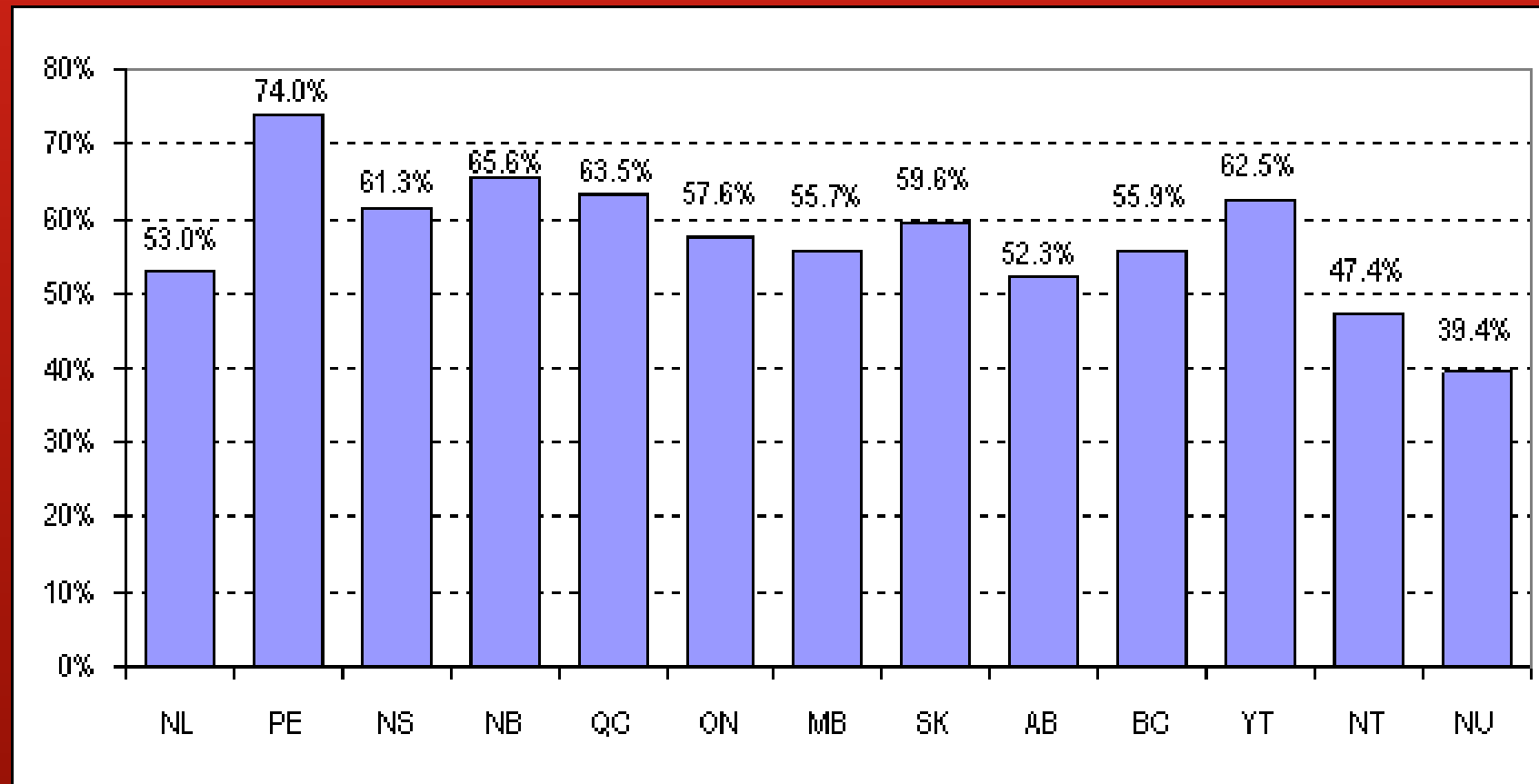
Prince George 2018

Candidate	Votes	Percent
Lyn Hall Elected	11 702	53.08%
Willy Ens	1045	44.9%

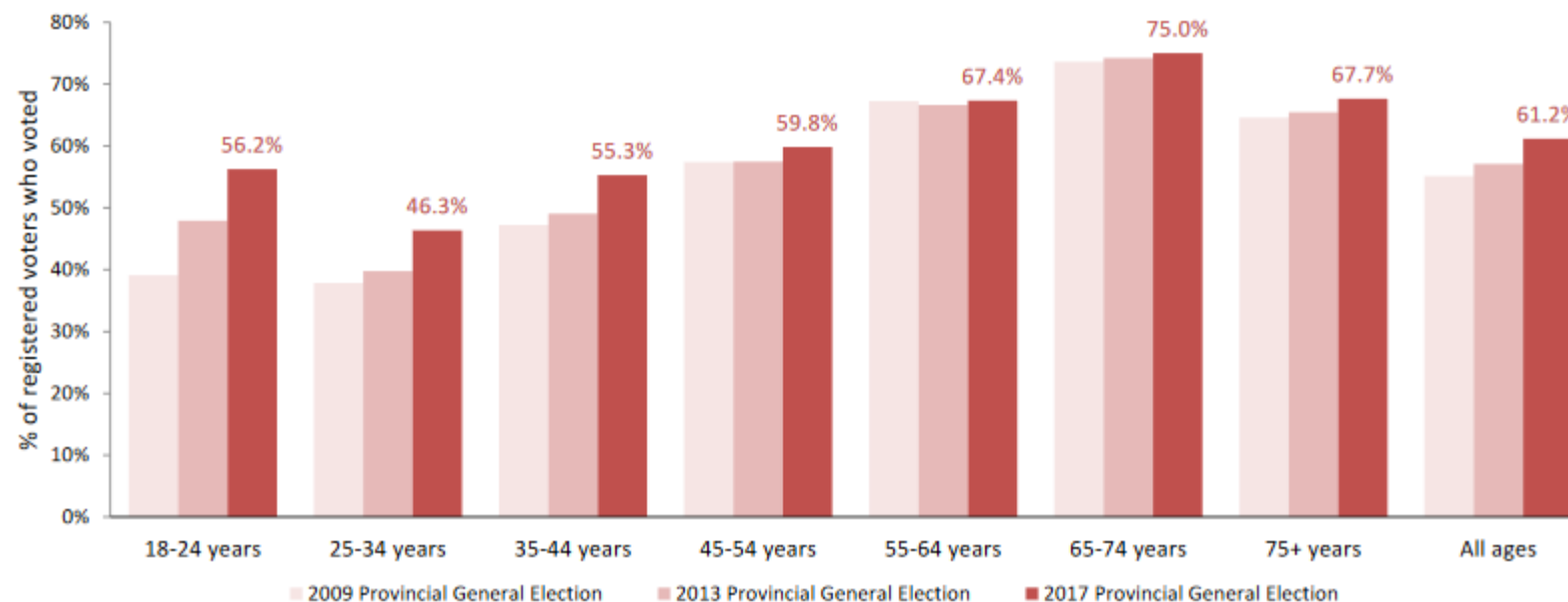
Coucillor
Skakun, Brian - 9475
Sampson, Kyle - 8304
Frizzell, Garth - 8199
Krause, Murry - 8008
Scott, Susan - 7775
McConnachie, Terri - 7111
Everitt, Frank - 6680
Ramsay, Cori - 5693
Fuller, Dave - 5001
Stolz, Cameron - 4971
Fox, Viv - 3697
Wood, Chris - 2266
Serup, Paul - 1746





