

# Awakening Democracy

CAPaD – the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

OCTOBER 2020

G'day members and friends

In this [Awakening Democracy](#): the AGM is coming; the Election is on and we are making some media mark, and we have perhaps provoked a trend in voter support; our two Empathy and Collaborative Meaning Making events in September; and a few things to read or watch.

## COMING UP

**AGM Save the date.** November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2pm, probably still on Zoom. If you are interested in joining the committee, please let the Secretary know.

**Membership reminder:** Thank you to those of you have paid and donated generously. Very helpful.

[Please join in.](#)

**Note:** if you joined since May this year, including at Zoom Events, your membership is current.

## Getting better representation for better government

The 2020 ACT Election up to October 17<sup>th</sup>

## Vote Thoughtfully

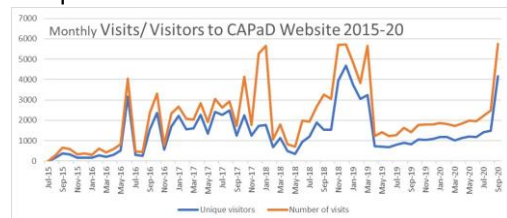
We are into the final weeks of this new and different election.

### Candidate Statements

At present there are 137 candidates and [we have received 26 completed statements](#): 10 Green, 6 Canberra Progressive, 5 ACT Labor, 4 Independents and 1 Federation Party ACT. Canberra Liberals have [written that their candidates don't do this](#).

Feedback is that one party doesn't get involved in single issue questionnaires such as a us. Given that party's name, .... Smaller parties have been difficult to contact.

Meanwhile, please keep asking candidates if they have made as statement. Even better, if they have, tell them you have read it.



### Website

We have made the candidate statements more accessible and easy to compare candidates by response.

Website traffic has gone up fourfold. Candidate Statements are being downloaded.

### Media

Peter Tait was interviewed on [2XX on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August](#) and [October 1<sup>st</sup>](#) about CAPaD, democracy, the election, the candidate statements and more. [Hear the 2XX Minor Party Series interviews at this link.](#)

So far the mainstream media are ignoring us.

### Another Big thank you

To the 19 people who all together donated to buy space in the City News. If you haven't, [you can read the article online.](#)

This has led to an Opinion Piece in next week's City News.

### CAPaD advertising feature

#### Calling on citizens to vote carefully

In the lead up to the October 17 ACT Election, the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy (CAPaD) is calling on voters to choose their candidates carefully.

"Think about the candidates, compare their political parties, say CAPaD necessary for you."

The recent CAPaD survey on association representing citizens to support public, general or special ballot in ACT Canberra City, where there was a concern that the government was lobbying what people wanted.

"We found an organization to do something, yes."

"But, I'm not sure."

"Think about the candidates you will vote for, think about how they are going to represent you and they pay for the bill. How will they involve people in their decision and policy-making?"

Today people can be informed decisions about voting the CAPaD website from profiles to each political candidate and invite candidates to answer their responses to a number of questions about their activities and how they intend to plan their government. That's what we're doing.

"On Canberra local it's about a big big-brother and people are not involved."

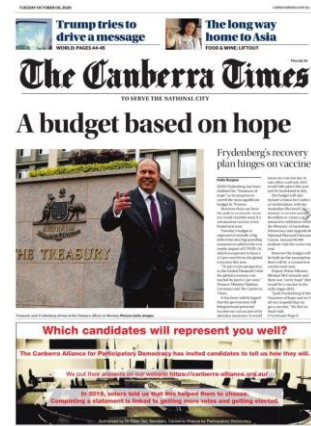
"Without involvement in the political process, people are fearful, angry and afraid. The problem with politics in Canberra is not the system and process is the people."

"If you are shown where you place your vote and vote well."

For candidates, there are insights from the CAPaD website has shown.

Vote carefully - [http://www.vote-carefully.org.au](#)

And in [Tuesdays](#) and Thursday's Canberra Times:



### Voter Assist Sites

This election we see a new phenomenon; in addition to our site, three other sites have emerged to help voters to decide who to choose.

[smartvote Australia](#) matches candidates (who have completed their questionnaire) to voters who have filled in the same questions.

[Voteeasy Australia](#) provides a platform for candidates to explain themselves to voters.

Elections ACT [candidate information statements](#).

An overabundance of riches. Feedback is that this has meant candidates have chosen other of these than the CAPaD one.

### Distributing the flyer

Margaret Lee is coordinating distribution of our flyer about the statements ([copies on the website](#)). If you can [let her know if you](#) download and where you handed them out please.

### New stuff to read and look at

Links to the September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Zoom Sessions

#### Empathy and Collaborative Meaning-Making: An Overview of Citizens' Councils

Two sessions held 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September [can be found on this page](#). This workshop gave a taste of Dynamic Facilitation as a process in the "operating system" of the Citizens' Councils recently featured in the OECD's report on "[Innovative Citizen Participation and New Democratic Institutions](#)". It was hosted and facilitated by [Rosa Zubizarreta](#), [Andy Paice](#), Martha Cuffy and [Mark Spain](#).

Democratic Confederism in northern Syria. [Grassroots, multi ethnic, multi religious, model of currently existing democracy](#), in Kurdistan.

Report back on the [2019 Green Institute Cultivating Democracy Conference](#).

How to [talk about democratic reform](#) – a constructive narrative.

*From your committee*

Contact us: [secretary@canberra-alliance.org.au](mailto:secretary@canberra-alliance.org.au)

Keep up to date: <https://canberra-alliance.org.au/>

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The Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy