

Victorian Political and Election Briefing – 2010

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Introduction

On 27 November 2010, Premier John Brumby of Victoria will seek a fourth term for the Labor Government in Victoria. It will be the first time he has contested an election as Premier, after he replaced Steve Bracks in 2007, who successfully contested the 1999, 2002 and 2006 elections.

The election will be for all seats in both the Legislative Assembly (Lower House) and the Legislative Council (Upper House). Like federal elections, Victoria has compulsory voting. Full-preference instant-runoff voting is used in the 88-seat Lower House. Under changes made prior to the 2006 election, the state is divided into 8 electoral regions for the purposes of voting in the 40-seat Upper House. Each region consists of 11 Legislative Assembly districts. Each region elects five members of the Legislative Council by single transferable-vote group voting tickets.

A party requires 45 seats in the Legislative Assembly to govern in majority. Currently, the Labor Party holds 55 of the seats, the Liberal Party 23, the Nationals 9 and there is 1 independent member. The Labor Party can retain majority government by limiting losses to the newly re-formed Liberal-National Coalition to at most 10 seats, a uniform swing of 4.3%. The Coalition requires a net gain of 13 seats, a uniform swing of 6.5%, to achieve majority government. In between these two swings lies the potential for a hung parliament, in which no party has a majority of seats. In this event, the role of independents and minor parties is decisive as cross bench support is necessary to form government.

Complicating the situation is the strength of the Greens in inner-Melbourne. The Greens took the federal seat of Melbourne from Labor at the August 2010 federal election, and have finished second to Labor in four inner-Melbourne state seats at the last two state elections.

Opinion polls indicate that Labor's vote has declined since 2006, putting marginal Labor seats into contention. Key issues for the election are: law enforcement, water, transport and infrastructure, population and health. A brief overview of these issues is provided on page six.