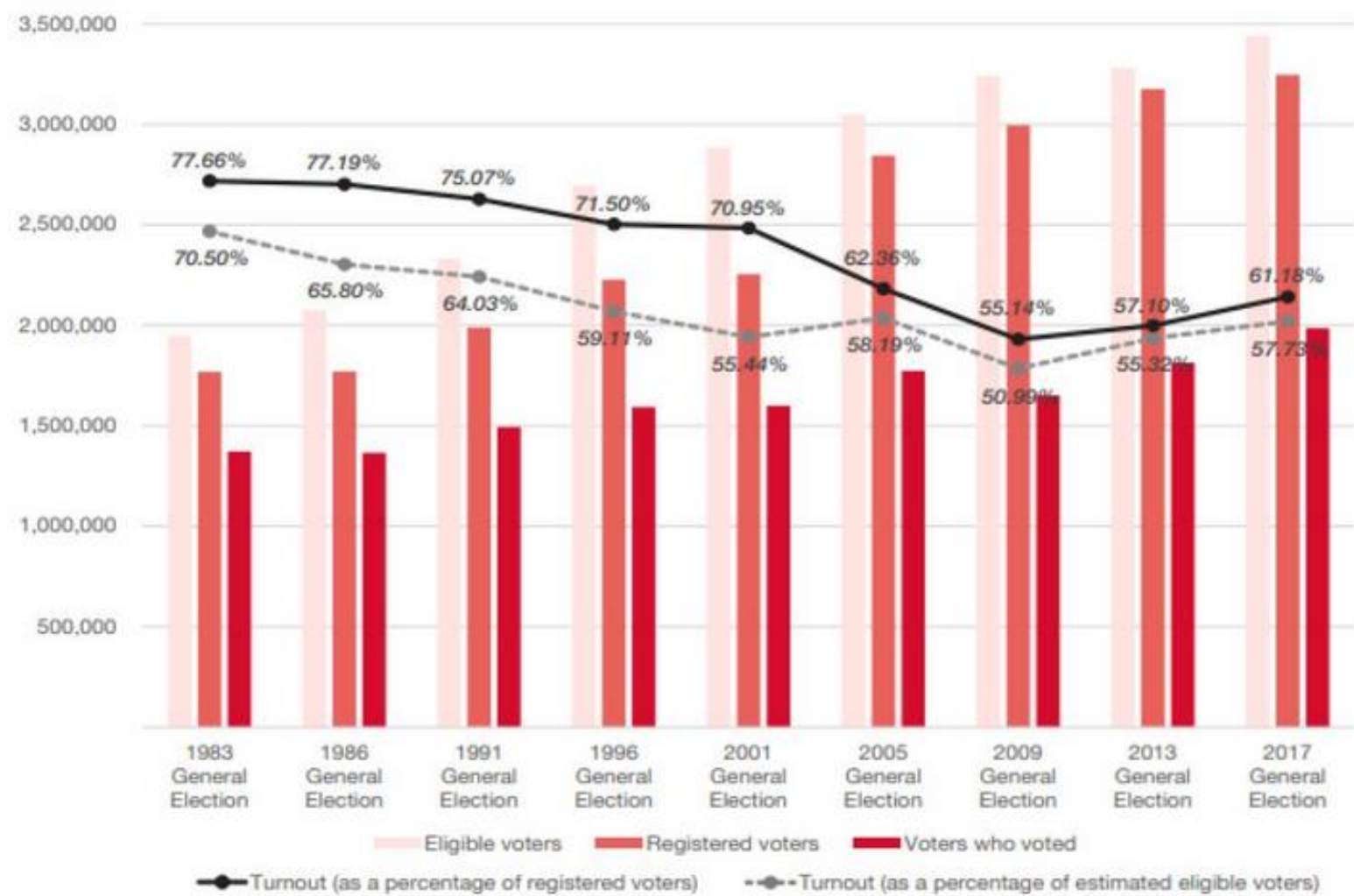


Voter participation rates by age group: 2017 Provincial General Election



	18-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65-74 years	75+ years	All ages
Total registered voters	221,732	515,675	501,745	581,234	625,310	464,574	336,377	3,246,647
Registered voters who voted	124,707	239,008	277,379	347,836	421,190	348,659	227,595	1,986,374
% of registered voters who voted	56.2%	46.3%	55.3%	59.8%	67.4%	75.0%	67.7%	61.2%
Difference versus 2013 % who voted	+8.3%	+6.6%	+6.2%	+2.4%	+0.7%	+0.8%	+2.2%	+4.1%
Difference versus 2009 % who voted	+17.1%	+8.5%	+8.0%	+2.5%	+0.1%	+1.4%	+3.1%	+6.0%

Source: Elections BC



Election Campaigns

- Must happen every 4 years
 - Prime Minister can call election anytime before the end of 4 year term
 - Formality: Asks the Governor General to call election (dissolve parliament)
- Why would the PM call for an early election?
 - Opinion polls indicate
 - the current government is popular
 - The opposition is weak
 - Test support on a contentious issue
 - in 2000 Chretien called an early election to prevent the Canadian Alliance's Stockwell Day from gathering support
 - Vote of non-confidence
 - Stephen Harper in 2011

How a Candidate is Chosen

- Process is called **Nomination**
- Country divided into ridings
 - Ridings based on population (approx. 100 000)
- 1. Party members in riding choose candidate
- 2. Federal Party names a candidate (regardless of what local members want)



Polling

- During election public opinion is constantly monitored
- Polling companies contact voters and ask questions about
 - political leaders
 - parties and issues



Response to Polls

- The campaign is altered to reflect public opinion
 - Speeches
 - Television appearances
 - Debate responses
 - Candidate appearance
- Some critics suggest that polls dissuade people from voting for parties they “know” can’t win



How a Candidate Wins

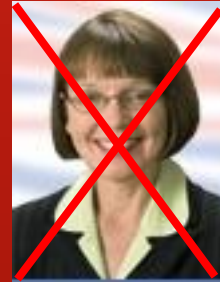
- First Past the Post –
 - candidate who has most votes wins
 - can win by 1 vote
 - Winner = Sally 2310 Loser = Ned 2309
- Simple and straight forward
- The more candidates that run the less votes the winner must earn
-

Problems with 1st past the post

- The candidate does not have to have a majority of the votes to win (over 50%)
 - Sally 51 votes / Ned 35 / Gregory 34
- Parties can control a government with less than half of the popular vote
- therefore 50% or more of the populations desires may not be represented in government
- An alternative system is **Proportional Representation**
- Voters choose a political party instead of a candidate
- If a party receives 38% of the votes they in turn are allotted 38% of the seats

Problems

- The proportional representation system does not allow for local representation



- The proportional Representation system creates a need for coalitions or alliances