

# STATES OF JERSEY



## **REFERENDUM: POSITION OF THE CONNÉTABLES IN THE STATES (P.146/2009) – SECOND AMENDMENT**

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**Lodged au Greffe on 26th October 2009  
by Deputy A.E. Jeune of St. Brelade**

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**STATES GREFFE**



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**1 PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (a) –**

After the words “members of the States” insert the words “and the number of elected members of the States”; for the word “question” substitute the word “questions” and after the existing question insert an additional question as follows –

“Do you think that the number of elected States members should be reduced by 6?

YES

NO

**2 PAGE 2, NEW PARAGRAPH –**

After paragraph (b) insert a new paragraph (c) as follows –

“(c) to agree that the outcome of the referendum will be implemented by the States in order to be effective for the 2011 elections, provided that there is a turnout in excess of 50% of the registered electorate voting in the referendum.”

DEPUTY A.E. JEUNE OF ST. BRELADE

## **REPORT**

Members will be aware I withdrew my proposition P.138/2009 in favour of this forthcoming proposition P.146/2009 for a referendum in respect of the constitution of the States Assembly.

As it is my understanding, the electorate believe we are over-governed (53 elected members for a population of less than 100,000), they want to see a reduction in the number of Members of the States of Jersey.

Part 1 of this amendment will address that issue. I have used the number of 6 as I consider it keeps a balance between the identifiable needs (Ministerial government and Scrutiny). A referendum allows for YES or NO votes, it does not provide for a "selection".

I am putting forward Part 2 as I consider that if there is to be any value to the main proposition and its first amendment, the electorate must be assured of the action this Assembly will place on the outcome. No referendum in itself is binding. There needs to be an incentive to the electorate and the States, if accepting this amendment, will have given a commitment in advance to implement the outcome provided that more than 50% do vote.

Why would one bother to place a vote if it is only to be ignored? Part 2 gives the electorate the reassurance I believe they need.

### **Financial and manpower implications**

There should be no additional manpower or financial implications of this amendment.