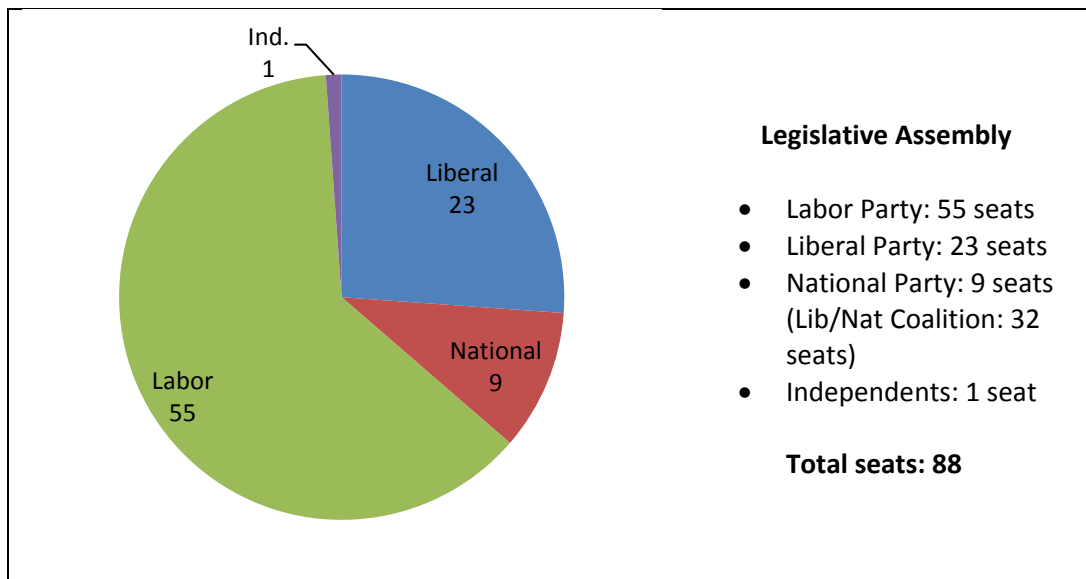
1. Political and Parliamentary outline

a. General Election Facts

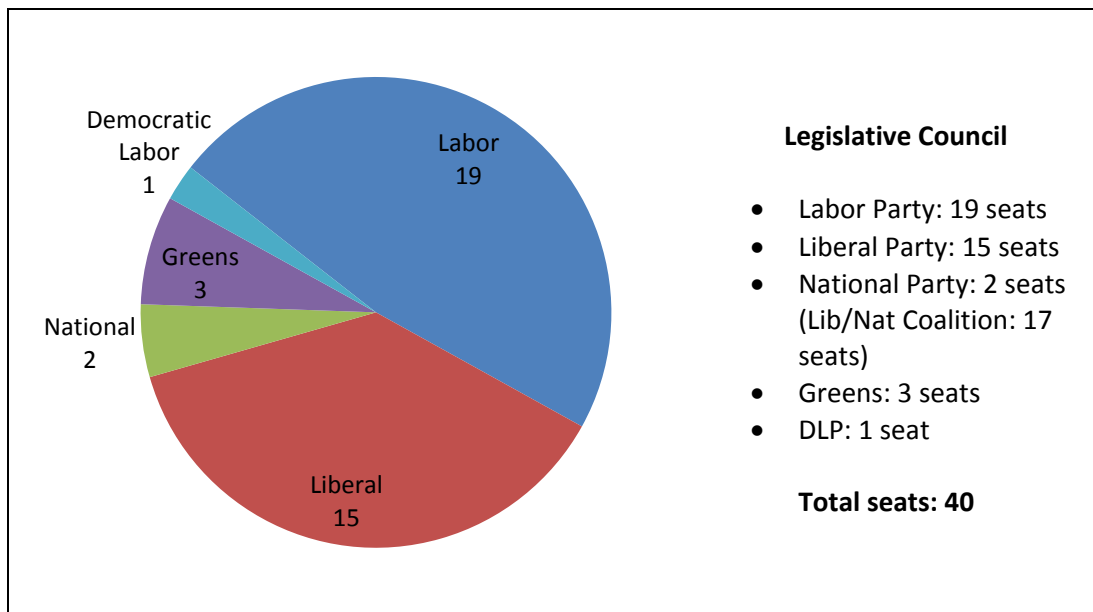
- The Victorian Parliament is comprised of the Legislative Assembly or Lower House and the Legislative Council or Upper House.
- The Legislative Assembly has 88 members elected from single-member constituencies under the system of preferential voting.
- Electorates for Legislative Council Members are called regions. Metropolitan areas are represented by 25 Members from 5 regions. Rural areas are represented by 15 Members from 3 regions. Members of the Upper House are elected in each region by single transferable-vote group voting tickets.
- Victoria has fixed four year terms for Members of both Houses. At the expiration of a term all seats in both the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council become vacant.
- Elections are held on the last Saturday in November every 4th year.
- The President of the Legislative Council has a deliberative vote but not a casting vote. Where a vote in the Council is tied, it is resolved in the negative. The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly has a casting vote when votes in the Assembly are equal. This is the only time the Speaker casts a vote. These provisions are particularly important in the event of a hung parliament, where votes in both Houses are likely to be tightly contested.
- Premier John Brumby was elected leader of the governing Labor Party in Victoria in 2007 after former Premier Steve Bracks retired. This will be the second time he has gone to an election as the party's leader but the first time as Victoria's Premier.

b. The current state of the Parliament

Legislative Assembly



Legislative Council



c. To win:

- A party needs 45 seats to govern in majority. The Coalition would need to gain thirteen seats on a uniform swing of 6.5% to achieve a majority.
- The Labor Party can retain majority government by limiting losses to the Coalition to at most 10 seats, a uniform swing of 4.3%.
- In between these two swings lies the potential for hung parliament, the likelihood of which is increased significantly by the strength of the Greens in inner-Melbourne, who took the federal seat of Melbourne from Labor at the 2010 federal election. The Greens have finished second to Labor in four state seats at the last two state elections: Melbourne, Brunswick, Richmond and Northcote.

d. The Opposition Leadership:

