

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 May 2023 8:45 PM
To: Ann-Marie Hermans; Beverley McArthur; David Davis; Evan Mulholland; Georgie Crozier; Joe McCracken; Matthew Bach; Nick McGowan; Renee Heath; Trung Luu; Wendy Lovell; Bill Tilley; Brad Battin; Brad Rowswell; Bridget Vallence; Chris Crewther; Cindy McLeish; David Hodgett; David Southwick; James Newbury; Jess Wilson; John Pesutto; Kim Wells; Matthew Guy; Michael O'Brien; Richard Riordan; Roma Britnell; Ryan Smith; Sam Groth; Wayne Farnham; Moira Deeming
Subject: Some Advice
Attachments: How to win a significant personal vote.docx

Dear Victorian Liberal MP's,

This email is for you and not for transmission or publication.

The advice I am about to give you, I hope, if acted upon, will help improve election prospects for you and the Party and get you all focused on holding the Government to account, and representing your electorate in a way that encourages them to vote for you in increasing numbers. I have attached for your use a document that many successful Liberal Politicians have used to build their primary vote.

The factors which caused the Kirner Government to loose are present in the current State Government and should be explained to the public. That is the role and responsibility of an opposition. The distractions now publicised are unnecessary, vote loosing, divisive and very disappointing to Party members, helpers and supporters.

Henry Bolte had a saying "better to have everybody in the tent throwing stones out than to have some outside throwing stones in". Up until your last leader Mathew Guy nobody was sacked or banned from the State Parliamentary Party and in all the years of the State Liberal Party there have always been some different and or difficult people who were Liberal MP's; however up until Mathew Guy presided over the sacking of Bernie Finn and the threatened exclusion of Renee Heath, all the different Leaders and their deputies were able to keep everybody "in the Tent".

Leadership needs to be inspirational, encouraging, understanding, supportive and inclusive; almost all of you have been chosen by the Party membership in your electorate, and that should be respected; no one should be sacked unless crime is committed and in those unlikely circumstances any sacking should be moved by the Leader and seconded by the deputy leader. In the publicised motion for Fridays meeting it appears you have four inexperienced members who will all loose votes in their electorates as a result, combining with an unsuccessful leader whose political skill and wisdom has been electorally rejected, moving an expulsion motion; that is not a recipe for winning the hearts, minds and votes of the electorate; it demonstrates to the public, disunity, lack of leadership and that will continue through to the next election; it stamps you all as unelectable.

The best outcome would be for the motion to be withdrawn and for everyone to shake hands and start working together to become a formidable opposition. That is what I recommend.

To those who think I am wrong; I will accept your criticism after you build a better personal primary vote than I did over 32 years and two electorates; none of you have come anywhere near that so far.

With best wishes for good judgment and success.

Yours Sincerely

The Hon, Ian Smith

