

New Galaxy Poll: Coalition Set to Lose Senate Majority *GetUp Releases Radio Ad Calling For Balanced Senate*

Getup.org.au has released new Galaxy polling indicating that if an election were held now, the Coalition would lose its majority in the Senate – adding to its expected loss in the House of Representatives.

The poll release comes with the launch of a GetUp radio ad in Senate states to educate voters on the Coalition's misuse of its Senate majority. The ad calls on voters to end the Coalition's rubber stamp in the Senate.

"The Senate plays an incredibly important role in our government. We count on a balanced Senate for measured examination of and improvement to new laws," said GetUp Executive Director Brett Solomon.

The poll shows Labor on 39%, the Coalition on 35%, the Greens on 10%, Family First with 3%, and the Democrats with 2%. **Galaxy's state-by-state analysis indicates that the Coalition is likely to lose its Senate majority, leaving no party with total control in the Senate.**

Since gaining control of the Senate, the Howard Government has accepted only 2% of other parties' amendments (12 out of 666 proposed amendments in 2006), while at the same time passing 100% of its own (360 out of 360).¹

"Voters are appalled by the callous disregard this Government has shown for our Senate, and their dismay is being reflected in their vote," said Mr Solomon. "The Australian people know that they cannot trust the Coalition with total control of our house of review."

A June GetUp-commissioned Galaxy poll showed a similar state of affairs, with Galaxy's state-by-state analysis then also indicating that neither party would hold a majority in the Senate. In that survey, 38% intended to vote for the ALP, 34% for the Coalition, while the Greens polled 13%.²

"Despite the Prime Minister's promises that they would treat the Senate 'soberly, wisely and sensibly', the Coalition has weakened the Senate committee process, routinely used their numbers to guillotine debate, and reduced the number of days the Senate sits in which to do its work."

"GetUp is independent of party politics and our Senate campaign reflects that independence. We decry one-party control of the Senate, whether Labor or Liberal. We are using new technologies, a grassroots field operation, and advertising to engage people with the political process and educate them on the way in which the Senate can affect the issues they care about."

For more information please contact Brett Solomon on 0407 419 320.

¹ Source: http://www.democrats.org.au/campaigns/senate_watch/

² Results from the two surveys cannot be directly compared because the June survey did not prompt respondents with the names of Family First and the Democrats, while the September survey did.

National Galaxy Survey
Conducted for *GetUp!* 7-9 September, 2007
n=1004 voters (out of 1100 adults 16+ surveyed)

Senate Voting Intention	September 2007 Galaxy Survey	2004 Election Results³	2001 Election Results⁴
ALP	39	35	34
Liberal / National Party	35	45	42
The Greens	10	8	5
The Democrats	2	2	7
Family First	3	2	-
Other/Don't Know	12	10	12

Interviews were conducted using CATI (computer assisted telephone interviewing) with telephone numbers randomly selected from electronic White Pages. Age, gender and region quotas were applied to the sample. Following the completion of interviewing, the data was weighted by age, gender and region to reflect the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics population estimates.

The survey of 1004 Australians had a 3% margin of error nationally. The survey had a large enough sample size to break out results in New South Wales and Victoria independently.

In New South Wales, with a sample size of 285 and a margin of error of +/- 6%, the survey found 36% support for the ALP, 35% for the Coalition, and 11% for the Greens. If borne out at the election, this would prove a significant change from 2004's election results, in which 44% of voters' first preferences went to the Coalition, 37% the ALP, and 7% the Greens.*

In Victoria, with a sample size of 264 and a margin of error of +/-6%, the survey shows 43% of voters supporting the ALP, 35% for the Coalition, and 11% supporting the Greens – A major reversal of fortune, as at the polls in 2004, 44% of first-preference ballots were cast for the Coalition, 36% for the ALP, and 9% for the Greens.* If this poll were borne out on election day, the Coalition would be highly unlikely to hold its current three Senate seats out of the six up for election in the state.

For more information please contact Brett Solomon on 0407 419 320.

About GetUp: *GetUp.org.au is an independent movement to build a progressive Australia. GetUp brings together like-minded people who want to bring participation back into our democracy. GetUp has over 170,000 members nationwide.*

www.getup.org.au

³ Source: <http://www.aph.gov.au/library/handbook/elections/senate/summary.htm>

⁴ Source: <http://www.electionresources.org/au/senate.php?election=2001>

“The Other Election”: GetUp Senate Radio Ad

Person 1 So, Howard or Rudd?

Person 2 Dunno, but actually, I'm worried about the other election.

P1 What other election?

P2 The one for the Senate. You know, Parliament's house of review? See, usually, no one party has complete control of the Senate, so all the parties have to work together, keep an eye on each other.

P1: So what's the problem?

P2: Well, last election, the Liberal-National Coalition got control of the Senate and now they do anything they feel like, including pushing through a 500-page bill with just one day of hearings!

P1: You're kidding. That's just a bloody rubber stamp. But won't Labor just do the same if they win?

P2: Nah, that's the good bit – because of all the smaller parties, Labor literally can't win the Senate. So the best way to restore balance is to vote the Libs out of their Senate majority.

Voiceover: This election, vote for a balanced and progressive Senate.

A high-quality audio copy of the ad can be obtained at <http://www.mediafire.com/?d9ybo2mente> or by calling Taren Stinebrickner on 0413 877 236.