- Ted Bailieu is the member for Hawthorn and the Leader of the Opposition. He was first elected to the Parliament in 1999. He has served as Shadow Minister for Tertiary Education and Training (1999–2001), Gaming (July 2000-August 2002) and Planning (September 2001-May 2006).
- He was elected unopposed as the Opposition Leader in May 2006 following the resignation of Robert Doyle.
- He contested the 2006 election as Leader of the Liberal Party. The Liberal Party gained 6 seats in the Legislative Assembly at that election.

e. Independent Seats:

- Craig Ingram, the Member for Gippsland East, is the only independent in the Legislative Assembly.
- He was first elected in 1999, when he was one of three independents who held the balance of power. The independents supported a Labor minority government led by former Premier Steve Bracks.
- He comfortably retained Gippsland East in the 2002 and 2006 elections.

f. Retiring Members

Electorate	Location	Sitting Member	Margin	Candidates declared at time of writing
Thomastown	Melbourne's northern suburbs	Peter Batchelor (ALP)	31.1%	Bronwyn Halfpenny (ALP)
Bendigo West	Central Victoria; regional	Bob Cameron (ALP)	10.6%	Anita Donlon (Lib) Steven Oliver (Nat) Maree Edwards (ALP) Sue Radford (Greens)
Brunswick	Inner-city Melbourne	Carlo Carli (ALP)	3.6% (v GRN)	Cyndi Dawes (Greens) Jane Garrett (ALP)
Ivanhoe	Melbourne's northern suburbs	Craig Langdon (ALP)	10.4%	Anthony Carbines (ALP) Paul Kennedy (Greens) Carl Ziebell (Lib)
Essendon	Melbourne's inner-western suburbs	Judy Maddigan (ALP)	11.7%	Rose Iser (Greens) Justin Madden (ALP)
Ballarat West	Central Victoria; regional	Karen Overington (ALP)	6.5%	Sharon Knight (ALP) Craig Coltman (Lib) Leon Dwyer (Greens)
Keilor	Melbourne's outer north-western suburbs	George Seitz (ALP)	19.4%	Natalie Hutchins (ALP) Lisa Asbury (Greens) Damon Ryder (Lib)
Caulfield	Melbourne's inner south-eastern suburbs	Helen Shardey (Lib)	7.6%	David Southwick (Lib) Phillip Walker (Greens) Heather Abrahamson (ALP)
Murray Valley	Northern Victoria; regional	Ken Jasper (Nats)	21.8%	Tim McCurdy (Nat) Lachlan Enshaw (ALP)

