

Ideen für mehr Demokratie und Effizienz im Zusammenhang mit der öffentlichen Verwaltung anhand des

SYSTEMS DER BÜRGERVERTRETUNG

Die Verbesserung der Lebensqualität der Bürger eines Landes ist ein laufender Prozess und muss ständig weiterentwickelt und den gegebenen bzw. geänderten Bedürfnissen angepasst werden. Die Ökonomie stellt die Basis jeder Gesellschaft – und somit auch die Finanzierung aller Errungenschaften einer Gesellschaft – dar.

Die Regierung einer Nation ist das Managementteam des Landes. Die Regierung besteht im jetzigen System ausschließlich aus Politikern, deren primäres Interesse darin liegt, gewählt und wiedergewählt zu werden. Dies hat zur Folge, dass eine Nation hauptsächlich durch politisch motivierte Entscheidungen gemanagt wird, welche nicht immer die besten für das Land sind. Weiters ist es auch wichtig, dass sich die Opposition ihrer Verantwortung stellt und nicht nur lediglich kritisiert und opponiert, sondern echte Alternativen zu Regierungsanträgen einbringt und somit auch wesentlich zu einem gemeinsamen Entscheidungsfindungsprozess beiträgt.

Der Vorschlag einer „Bürgervertretung“ würde eine wesentliche Stärkung der bürgernahen Demokratie, eine ausgewogene Balance zum politischen Management sowie ein Miteinbeziehen sozial-ökonomischer Aspekte bei der Entscheidungsfindung darstellen.

Abgeordnete zum Nationalrat:

183 Abgeordnete

derzeitige Verteilung:

ÖVP	79
FPÖ	18
SPÖ	69
Grüne	17

Beschließen eingebrachte Anträge
in **offener** Abstimmung

Bürgervertretung:

86 Bürgervertreter (2 BV / Wahlkreis)

Beschließen eingebrachte Anträge
in **geheimer** Abstimmung

Beim System der Bürgervertretung werden Gesetzesanträge mit 269 Stimmen beschlossen (183 von den Abgeordneten zum Nationalrat, 86 Stimmen von Bürgervertretern)

Beim System der Bürgervertretung werden durch einen Zufallsgenerator circa zehn Namen pro Wahlkreis bestimmt. Den einzelnen Haushalten des Wahlkreises werden per Post die Kandidaten anhand eines kurzen Lebenslaufes vorgestellt und im Anschluss daran findet ein Urnengang mit geheimer Stimmenabgabe statt. Ein Wahlkampf – wie für herkömmliche Abgeordnete, welche von Parteien nominiert sind und um Listenplätze kämpfen - ist nicht vorgesehen. Die beiden Kandidaten mit den meisten Stimmen werden die Bürgervertreter des Wahlkreises.

Voraussetzungen zur Wahl zum Bürgervertreter:

- Österreichische Staatsbürger
- Erreichen des Wahlalters – 18 Jahre
- Wohnsitz im Wahlkreis
- Freiwilligkeit
- Keine bestehende Doppelfunktion mit politischen Ämtern
- Einwandfreier Leumund

Das derzeitige Parlamentssystem in Österreich würde ungeändert beibehalten (offene Abstimmung der Abgeordneten) und durch das System der Bürgervertretung bei wesentlichen Anträgen und Gesetzesentwürfen ergänzt. Die Stimmabgabe der Bürgervertreter zu den von Regierung bzw. Opposition eingebrachten Anträgen erfolgt geheim, um mögliche Sanktionen gegen die Bürgervertreter zu verhindern. Die Bürgervertreter bekommen von den antragstellenden Fraktionen die Anträge präsentiert und aufbereitet, um sich selbst eine Meinung darüber zu bilden und für ihr Votum vorbereitet zu sein.

Den Bürgervertretern steht eine Aufwandsentschädigung bzw. einen zu bemessender Betrag als Verdienstentgang entsprechend ihres Arbeitseinsatzes (Anwesenheit an Sitzungen) zu.

Wird ein Vorschlag der Regierungsfraktion nicht mehrheitlich angenommen, so kann ihrerseits ein neuerlicher Kompromissvorschlag eingebracht werden. Bei erneuter Ablehnung kommt der Vorschlag der Opposition zur Anwendung.

Die Amtsdauer eines Bürgervertreter beträgt eine Legislaturperiode.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM:

Depoliticizing the Management of the Country

A Message From Frank Stronach: Improving The Living Standards of Canadians

Introduction

Over the years, we as a nation have made great progress in promoting and enhancing basic democratic rights and freedoms. During the same time, however, our economic standards have slowly deteriorated. Why has this happened?

Basically, our government is responsible for managing the country, which is not unlike a corporation. Government is really the management team of the country and the citizens of Canada are its shareholders. Unfortunately, our government management team is comprised of politicians whose first mandate is to be elected or re-elected. Due to this pre-occupation with politics, we have become overtaxed, overbureaucratized and overgoverned.

Our Dilemma: The Priority of Politics

In essence, the dilemma we as a society face is that our government must manage the social and economic affairs of the nation but its agenda is driven by purely political concerns. This is what I call the Achilles' heel of parliamentary democracy.

