



PO Box 1195 South Melbourne VIC 3205
Phone: 03 9028 2774
ABN 58 986 783 321 Cert. of Inc. A0036364B
info@southbankresidents.com.au
www.southbankresidents.com.au

Submission to Future Melbourne Committee

City of Melbourne, Council Meeting Room, Melbourne Town Hall Administration Building
16 Feb 2016, 5.30pm – Meeting No.75
Agenda Item 6.9 Program of actions for the conduct of the 2016 Melbourne City Council Elections

Southbank Residents Association is appalled that Council is choosing to adopt a strictly postal vote election, but moreso without any public consultation.

The Council has an interactive platform called Participate Melbourne where this could have been posted for public comment.

One specific concern Southbank residents have are the logistical issues associated with the effective delivery of postal ballots to mailboxes located in secure buildings. In most high-rise apartment buildings, the mail rooms are secured with strict access protocols which raises the concern of safe delivery of postal ballots.

Often residents in high-rise buildings find mass produced mail left in common areas or the front entrance as a result of being unable to gain access to the mailroom inside the building. For secure ballot papers, this would be unacceptable, and opens up the possibility of voting fraud.

When it comes to attendance voting, the City is well serviced by public transport and there should be no reason why constituents would be unable to attend to vote.

The City has an extremely large number of illiterate and homeless residents and postal voting excludes these marginalised groups. Attendance voting will offer more accessibility and equality for these people and enable them to have their voice heard.

Attendance voting would bring us in-line with state and federal voting.

We are not completely against postal voting, but recognise that attendance voting would need to operate alongside postal voting as there may be a number of constituents who are offshore, interstate or non-resident.

Southbank Residents Association demand, at minimum, public consultation before this item is passed.

Tony Penna
President
Southbank Residents Association