2. Key Issues

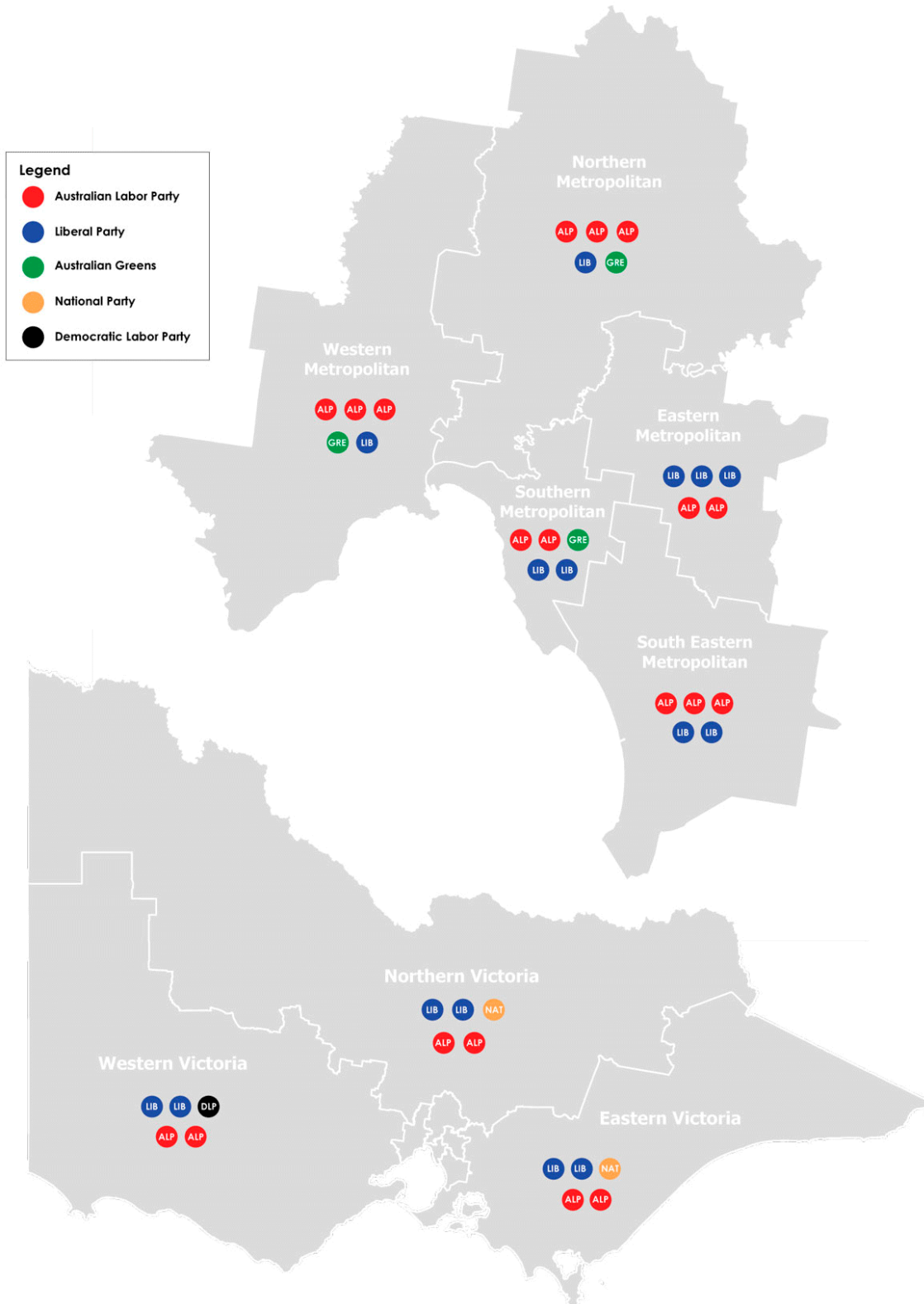
<p>Law Enforcement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Labor Government has outlined new stop and search powers for police to target weapons and education campaigns on knife crime it will legislate if re-elected. • The Liberal Opposition committed to GPS tracking for home detention and a promise of 1,600 additional police over the next term, while the Government has promised an additional 1966 sworn police officers. • In the last week of Parliament, a bill was passed to abolish suspended gaol terms for serious crimes including murder, rape and armed robbery.
<p>Water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Though a Federal Government initiative, water cuts expected to be proposed by the Murray Darling Basin Authority have caused concern among rural voters in Victoria. Many are looking to the state Government for assurances. Premier Brumby has indicated his commitment to a 'water guarantee' to regional Victoria if Labor wins the election. • The Opposition and the Greens say they will investigate alternatives to the Government's \$3.5 billion desalination plant. • Another key issue has been Labor's construction of the north-south pipeline, which is designed to carry water from the Murray-Goulburn water grid to Melbourne's water grid.
<p>Transport and Infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government has applied for funding from the Federal Government to build two major cross-city rail and road tunnels. The Greens and the Coalition have identified other spending priorities. • The implementation of the MyKi ticketing system has been subject to intense political and media scrutiny.
<p>Population / Housing Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor's plan to promote high-density development along Melbourne's transport corridors has become an important issue for voters in affected electorates. • There has also been considerable debate around moving the urban growth boundary at a time when Melbourne's population is growing at between 1,000 and 1,500 people per week.
<p>Regional Health / Hospitals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in rural and regional hospitals has been identified as a priority for all major parties.

