

## Victorian Election 2022: The Outtakes

Hon Gavin Jennings

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Electoral roll had 4,394,465 voters. 87.1% voted. 5.5% were informal votes, leaving 3,617,000 valid votes counted.

### Legislative Assembly results

As a consequence of the VEC redistribution in 2021, the VEC (and Antony Green independently) had assessed that based on votes cast in the 2018 election, Labor's base line in 2022 was actually 56 seats-a net increase of 1 seat. In effect, this meant Labor nominally had one extra seat even before a single vote was cast in the 2022 election; and beyond that it had sitting members in two further seats where it started just below the line (58 seats).

As predicted, Labor's primary vote dropped by 5.83%. However, the Liberal's primary vote dropped 0.8%, whereas the Green's primary vote increased 0.8%. The Nationals were exactly the same on 4.77%. Also as predicted, the Greens (1) and the Nationals (3) had a good day in picking up seats in the Legislative Assembly. The Greens missed out in Northcote by 0.2% and had major movement towards them in Preston and Footscray.

In the key seats on Antony Green's pendulum: Labor lost 4 seats: Hawthorn, Nepean and Richmond and failed to win Morwell. Labor won 4 seats: Hastings and Glen Waverley and returned the 2 sitting members in Bayswater and Bass (where the redistribution had taken Labor nominally below the line).

The Liberals, who had the capacity to win up to 9 seats based upon the erosion of Labor's primary vote, was only able to win 2 seats: Hawthorn and Nepean. In both cases the swing needed had been less than 1%. Labor held onto 4 seats by less than 1% Northcote, Pakenham, Hastings and Bass. In the case of Bass, Labor won the seat with a primary vote of only 32%.

The Liberals on a good day could have picked up to 9 seats; taking it more than half way to winning this or the subsequent election. However, in 2PP terms they failed to make headway due to their disastrous primary vote (29.6%) and the chaotic nature of the loosely organised, but vocally aggressive, right wing smaller groups that it was relying on for preference flows.

### So how do the numbers add up?

Labor held on marginally where it mattered to maintain its numerical strength in the Parliament including 3 seats which it now holds by less than 0.5%. Labor lost significant ground in the North and West of Melbourne. Swings in Yan Yean, Pascoe Vale and Greenvale, for instance, saw 17-19% shift toward the Opposition, which were still not enough for the seats to change hands.

Labor dropped 17% in 2PP terms to the Greens in Preston but still held on; and in Footscray the seat shifted from being a 2PP contest between Labor and the Liberals to now being a marginal seat contest between Labor and the Greens into the future.

### Legislative Council results

After all this, the Legislative Council was exactly as predicted: Labor 15, LNP 14 (12 Libs + 2 Nats), Greens 4, Independents smaller parties 7.

The only surprise came with the success of the Legalise Cannabis Party gaining two seats. However, it was not a surprise that Adem Somuyrek had enough preferences coming his way to beat Fiona Patten in the last spot in Northern Metropolitan Region.



## **Gavin Jennings**

Gavin Jennings was Leader of the Victorian Government in the Legislative Council and Special Minister for State from 2014 to 2020. He has held a number of significant portfolios including Cabinet Secretary, Minister for Innovation and Minister for Aged Care. Gavin was also Advisor to Premiers John Cain and Joan Kirner and a leading official in the union movement.