

CAPaD - *Awakening Democracy*

The Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

www.canberra-alliance.org.au

Candidate Statement for the 2020 ACT Election

The Candidate Statement is to give voters information to guide their selection of candidates based on the candidate's ability to be an MLA and their commitment to strengthen the democratic fabric of the ACT.

My name is Rebecca Vassarotti and I am a candidate for the ACT Legislative Assembly in the electorate of **Brindabella / Ginninderra / Kurrajong / Murrumbidgee / Yerrabi**. (Cross out those not applicable)

I am endorsed to represent the **ALP / Canberra Liberals / Greens / Other** _____ / **Independent**

These are my skills and experience for being an MLA. (No more than 100 words in 10pt Arial font)

I am a Canberra native, long-term Kurrajong resident, Mum of three school-aged kids, and engaged member of my community. I have dedicated my professional life to reduce poverty, disadvantage and discrimination across our community. I bring a range of professional and volunteer experiences including leadership roles in our local community sector, volunteer roles on a range of not-for-profit board and committees and serving as a community member of the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal. These have fostered skills including community engagement, a commitment to evidence-based policy and a deep commitment to participatory democracy and people centred leadership.

Further, I have these skills and experiences that qualifies me for a role in the ministry. (No more than 50 words in 10pt Arial font)

I have been extremely fortunate to have had a diverse range of professional roles across a number of sectors which provides an understanding of the complexity of many issues. I am committed to understanding different perspectives and ensuring that evidence is a key driver of decision makers. My work in areas of disadvantage equip me to ensure that politics serve people.

If elected, this is how I plan to represent my constituents. (No more than 100 words in 10pt Arial font)

I plan to listen, be accessible and be connected to my local community. I commit to being transparent about how I am making decisions and be accountable back to the community who have put faith in me as their political representative. I commit to responding to evidence and ensuring that the positions I support are in the best interests of all our community members, ensuring that those who are most vulnerable are not left behind. I commit to ensuring I fight against those who seek to buy influence or favourable policy that serves private interests rather than the community.

If elected, I will undertake these measures to promote good government and strengthen the responsiveness, accountability and transparency of government in the ACT. (Up to 100 words, dot points, in 10pt Arial font)

I am a strong supporter of open government. I am proud to belong to the party that has championed establishing an integrity commission, strengthening freedom of information laws and political donations reform. In our own practice we have reduced our reporting threshold and increased the frequency of reporting. We are keen to ensure that reform does not create barriers to entry to small political parties and independents or create an environment where personal donors fear reprisal for publicly supporting a political party or cause. I also strongly support the introduction of measures that promote participative democratic process and consultative measures.

If elected, I will undertake these measures to promote and improve informed participation by my constituents in ACT policy development and decision making. (Up to 50 words, dot points, in 10pt Arial font)

- Continue the work to improve community consultation in planning decisions
- Continue to work on political donations reform
- Support work to introduce participatory democracy measures in government decision making

Statement of Democratic Commitment

1. I will strictly abide by the ACT Legislative Assembly Standing Orders Code of Conduct for MLAs.
2. I will fully disclose and make public the sources and value of all political funding donations, contributions, gifts public and private towards my election campaign and political activity, within one month of receipt.
3. I will place the public interest (the welfare and wellbeing of the general population and the integrity of the planet) ahead of sectional, corporate, personal, religious or other interests.

Signed

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. A. Vanson", is placed on a light green rectangular background.

Date 07/05/2020

Please send a pdf copy of your statement to secretary@canberra-alliance.org.au for placement on the CAPaD website.