3. Election Pendulum and Maps

a. Pendulum

Labor (55 Seats)	Margin	Mill Park	ALP 20.8%
Mount Waverley	ALP 0.3%	Lyndhurst	ALP 21.5%
Gembrook	ALP 0.7%	Pascoe Vale	ALP 22.8%
Forest Hill	ALP 0.8%	Derrimut	ALP 24.3%
Mebourne	ALP 2.0% v GRN	Williamstown	ALP 24.3%
Mitcham	ALP 2.0%	Footscray	ALP 24.7%
South Barwon	ALP 2.3%	Preston	ALP 25.3%
Frankston	ALP 3.2%	Kororoit	ALP 25.6%
Mordialloc	ALP 3.5%	Thomastown	ALP 31.1%
Brunswick	ALP 3.6% v GRN	Broadmeadows	ALP 31.9%
Prahran	ALP 3.6%	Coalition (32 Seats)	Margin
Richmond	ALP 3.6% v GRN	Ferntree Gully	LIB 0.04%
Burwood	ALP 3.7%	Kilsyth	LIB 0.4%
Ripon	ALP 4.3%	Hastings	LIB 1.0%
Bendigo East	ALP 5.4%	Morwell	NAT 2.2%
Bentleigh	ALP 6.3%	Narracan	LIB 2.7%
Ballarat West	ALP 6.5%	Evelyn	LIB 2.8%
Eltham	ALP 6.5%	Bayswater	LIB 2.9%
Ballarat East	ALP 6.6%	South-west Coast	LIB 4.0%
Carrum	ALP 6.7%	Bass	LIB 4.5%
Monbulk	ALP 6.7%	Box Hill	LIB 5.2%
Seymour	ALP 6.7%	Caulfield	LIB 7.6%
Bellarine	ALP 7.9%	Benambra	LIB 7.7%
Yan Yean	ALP 7.9%	Doncaster	LIB 8.1%
Macedon	ALP 8.2%	Bulleen	LIB 8.4%
Geelong	ALP 8.3%	Sandringham	LIB 8.7%
Northcote	ALP 8.5% v GRN	Warrandyte	LIB 9.0%
Narre Warren North	ALP 9.2%	Nepean	LIB 9.4%
Albert Park	ALP 9.7%	Kew	LIB 9.6%
Ivanhoe	ALP 10.4%	Polwarth	LIB 10.7%
Bendigo West	ALP 10.6%	Brighton	LIB 10.9%
Narre Warren South	ALP 11.1%	Scoresby	LIB 11.2%
Niddrie	ALP 11.2%	Malvern	LIB 11.3%
Cranbourne	ALP 11.3%	Mornington	LIB 11.9%
Essendon	ALP 11.7%	Hawthorn	LIB 12.3%
Oakleigh	ALP 12.4%	Gippsland South	NAT 15.8%
Tarneit	ALP 12.5%	Benalla	NAT 17.7%
Melton	ALP 13.5%	Mildura	NAT 20.7%
Bundoora	ALP 15.1%	Murray Valley	NAT 21.8%
Mulgrave	ALP 15.6%	Lowan	NAT 22.1%
Lara	ALP 17.7%	Swan Hill	NAT 23.4%
Dandenong	ALP 18.7%	Shepparton	NAT 24.7%
Keilor	ALP 19.4%	Rodney	NAT 24.8%
Altona	ALP 20.2%	Independents (1 Seat)	Margin
Yuroke	ALP 20.2%	Gippsland East	IND 9.1% v LIB
Clayton	ALP 20.3%		

