

SORT THE SYSTEM

The Lobby for Equal Votes – 24 May

A black silhouette of a city skyline against a white background. The skyline features several prominent buildings, including a large cathedral with multiple spires on the left and a tall, slender tower with a pointed top on the right. The buildings are rendered in a simple, graphic style.

Programme

POLITICS IS BROKEN

We can all see that the political system is letting the country down, and something needs to be done.

Politics is out of touch because Parliament doesn't truly reflect how we vote. By converting a minority of the vote into a majority of the seats in the House of Commons, and with it 100% of the power of government, First Past the Post warps our politics and leads to worse outcomes for voters.

We need Proportional Representation so that everyone has a vote that counts equally. Only then will our politics better represent the views of all of us – no matter where we live – and ensure our voices are listened to in Westminster.

Let's come together to tell MPs it's time to

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WHY MEET MPs?



A majority of the people favour replacing our current voting system with PR. But on its own this is not enough.

To translate public support into real change, we need to convince as many MPs as possible to side with us.

Don't underestimate the personal touch.

MPs often speak of the importance they place on personal meetings with stakeholders. That's how big corporate lobbyists try to exert their influence.

We don't have inexhaustible cash reserves to throw at this. But we do have people power.

Hundreds of us turning up on the same day to talk to our MPs about equal votes will make a huge statement about the demand there is for change.

By joining on 24 May, you will be bringing pressure to bear not only on your MP, but all politicians and parties.

Collectively, cross party, let's deliver our message directly to Parliament – that it's time to give the people a real voice and mend our broken politics.

PLAN FOR THE DAY



**Emmanuel Centre,
9-23 Marsham Street,
Westminster, SW1P 3DW**

ARRIVAL

11:30am – 12:00pm

Where possible, please set out to arrive at the Emmanuel Centre in central London, our hub for the day, by midday. Our team will greet you on arrival, provide you with relevant materials for the day, and show you to the main auditorium.

INTRODUCTION AND ORIENTATION

12:30pm

Proceedings will kick off with a brief welcome from the team and a run-through of the necessary logistical points.

SPEECHES AND BRIEFINGS rolling from 12:40pm

Once the housekeeping is out of the way, it'll be time to hear from an inspiring line-up of guest speakers about why this is so important – and why now is the time! Speakers include:

- Baroness Natalie Bennett
- Wendy Chamberlain MP
- Stephen Kinnock MP
- Clive Lewis MP
- Mandu Reid
- Zack Polanski AM
- Tommy Sheppard MP

Rolling briefings tailored by party will be provided throughout the afternoon so that everyone is equipped with the key points to get across to their MP.

PLENARY

5:00pm – 5:45pm

Come back to:

Reconvene for a wrap-up of the day to feed back on the results of your meetings, engage with speakers and organisers, collect campaign materials, and find out how to keep the movement for equal votes growing.



**Entrance
to Houses
of Parliament**

LOBBY YOUR MP

1:30pm – 5:30pm

From 1:30pm onwards, groups of us will be heading to Parliament to meet with our MPs.

If you have pre-arranged a meeting, you will be able to link up with others from the same constituency before heading off to your appointment.

If you don't have an appointment, no problem. We'll be helping groups of you to call your MP's office and get a last-minute meeting.

And if your MP can't or won't meet you, there's something just as important you can do: enter Parliament and leave a formal 'green slip' for your MP. More on this on page 7.



