

MEDIA RELEASE

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Regional Independents in Frontline Race Against One Nation

Vow to Close the Gap in Services and Infrastructure as Voters Desert the Major Parties

Two community independents running for the Victorian upper house in Western and Eastern Victoria are in the frontline in the battle against One Nation across rural, regional and outer-suburban Victoria. They're promising a complete overhaul of services and infrastructure in regions that have been ignored for too long, as polls show almost half of Victorians turning away from the major parties ahead of the 28 November state election.

Labor's red wall is cracking. Victorian voters are consistently moving away from the major parties, with almost half now giving their first vote to someone other than Labor or the Coalition. The latest [Roy Morgan poll](#), taken 5 to 7 August, puts Labor and the Coalition level on 26% each, a combined 52%. That leaves around half of Victorians (48%). A [RedBridge poll](#) taken 1 to 14 September found the same pattern: Labor on 24% and the Coalition on 29%, leaving 47% with One Nation, Greens, Independents and Others. At the [2022 election](#), Labor (36.7%) and the Coalition (34.5%) took a combined 71.1% of the primary vote, so only 28.9% went elsewhere.

Aleta Moriarty, the community independent for Western Victoria, said voters in the regions deserve a real alternative, not just a protest vote.

"We hear repeatedly that people want a change, and you can't fix a broken system with the people who broke it," Ms Moriarty said.

"People in our towns are waiting months for a specialist, driving on roads that are falling apart, and watching kids fall behind on reading because the support isn't there. Patching things up won't fix that. These regions need a complete overhaul, and they need representatives who answer to the community, not to a party machine."

Antoinette Pitt the community independent for Eastern Victoria, said:

"People across Eastern Victoria are telling me the same thing: they want their voices heard, not just at election time, but when decisions are actually being made. For too long, communities have been told to suck it up and accept less — longer waits, unreliable services, housing people can't afford and regional towns left to fight for their fair share.

"We aren't waiting anymore"

"Eastern Victoria deserves a strong, independent voice that will listen, speak up and work constructively to get things done — and that means being accountable to the community, not a party."

Both candidates are calling for the Victorian government, no matter who is in power:

- to fully fund schools now, targeted funding to close literacy gaps in regional and outer-suburban schools
- to increase our Public housing stock. A child cannot be expected to thrive at school while their family is worrying about where they'll live tomorrow.

Ms Moriarty grew up on the land in rural Australia. She worked full time while putting herself through TAFE and university, and eventually funded her way to Cambridge University by winning "25 words or less" competitions. Her mother was a refugee and she has spent her career working on social justice, working with the United Nations and NGOs to fight poverty and promote human rights in some of the world's most dangerous places, including conflict zones.

She's running a grassroots campaign that takes no corporate donations, under the banner "Honesty. Integrity. Fairness."

"One Nation feeds on anger without offering answers," Ms Moriarty said. "We're offering people who live here, who know what's broken, and who'll fight for what these communities have been promised for decades."

Antoinette Pitt grew up in Lilydale and has worked as a nurse across regional Victoria, including Traralgon, Bairnsdale and Phillip Island. She currently works in healthcare and has spent years advocating for workers, community health and sustainability.

Her campaign is grassroots and independent, focused on representing voters rather than party interests.

"I've worked in healthcare and in communities where you see the consequences when people can't get the support they need. Whether it's housing, healthcare, education or reliable services, these issues are connected."

"People shouldn't have to fight so hard just to get the basics. I'm running because I believe Eastern Victoria deserves a representative who will listen to communities, speak up for them and be accountable to them — not to a party machine."

Victorians go to the polls on 28 November 2026.

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