c. Legislative Council Regions Map



4. Marginal Seats

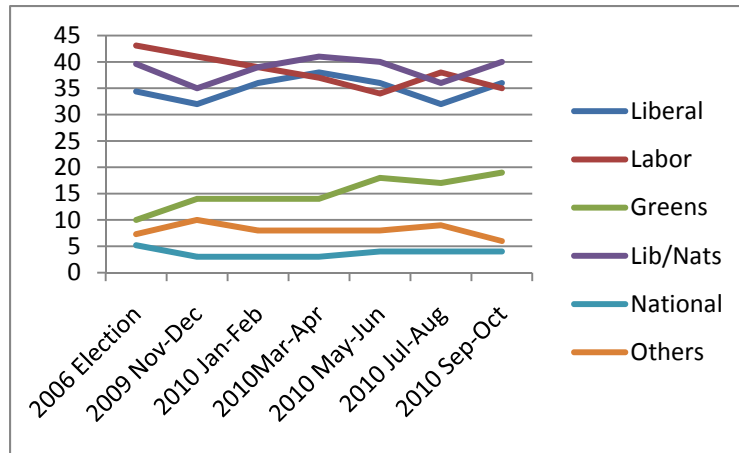
Electorate	Location	Sitting Member	Held Since	Margin	Recent History
Labor Seats					
Mount Waverley	East Melbourne	Maxine Morand	2002	0.3%	One of the seats gained at the top of the swing to Labor in 2002. Labor's Maxine Morand narrowly retained the seat despite a swing back to the Liberals in 2006. Her Liberal opponent will again be Michael Gidley.
Gembrook	East/south-east Melbourne	Tammy Lobato	2002	0.7%	In 2002 Liberal candidate and Shadow Treasurer Robert Dean had his nomination rejected because the Electoral Commission had removed his name from the electoral roll. Labor's Tammy Lobato won against a late-nominated liberal opponent. She narrowly retained the seat in 2006. At the 2010 election her Liberal opponent will be Brad Battin.
Forest Hill	East Melbourne	Kirstie Marshall	2002	0.8%	One of the seats gained by Labor at the 2002 election by former ariel skier Kirstie Marshall. She narrowly retained the seat in 2006 and will again face Liberal Neil Angus as her major opponent in 2010.
Melbourne	Inner Melbourne	Bronwyn Pike	1999	2.0% v GRN	Labor Party has been strongly challenged by the Greens at the last two elections. This is likely to be the case again in 2010. Melbourne has been held since 1999 by Labor's Bronwyn Pike, who is currently Minister for Education. Her Greens opponent is Brian Walters SC.
Mitcham	East Melbourne	Tony Robinson	1997	2.0%	Held by Labor's Tony Robinson since his victory at a 1997 by-election. Labor achieved swings in their favour in both 2002 and 2006, but Mitcham remains one of Labor's most marginal seats. Robinson's Liberal opponent will be Dee Ryall.
South Barwon	Geelong	Michael Crutchfield	2002	2.3%	Most Liberal of the four Geelong electorates, it was gained by Labor for the first time at the 2002 election. Labor's Michael Crutchfield had his margin halved at the 2006 election and will face a strong challenge in 2010 from Liberal candidate Andrew Katos.

Frankston	Eastern edge of Port Phillip Bay	Alistair Harkness	2002	3.2%	Gained by Labor's Alistair Harkness at the 2002 election. He narrowly retained the seat despite a swing to the Liberals in 2006. His Liberal opponent in 2010 is Geoff Shaw.
Mordialloc	Inner south-east Melbourne	Janice Munt	2002	3.5%	Gained at the 2002 election by Labor's Janice Munt, who held on to the seat despite a swing back to the Liberals in 2006. Her Liberal opponent in 2010 is Lorraine Wreford.
Brunswick	Inner northern Melbourne	Carlo Carli	1994	3.6% v GRN	Represented by Labor's Carlo Carli since 1994, but he is retiring at the 2010 election. The new Labor candidate is Jane Garrett, whose main opposition will come from Greens candidate Cyndi Dawes. The Greens have been Labor's main opponent in this seat at the last two state elections.
Prahran	Inner Melbourne	Tony Lupton	2002	3.6%	Held by Labor's Tony Lupton since the 2002 election. His Liberal opponent in 2010 is Clem Newton-Brown.
Richmond	Inner-city Richmond	Richard Wynn	1999	3.6% v GRN	Held by Labor's Richard Wynn since 1999. The Labor Party's major opponent at the last two elections has been the Greens. The Greens candidate at the 2010 election will be Kathleen Maltzahn.
Burwood	Inner eastern Melbourne	Bob Stensholt	1999	3.7%	Held for 23 years by former Liberal Premier Jeff Kennett, but gained by Labor's Bob Stensholt at a December 1999 by-election on Kennett's resignation. Stensholt held the seat in 2002 and 2006. His Liberal opponent in 2010 Liberal opponent is Graham Watt.
Northcote	North-east Melbourne	Fiona Richardson	2006	8.5% v GRN	Held by Labor's Fiona Richardson since the 2006 election. The Greens have finished second at the last two state elections, also polling well in the area at this year's Federal election. The Greens candidate in 2010 is Anne Martinelli.
Liberal Seats					
Ferntree Gully	Outer east Melbourne	Nick Wakeling	2006	0.04%	Won be Labor at the 2002 election. Regained by Liberal Nick Wakeling in 2006 by 27 votes. His Labor opponent in 2010 is Josh Cullinan.
Kilsyth	Outer eastern Melbourne	David Hodgett	2006	0.4%	Gained by Labor in 2002 but won by Liberal David Hodgett in 2006. His Labor opponent in 2010 is Vicky Steches.