**Victoria Tower Gardens,
Abingdon St, Millbank,
SW1P 3JA**

MASS PHOTO

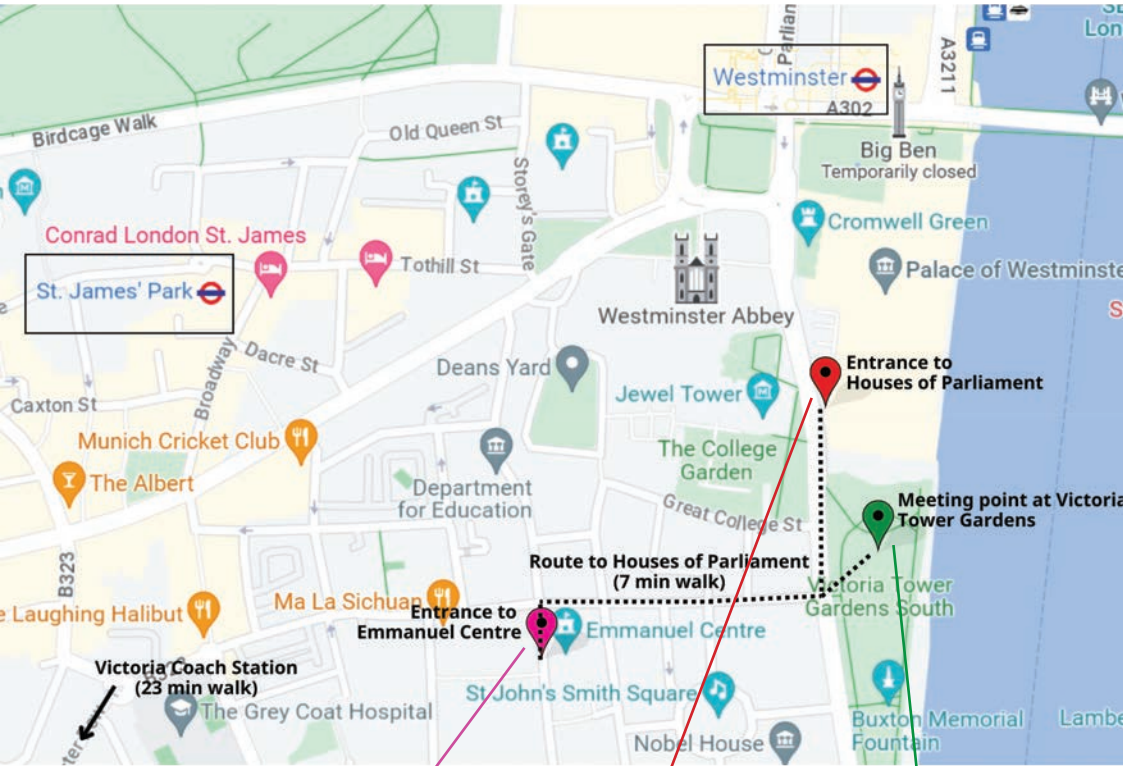
3:30pm – 4:00pm

Everyone not in a meeting between 3:30pm and 4:00pm is urged to come to Victoria Tower Gardens for a big photo op in support of equal votes.

AFTER LOBBY DRINKS 5:30pm at a location TBD

We'll cap things off with a few celebratory drinks at a nearby pub. You'll find out more on the day.

MAP AROUND PARLIAMENT



TIPS FOR MEETING WITH YOUR MP

It will be busy on the day

Prepare for your meeting with fellow electoral reform supporters from your constituency, if you can. We can help you to get in touch, if needed.

Have clearly in mind

When you are meeting your MP.

Where the meeting is taking place and how you'll get there.

Who among your group will be doing the talking: if you're in a larger group, you might want to divide specific points between you.

Making your case

Use personal examples where possible, drawing on any experience of voting in different seats or under different systems. It might help to rehearse your arguments.

You'll receive tailored briefing notes on the day giving pointers on how to speak about PR with MPs of different parties. But in case you miss those, here are three general purpose arguments:

1

Politics isn't working – and the Westminster system is to blame

The political system is failing to deliver for the people. Life is only getting harder. And as long as we stick with First Past the Post, this isn't going to change – no matter who is in power. Putting an end to winner-takes-all politics would lead to better outcomes for voters everywhere.

2

Everyone's voice gets heard

At present, in most constituencies, people know who will win long before the election, because the same party has held the seat for decades. Political parties know this, too, and focus the bulk of their resources elsewhere – on the small cluster of marginal seats that will decide the election outcome. In effect, millions of people across the country are being told their vote doesn't matter. With PR, no one is locked out of democracy. Our politics would be truly representative of and responsive to the views and needs of all the people.

3

The public wants change

The case for PR has never been stronger. Polling consistently shows support for a proportional voting system comfortably outstripping support for the status quo. The most recent British Social Attitudes survey, a well-respected gauge of national opinion, also showed a majority of people in Britain favour replacing First Past the Post with PR.

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A GREEN SLIP?

It may be that your MP is called away to an urgent meeting, or you have been unable to get through to them beforehand.

Either way, it will still be really important for you to enter Parliament.

You can ask the Parliamentary authorities to contact your MP to tell them you are in Parliament and would like to see them.

Should this not be possible, you will be able to leave a 'Green Slip'.

This is a formal record of your visit that gets delivered to your MP who will then be expected to write to you in due course letting you know their views.

By doing all of this, you will help to hammer home the message that it's time for MPs to sort the system.



ENGAGEMENT



Post your photos and updates on social media throughout the day using **#SortTheSystem**



In particular, after you've met your MP, if they're supportive of or open to PR, be sure to share the news saying how great it was to meet them.



You can also stay up to date and keep in touch with fellow activists via the Sort The System WhatsApp group.



Make Votes Matter will be posting live updates throughout the day. You can follow them here:

Twitter: [@MakeVotesMatter](#)

Facebook: [@MakeVotesMatter](#)

Instagram: [@makevotesmatterofficial](#)

