

Tim O'Shaughnessy

From: Peter Kramer
Sent: Thursday, 3 October 2013 3:06 PM
To: Wayne Dropulich (wdrop26@gmail.com)
Subject: FW: Final - Dropulich [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

AECStatus: process

For-Official-Use-Only

Mr Dropulich

I have considered your request for a recount of the Senate.

Your request referred to variation in the vote tally for the WA Senate on the AEC website, discrepancies between percentages of vote types for the Shooters and Fishers Party and the Australian Fishing and Lifestyle Party and the Exclusion process.

This request has been declined for the following reasons:

- Variations in progressive results updated through the VTR on the AEC Website are not unusual and reflect the stages of fresh and further scrutiny of ordinary and declaration votes. Scrutiny is further subject to a final validation exercise to reconcile ballot papers counted. The progressive VTR figures on the AEC Website are indicative only and are not final until the completion of the full distribution of preferences. They are displayed in the interests of transparency.
- The percentage of votes taken is representative of percent of the total vote. For example, the Shooters & Fishers Party received 0.92% of the total ordinary vote and the Australian Fishing & Lifestyle Party received 0.39% of the total ordinary vote. There is a difference in vote type depending on how people voted i.e. ordinary at a polling place, early if not able to vote on polling day, absent if not in the electorate on polling day, and provisional if not found on the roll on polling day. There is no conclusion or inference to be drawn on differing percentages of vote types which are a common feature of the results across all electorates and state/territory Senate elections.
- The Senate Easycount system used to undertake computerised counting has been accredited to National Association of Testing Authorities standards and certified as accurately reflecting the Senate counting and distribution of preferences law. The other point worth noting is that during numerous counts candidates are excluded by small differences. This is not a material issue. Where the AEC does have a numerical trigger as part of its recount policy, in the House of Representatives, differences of less than 100 are measured at the end of the distribution of preferences not in the middle of this process. At the end of the distribution of preferences in the Senate count, the difference in votes between yourself and the sixth elected candidate, Louise Pratt, is considerable.

I am satisfied that valid and specific grounds have been not provided to justify a recount for the Senate in WA. Accordingly I have determined that a recount will not proceed. This is in accordance with the AEC's published policy on recounts (as outlined in the AEC Candidate's Handbook, p62) which states that a request for a recount which does not plead any valid and sufficient grounds must be refused.

If you wish to appeal my decision you may write to the Electoral Commissioner, Mr Ed Killesteyn, at Ed.Killesteyn@aec.gov.au

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