

The Alliance For Change

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THE ABOLITION OF POLLING DAY

The ancient British institution of Polling Day has, to all practical intents and purposes, been *abolished*. The membership of the next Parliament will not (as in past elections) provide a one-day snapshot of public opinion. It will provide a *blurred* image, based upon a longer "exposure", "photographed" over a Polling *Period*, rather than on a Polling *Day*.

Whilst out and about today, over a week *before* the published 5 May "Polling Day", the Alliance For Change candidate for Harrogate and Knaresborough, John Allman, was informed by a member of the public that, sadly, she had *already* voted, for a *different* candidate (using a postal vote), *before* receiving the Alliance For Change election address, which the Royal is supposed to deliver free of charge to every postal address in the constituency, *in time for voters to have a chance to read it* before deciding for whom to vote.

The replacement of Polling Day with a polling *period* obviously works to the unfair disadvantage of candidates without the resources to set up postal vote factories, such as those set up centrally by some of the "main" parties, the misnomer nowadays used for parties popular during earlier elections. In the present General Election, as never before, candidates such as those standing for the Alliance For Change, have been *denied* the primary means of attracting votes hitherto available to the likes of us during earlier elections, namely: Royal Mail free delivery of our election address leaflets to every postal address in each of our constituencies, *before* the voting begins.

The abolition of Polling Day leaves early postal voters powerless to adjust their voting intentions, in the light of any scandals that might hit the headlines in the closing days before the *official* "Polling Day", rendering the voters concerned disenchanted with the parties they have already voted for, before the start of the final week of the (therefore misnamed) "campaign period", and before the Royal Mail has delivered election address leaflets of candidates they might decide - too late - they would have preferred.

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There are further Alliance For Change press releases at www.AllianceForChange.co.uk.