

DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL

Ideas. Action. Purpose.

Restoring Albertans' Faith in Government

Many Albertans are frustrated with the democratic process. Their frustration is evident in steadily declining voting rates — in the last election, less than 25 per cent of Albertans actually voted for the current provincial party in power. Mostly, Albertans are frustrated because when they turn to their government with concerns, they find their government just doesn't listen.

In a healthy democracy, electricity deregulation wouldn't have happened. We wouldn't have overcrowded hospital emergency rooms or leaking schools. Albertans would not be forced out of their homes because of skyrocketing rents.

Despite recent promises to make government more open, only half-measures have been taken. Undisclosed political donations, conflicts of interest and questionable contracting practices continue to make the headlines.

After 36 years of one-party rule, Alberta needs real democratic renewal and a return to accountable government. The Alberta Liberals would:

- Set fixed election dates, to give government a specific mandate that can't be manipulated to the advantage of the ruling party
- Organize a Citizen's Assembly on Electoral Reform to look at ways to empower ordinary citizens and increase participation in elections, such as proportional representation
- Toughen lobbyist registry and conflict of interest rules to reduce the influence of political insiders and special interests and ensure public servants actually serve the public
- Strengthen the Auditor General's role to be much more effective at finding government waste and protecting taxpayer dollars
- Reduce corporate and union donations to political parties to a maximum of \$5000 annually

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- Amend Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation to ensure Albertans have timely, affordable access to important government documents
- Reform the Public Affairs Bureau to make sure taxpayer-funded communications cannot be used to promote a partisan political agenda

Why are these reforms important? To make sure Albertans can be confident that when the Premier and his cabinet go to work, they do so on behalf of the average citizen.

Want to know more? Visit www.albertaliberal.com or call us at 1-800-661-9201; or read Alberta Liberal Leader Kevin Taft's new book *Democracy Derailed*.

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