



# Objection 42

Edgar Hartmanis

2 pages

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Higgins redistribution objection  
**Date:** Friday, 7 June 2024 2:19:52 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the Australian Federal Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Edgar Hartmanis  
[REDACTED]

Australian Electoral Commission  
[Address]

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my profound objection to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne. This decision, part of a redistribution to balance electoral representation due to population changes, threatens to dismantle a community with a rich history and distinct identity. As a resident of Stonnington, I feel compelled to highlight the numerous detrimental effects this change would bring.

The seat of Higgins is not merely a boundary on a map; it is a vibrant community with a unique identity, steeped in history and tradition. Higgins has long been a cornerstone of Australian politics, producing notable figures such as Prime Ministers Harold Holt and Treasurer Peter Costello. The abolition of this seat would not only dilute the voice of Higgins residents but also erode the legacy of a community that has significantly contributed to the nation's political landscape.

The proposed merging of Higgins into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne would lead to a fragmentation of our community. The residents of Stonnington, who have long enjoyed tailored representation, would find their influence in federal politics diminished. Our local needs, which are currently addressed with a nuanced understanding by our representatives, may be overlooked or deprioritised by those unfamiliar with the specificities of our community.

Furthermore, the abolition of Higgins would disrupt established political relationships. Residents have developed a rapport with our current MP, who understands our concerns and advocates on our behalf. This relationship is not easily replicated and its disruption could lead to a decline in the quality of services and advocacy we receive.

Electoral confusion is another significant concern. The reallocation of voters into new electorates, with different polling places and representatives, could lead to widespread confusion. This confusion risks decreasing voter engagement and participation, undermining the democratic process.

Local projects and initiatives, which are crucial to the development and well-being of our community, may lose momentum or be deprioritised under new representatives. These projects, tailored to the specific needs of the Higgins community, require continuity and understanding that new representatives may lack.

In light of these concerns, I urge the Australian Electoral Commission to reconsider the decision to abolish the seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is crucial for the continued representation and well-being of Higgins residents. The unique identity, history, and contributions of Higgins to Australian politics should not be overlooked in the pursuit of numerical balance.

Thank you for considering my objections. I trust that the AEC will take into account the significant impact this decision would have on the residents of Higgins and act in the best interest of our community.

Yours sincerely,

Edgar Hartmanis

-----  