Hastings	French Island and western and northern shores of Western Port	Neale Burgess	2006	1.0%	First contested at the 2002 election and won by Labor's Rosy Buchanan. She was defeated by Liberal Neale Burgess at the 2006 election. His Labor opponent in 2010 is Steve Hosking.
National Seats					
Morwell	Rural Gippsland	Russell Northe	2006	2.2%	Labor's Brendan Jenkins was defeated by the National's Russell Northe in 2006. The Labor candidate in 2010 is Graeme Middlemiss.
Independent Seats					
Gippsland East	Rural eastern Victoria	Craig Ingram	1999	9.1% v LIB	Held by Independent Craig Ingram since 1999. His victory over the National Party was critical to ending the Premiership of Jeff Kennett. Ingram will be opposed in 2010 by National Tim Bull and Liberal Sonia Buckley.

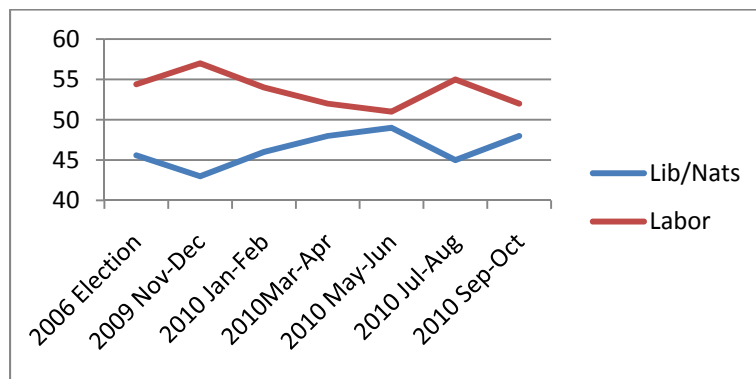
5. Most Recent Polling by Newspoll

Primary Vote



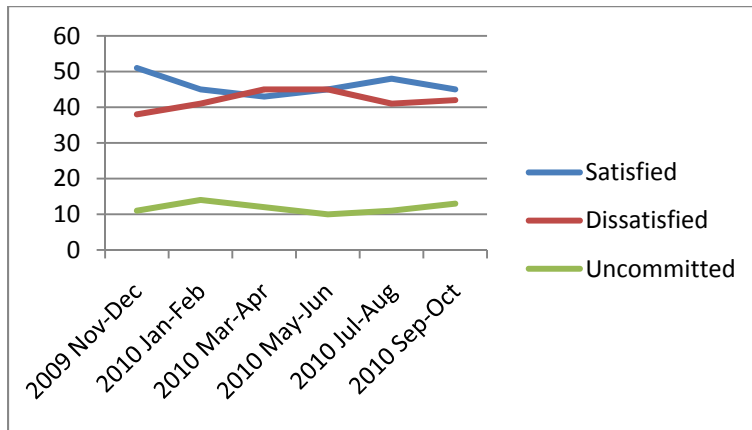
	2006 Election	2009 Nov-Dec	2010 Jan-Feb	2010 Mar-Apr	2010 May-Jun	2010 Jul-Aug	2010 Sep-Oct
Labor	43.1	41	39	37	34	38	35
Liberal	34.4	32	36	38	36	32	36
National	5.2	3	3	3	4	4	4
Lib/Nats	39.6	35	39	41	40	36	40
Greens	10	14	14	14	18	17	19
Others	7.3	10	8	8	8	9	6

