



Your Vote Counts in the European Elections

Make a difference on 4 June 2009 ... use your vote

The European Parliamentary elections are different than a local or General election. Because of the proportional voting system used for electing MEPs:

Your Vote Counts

- every vote is important.
- you have a much higher likelihood of affecting the result, no matter where you live.
- the candidates are the same across the region, so there are no differences across wards – even if your ward traditionally favours one particular party, your vote can still make a difference across the region.

Vote Your Values

- you can vote for the party you really believe in; for the agenda you want advanced in/by Europe.
- you have a higher chance of ending up being represented (in your region) by a party you voted for.

Vote to reduce the chances of extremists being elected

- the higher the turnout, the harder it likely becomes for extremist parties to win seats.
- if people don't go out and vote, the greater the risk of an extremist party, with a small but committed base of support gaining representation. Whose voice do you want in the European Parliament: their voice or yours?

Voting = Easy

The ballot paper is very straightforward. You have one vote, which is used to elect a list of MEPs who will represent the whole region. Simply vote for the party you prefer – put an X in the column next to that party's name. That's it, job done!

How MEPs are elected

Each region has a certain number of MEPs dependent on its population size. Parties put up a list of candidates and then win seats roughly in proportion to their share of the vote. It works like this: the party with the most votes in a region wins the first seat (which goes to the name on the top of their list). The remaining seats in the region are then allocated between the parties based on a simple formula which ensures that the number of votes needed to elect an MEP is broadly the same across the parties.

Why campaigning across your region matters:

MEPs are elected by a form of proportional representation based on region-wide vote totals. This means it is worth competing in every ward, every borough and every county – those where there is lots of political activity already, but also in areas which aren't normally targeted at election time and amongst people who don't usually feel part of the national political conversation. No matter whom you support or what issues you want to promote, you can organise, campaign and get out the vote in our own areas, and make a difference to the result.

If you want further materials or advice, please get in contact with us:

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