Until we solve this fundamental flaw, we will be unable to adequately address the growing social and economic needs of the country. So the challenge we face is this: how can we depoliticize the management of the country without infringing on basic democratic rights?

The Solution: Depoliticizing Parliament

We need a new political framework that will allow a broad cross-section of Canadians to participate in shaping government policy. By creating a new framework that largely depoliticizes the decision-making process, we can make government more effective and more accountable to the country's shareholders – the citizens of Canada.

I believe the best way to involve everyday Canadians in running the country is through the election of non-partisan Citizen Representatives. These Citizen Representatives would replace the currently appointed Senate and would act as an elected and effective check on the power of the governing party.

Giving Citizens A Say In The Decision-Making Process

Citizen Representatives would make Parliament more representative of Canadian society and the will of the people. The views of Citizen Representatives would reflect, to a much greater degree, the views of Main Street Canada. These new representatives would be much more inclined to place the country's economic welfare and long-term national interests ahead of political or partisan views.

I invite you to closely examine the concept for Parliamentary reform outlined here. I strongly believe that by reforming Parliament in this manner we could get Canada off the destructive path of political mismanagement and onto the road of social and economic rejuvenation.

In the final analysis, the enactment of these reforms will allow us to achieve something many believe to be impossible: we will depoliticize the management of the country while actually strengthening the democratic process.

Frank Stronach

The “Jury” Selection System: How It Works

The first step in the Parliamentary reform process would be to replace the current appointed Senate with a new Chamber of Citizen Representatives. This would mark the single most significant reform in restoring an effective check and balance on the power of the House of Commons. At the same time, it would provide a mechanism for allowing greater citizen involvement in the management of government.

The next step would be the formation of new, specially designated ridings for electing Citizen Representatives. These ridings could be simply and economically formed by combining two existing federal ridings. The combination of two existing ridings would also limit the number of Citizen Representatives to approximately half the number of MPs in the House of Commons.

The following is an outline of the process by which Citizen Representatives would be elected:

- In each Citizen Representative riding across the country, a computer would randomly pick the names of twenty constituents who wished to stand for election. This random draw process would be very similar to our present jury selection system.
- The only criteria for holding public office would be voter eligibility, Canadian citizenship and the absence of a criminal record.
- Candidates would then issue a one-page resume profiling their backgrounds and work experience. These resumes would be circulated to all households in the riding. Elections Canada would cover all campaign costs, which would be tightly regulated and kept to a minimum. This would prevent behind-the-scenes interference and funding from public interest groups and other political groups.
- Citizen Representatives would sit in Parliament on a part-time basis and would serve a maximum of one term.

The Chamber of Citizen Representatives: Restoring Checks and Balances to Government

Instead of merely rubber stamping legislation passed by the House of Commons, Citizen Representatives would have a significant say in approving legislation. Although they would not be involved in formulating policy, Citizen Representatives would vote on all legislative matters by way of a secret ballot. This would insulate representatives from any reprisals or inducements they might be subject to if their votes were made public.

Citizen Representatives would vote on each bill at the same time as MPs in the House of Commons. The two separate votes cast in the House of Commons and in the Chamber of Citizen Representatives would then be added together. A simple majority of the votes from the two legislative chambers would be required to pass any bill. Each bill would therefore become a mini-referendum, with the Citizen Representatives acting as a barometer of public opinion.

A New Legislative Process: Giving Opposition Parties and Citizen Representatives a Greater Say

Here is an outline of the voting procedure under a reformed Parliament with a new Chamber of Citizen Representatives:

- The political party with the most seats is still given the mandate to form the government and bring forth legislation.
- If a government bill is defeated, the government is not required to resign.
- Following the defeat of a bill, the government is permitted to introduce an alternative bill on the same issue.
- If the alternative bill is also defeated, the government has the option of either resigning or allowing the Opposition to bring forth an Opposition Bill. This gives the Opposition a real and effective voice in governing. For the first time in a parliamentary democracy, the Opposition would have the opportunity to shape legislation.

For every piece of legislation introduced by the government, the Opposition would be required to submit an alternative bill on the same issue. This alternative bill would be made public and would be circulated among the Citizen Representatives. Other parties in the House of Commons with fewer seats than the Opposition would also be required to register their positions on each bill as a matter of public record.

This important requirement – the tabling of alternative party legislation – would force the Opposition and other parties in the House of Commons to bring forth constructive options to government legislation rather than merely acting as critics. This reform would also go a long way toward eliminating the knee-jerk opposition built into our present, party-dominated Parliament.

The Result: Better Government Through the Depoliticization of Parliament

Citizen Representatives would make Parliament much more representative of Canadian society and the will of the people. Every bill brought forward by the government would have to pass through the Chamber of Citizen Representatives, which would serve as a court of public opinion. The views of Citizen Representatives would reflect, to a much greater degree, the views of the average Canadian citizen, and Citizen Representatives would be much more inclined to place long-term national interests ahead of partisan interests.

Removed from the straightjacket of party discipline and policy, freed from the influence of special interests, Citizen Representatives would also bring a more pragmatic approach to managing the affairs of the country. They would be open to new ways in dealing with the problems that have immobilized our governments. Most importantly, a Chamber of Citizen Representatives would depoliticize the management of the country while providing Canadians with an opportunity to become involved in the shaping the country's agenda.