

# STATES OF JERSEY



## COMPOSITION OF THE STATES: REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF SENATORS – REFERENDUM (P.198/2010) – AMENDMENT

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Lodged au Greffe on 11th January 2011  
by Senator A. Breckon

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STATES GREFFE

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**1 PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (a) –**

After the words “Senators in the States” insert the words “and in relation to the position of the Connétables as members of the States”.

**2 PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (b) –**

For the word “question” substitute the word “questions” and insert a new question as follows –

2. “Do you think that the 12 Parish Connétables should have an automatic seat in the States Assembly by virtue of their office?

YES  NO

SENATOR A. BRECKON

## REPORT

From my memory, I understand that 2 “public polls” have been conducted into who should be Members of the States, the first was as part of the “Review of Machinery of Government” known as the “Clothier Report.” In around 1998, this came out slightly in favour of retaining the Connétables in the States; however, it was only a marginal result.

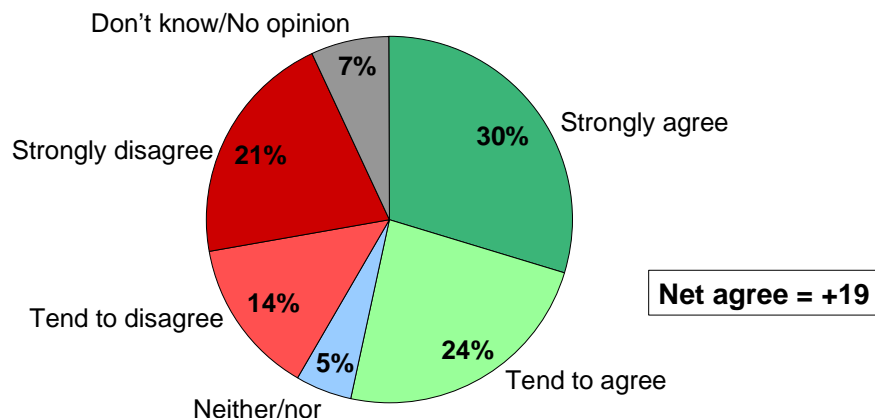
I believe that the second “public poll” was conducted by MORI for the Privileges and Procedures Committee, in 2006 and the results are set out below.

### Constables

Just over half (54%) of residents think that parish constables should remain as States members. Opinion over the future of Constables appears to be strongly held and polarised; residents are more likely to *strongly* agree or disagree than tend to agree or disagree. Two in five (21%) *strongly* disagree they should remain while 30% *strongly* agree that they should. This is clearly a controversial issue about which Jersey residents are currently divided.

### Chart 23 – Parish constables

Q To what extent do you agree or disagree that Parish Constables should remain as members of the States?



Base: 1,295 Jersey residents aged 18+, interviewed by telephone, 20 July – 24 September 2006 Source: Ipsos MORI

As Senator Cohen is proposing a Referendum, the object of my Amendment is to link up with this, to add another question to test the feeling of the public as to whether the Connétables should have a seat in the States by virtue of their office.

### Financial and manpower implications

I do not believe it will add anything to the costs that Senator Cohen has already stated.