

WHAT IS A MARGINAL SEAT (ELECTORATE)?

& KEY SEATS for Freedom-Friendly Minor Parties to WIN

At election time, analysts show a % figure next to the name of an electorate (seat) to inform voters if it is a 'very safe', 'safe', or 'marginal' (key) seat i.e., 'unsafe'; which could be easily lost by the incumbent Member of Parliament/ contesting Candidate. A high % figure (10% or more), means it is a "very safe" seat and will probably stay either as Liberal, Nationals, Labor, Greens (seat, Melbourne @ 21.8%) or with an Independent. Where the margin is above 6% to around 10%, it is known as a 'safe' seat.

However, when the % figure is *very low* (from 0.1% to 5.9%), these electorates are deemed "key" or "marginal" seats, and are "not safe". Marginal seats are easily 'losable' - 'swing away' - from the existing MP/ Candidate/Party and therefore more winnable for opposing parties/ Independents; including the all-important 'good' freedom-friendly minor party candidates. A "key" (marginal) "unsafe" seat, means it just takes a few more votes in that electorate, for a "retain" or a "loss" (usually termed as a "gain").

So, in brief, marginal (key) seats are UNDER 6%.

Many commentators on election night use phrases like "swing away" or "swing toward", based on the number of votes counted. This means the existing electorate MP/ party/ Candidate is either losing votes (swing away) or gaining votes (swing toward). It's a "pendulum".

ABC, Chief Elections Analyst, **Antony Green**, in his blog article on his personal website, dated 2nd August 2021, entitled "*2022 Federal Electoral Pendulum*", shows the entire list of the 151 electorates from the lowest marginal 0.2% (Macquarie, NSW - Labor) and 0.4% (Bass, TAS - Liberal) to the 'safest' seats for Labor, Scullin in VIC at 21.7% and top "safest" seat, held by the Nationals, Maranoa in QLD at 25.4%.

Article link: <https://antonygreen.com.au/2022-federal-electoral-pendulum/>

With 151 seats in House of Representatives (Lower House), 76 seats will win a majority and gain control of government. Going into the 2022 Federal Election, there are **47 marginal electorates** split as follows:

| | |
|------------|--|
| QLD | 8 seats, 4 LNP & 4 ALP |
| NSW | 15 seats, 4 LIB & 11 ALP |
| VIC | 11 seats, 6 LIB, 4 ALP & 1 Independent |
| TAS | 3 seats, 2 LIB & 1 ALP |
| SA | 2 seats, 1 LIB & 1 Centre Alliance |
| WA | 6 seats, 3 LIB & 3 ALP |
| NT | 2 seats, 2 ALP |
| ACT | 0 (zero) marginal seats |

On page 2, I have listed all 47 marginal 'key' seats. The electorates are shown alphabetically (left column); colour coded (red = Labor, blue = Liberal), and with the state or territory where the electorate is situated (right column). Shown in the middle column, is the margin %, ranging from 0.2% to 5.9%.

Of the 47 marginal seats, **26 are highlighted in yellow (middle column)**. These are '**very key' seats** (from 0.2% to 3.7%) and are very winnable, especially for 'freedom-friendly' minor parties contesting these seats.

Strategically, it would be good to have more support given to Candidates in these 'very key' winnable seats; because if at least 10 (preferably more) 'good' freedom-friendly minor party candidates are elected to the House of Representatives (Green Ballot Paper), this could help prevent either of the major parties taking control of government. We do though, need to support the 'good' (best) Candidates in each of the 151 electorates and especially in some of the 'winnable' marginal seats. See page 2 for list of 47 marginal seats.

Vote wisely.

By: Sharon Cousins

8th May, 2022

| No. | 47 MARGINAL ELECTORATES | MARGIN % (under 5.9%) (26 seats in yellow < 4.0% = very key) | 6 STATES & NT ONLY | Candidates in each Seat |
|-----|-------------------------|---|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | BASS | 0.4 | TAS | 9 |
| 2 | BLAIR | 1.2 | QLD | 8 |
| 3 | BOOTHBY | 1.4 | SA | 10 |
| 4 | BRADDON | 3.1 | TAS | 10 |
| 5 | BRISBANE | 4.9 | QLD | 7 |
| 6 | BURT | 5.5 | WA | 8 |
| 7 | CASEY | 4.6 | VIC | 11 |
| 8 | CHISHOLM | 0.5 | VIC | 12 |
| 9 | CORANGAMITE | 1.0 | VIC | 9 |
| 10 | COWAN | 0.9 | WA | 10 |
| 11 | DEAKIN | 4.7 | VIC | 10 |
| 12 | DICKSON | 4.6 | QLD | 8 |
| 13 | DOBELL | 1.5 | NSW | 7 |
| 14 | DUNKLEY | 2.7 | VIC | 9 |
| 15 | EDEN-MONARO | 0.8 | NSW | 10 |
| 16 | FLINDERS | 5.6 | VIC | 10 |
| 17 | GILMORE | 2.6 | NSW | 7 |
| 18 | GREENWAY | 2.8 | NSW | 8 |
| 19 | GRIFFITH | 2.9 | QLD | 5 |
| 20 | HASLUCK | 5.9 | WA | 9 |
| 21 | HIGGINS | 3.7 | VIC | 8 |
| 22 | HUNTER | 3.0 | NSW | 9 |
| 23 | INDI | 1.4 | VIC | 10 |
| 24 | JAGAJAGA | 5.9 | VIC | 8 |
| 25 | LA TROBE | 5.5 | VIC | 8 |
| 26 | LEICHHARDT | 4.2 | QLD | 11 |
| 27 | LILLEY | 0.6 | QLD | 7 |
| 28 | LINDSAY | 5.0 | NSW | 7 |
| 29 | LINGIARI | 5.5 | NT | 9 |
| 30 | LONGMAN | 3.3 | QLD | 8 |
| 31 | LYONS | 5.2 | TAS | 8 |
| 32 | MACQUARIE | 0.2 | NSW | 8 |
| 33 | MAYO | 5.1 | SA | 9 |
| 34 | McEWEN | 5.3 | VIC | 7 |
| 35 | MORETON | 1.9 | QLD | 6 |
| 36 | PARRAMATTA | 3.5 | NSW | 8 |
| 37 | PATERSON | 5.0 | NSW | 7 |
| 38 | PEARCE | 5.2 | WA | 10 |
| 39 | PERTH | 3.2 | WA | 11 |
| 40 | REID | 3.2 | NSW | 8 |
| 41 | RICHMOND | 4.1 | NSW | 10 |
| 42 | ROBERTSON | 4.2 | NSW | 11 |
| 43 | SHORTLAND | 4.4 | NSW | 8 |
| 44 | SOLOMON | 3.1 | NT | 6 |
| 45 | SWAN | 3.2 | WA | 10 |
| 46 | WENTWORTH | 1.3% vs. IND. (ABC & Tally Room) 9.8% LIB (Guardian) | NSW | 7 |
| 47 | WERRIWA | 5.5 | NSW | 6 |