**Talking Points for MLA meeting**

Reminders:

* Please be polite, your MLA’s are people too
* Try to understand they may disagree, don’t try to force them into something
* Try to come as a concerned member of their constituency, who is concerned about Albertas future

General Comment:

When speaking with an MLA, try to frame your conversation in a way that resonates with their values, responsibilities, and political realities.

As an example, maybe you can frame yourself as one of their constituents, and someone who’s concerned with where Alberta politics are going, and you’re worried we’ve moved to a US style two party system that causing a lot of anger between view points.

Talking points:

Here are some talking points that might help set the stage with your MLA.

**Democratic Fairness & Representation**

* Every vote should count: Under the current first-past-the-post (FPTP) system, many votes are “wasted” in safe ridings or close losses. PR ensures that the percentage of votes more closely matches the percentage of seats a party receives.
* Better reflects Alberta’s political diversity: PR would allow a greater diversity of voices in the Legislature, including smaller parties that have significant support but no representation.
* More representative MLAs: With PR, MLAs would better reflect the ideological and geographic diversity of Alberta, not just the most dominant local opinion.

**Better Governance & Accountability**

* Coalition and minority governments encourage collaboration: PR often results in parties needing to work together, leading to more consensus-based and stable long-term policy.
* Policies reflect broader public support: Instead of policies shifting wildly between governments, PR encourages more moderate, broadly supported legislation.
* Increased voter engagement and trust: When people feel their vote matters, turnout and political engagement increase.

**Addressing Misconceptions**

* PR does not always mean instability: Many stable and prosperous democracies like Germany, New Zealand, and Sweden use PR systems.
* Rural representation can still be protected: Mixed-member proportional (MMP) and other systems can balance proportionality with geographic concerns.
* Local MLAs don’t disappear: Many PR systems keep local representation while adding proportional “top-up” seats to ensure fairness.

**Specific Alberta Context**

* Alberta has used PR in the past: The province used Single Transferable Vote (STV) in cities and Alternative Vote (AV) in rural areas from 1924 to 1955. There's precedent here.
* Growing urban-rural divide: A proportional system could help ease tensions by fairly representing both urban and rural voices in policy-making.
* Polarization and vote-splitting: PR could help reduce political polarization and strategic voting, allowing voters to choose their true preference without fear of “splitting the vote.”

**Public Support & Engagement**

* Many Albertans support electoral reform: Surveys consistently show strong support for fairer voting systems.
* BC and PEI have held referendums: Western provinces have explored PR—Alberta can show leadership by revisiting the conversation.
* You can be a champion of democratic renewal: Encourage the MLA to lead a non-partisan initiative or support a citizens’ assembly to study electoral reform in Alberta.

**Ask or Call to Action**

* Ask the MLA to support a citizens’ assembly: This non-partisan process can explore what system would work best for Alberta. Remind them that there will be a petition Spring 2026 requesting this citizens’ assembly
* Push for legislative debate: Request that the issue be brought to the Legislature for open, non-partisan discussion.