Two Party Preferred



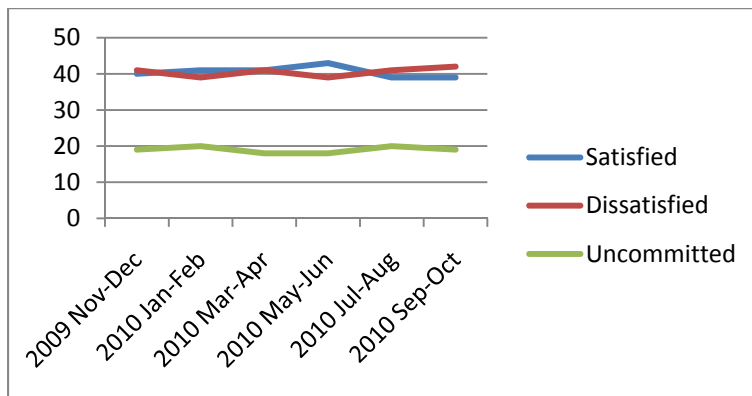
	2006 Election	2009 Nov-Dec	2010 Jan-Feb	2010 Mar-Apr	2010 May-Jun	2010 Jul-Aug	2010 Sep-Oct
Labor	54.4	57	54	52	51	55	52
Lib/Nats	45.6	43	46	48	49	45	48

Brumby's Performance



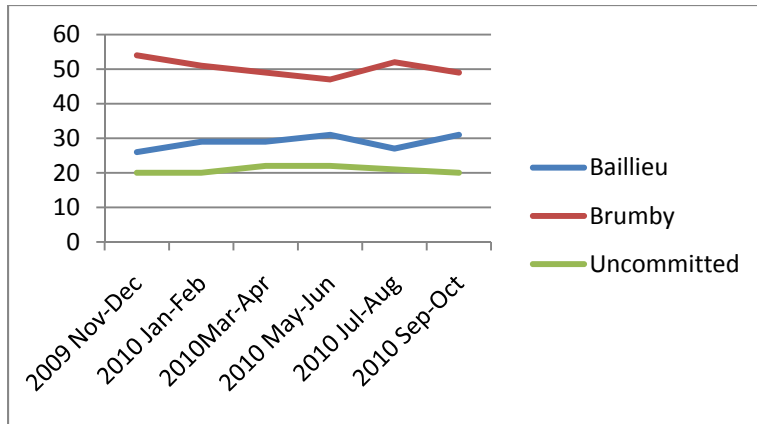
	2009 Nov-Dec	2010 Jan-Feb	2010 Mar-Apr	2010 May-Jun	2010 Jul-Aug	2010 Sep-Oct
Satisfied	51	45	43	45	48	45
Dissatisfied	38	41	45	45	41	42
Uncommitted	11	14	12	10	11	13

Baillieu's Performance



	2009 Nov-Dec	2010 Jan-Feb	2010 Mar-Apr	2010 May-Jun	2010 Jul-Aug	2010 Sep-Oct
Satisfied	40	41	41	43	39	39
Dissatisfied	41	39	41	39	41	42
Uncommitted	19	20	18	18	20	19

Better Premier



	2009 Nov-Dec	2010 Jan-Feb	2010 Mar-Apr	2010 May-Jun	2010 Jul-Aug	2010 Sep-Oct
Brumby	54	51	49	47	52	49
Baillieu	26	29	29	31	27	31
Uncommitted	20	20	22	22	21	20