

Labor easily wins NT election

Written by Adrian Beaumont, Honorary Associate, School of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Melbourne

At the [2012 Northern Territory election](#), the Country Liberal Party (CLP) won 16 of 25 seats, to 8 for Labor and 1 Independent. During a chaotic term, 4 CLP and 1 Labor members defected to sit as Independents, so the pre-election parliamentary numbers were 12 CLP, 7 Labor and 6 Independents.

At yesterday's NT election, the [ABC is calling 15 of 25 seats](#) for Labor, 1 for the CLP and 3 for Independents, with 6 in some doubt. The ABC's prediction is 18 Labor, 3 CLP and 4 Independents. Even if Labor loses all doubtful seats, they would still have a clear majority.

Two of the [doubtful seats](#) - Blain and Nhulunbuy - are cases where the incorrect final two candidates were selected on election night. The electoral commission will need to redo the two candidate count in those seats. Former chief minister Terry Mills, who was deposed by Adam Giles in the last term, will need a strong flow of preferences from the CLP in Blain.

Giles himself is in trouble in his own seat of Braitling, [trailing Labor by 21](#) votes on a swing of almost 20 points. Former Labor leader Delia Lawrie is likely to hold her seat of Karama as an Independent; she [leads by 51.2-48.8](#)

Overall primary votes were 43.1% for Labor (up 6.6), 31.7% for the CLP (down 18.9), 3.5% for the new 1 Territory Party, 2.8% for the Greens (down 0.5) and 18.9% for all Others (up 9.3). The Others were mostly Independents. The [Poll Bludger](#) has a breakdown of the votes and seats for each region.

There are still some booths that have not yet been added to counts, particularly in remote seats. However, most [electorates are reporting](#) postal counts, so it is unlikely that the CLP's position will improve post-election, in the way the Federal Coalition's position improved. Counting will resume tomorrow morning.

At this election, the voting system was changed to optional preferential voting; previous NT elections used compulsory preferential voting. However, this change appears to have helped

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Labor. In Braitling, Labor trails by 10.4% on primary votes, but leads by 0.4% after preferences. It is likely that minor party voters who were hostile to the CLP put the CLP last, while those who were better disposed to the CLP followed the CLP's advice, and just voted "1".

Shock NSW ReachTEL has a 50-50 tie

At the March 2015 NSW election, the Coalition won [45.6% of the primary vote](#) , with 34.1% for Labor and 10.3% for the Greens. The Coalition won the two party vote 54.3-45.7.

The first [ReachTEL poll](#) since the election, conducted Thursday night from a sample of 1610, has the Coalition and Labor tied at 50-50. Excluding the 8.1% undecided from the primary votes gives 42.9% for the Coalition (down 2.7 since the election), 38.0% for Labor (up 3.9) and 8.7% for the Greens (down 1.6).

Opposition leader Luke Foley led Premier Mike Baird 51-49 as better Premier, but ReachTEL's forced choice better PM/Premier question removes the lean towards the incumbent that other polls exhibit. Despite the Coalition's slump, voters approved of the ban on greyhound racing by a 51-31 margin.

Polls in most states are very scarce outside election campaigns. The last NSW poll by a credible pollster was the [November-December 2015 Newspoll](#) , which had the Coalition ahead by 56-44. This ReachTEL implies that the gloss has come off the Coalition since then.

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