

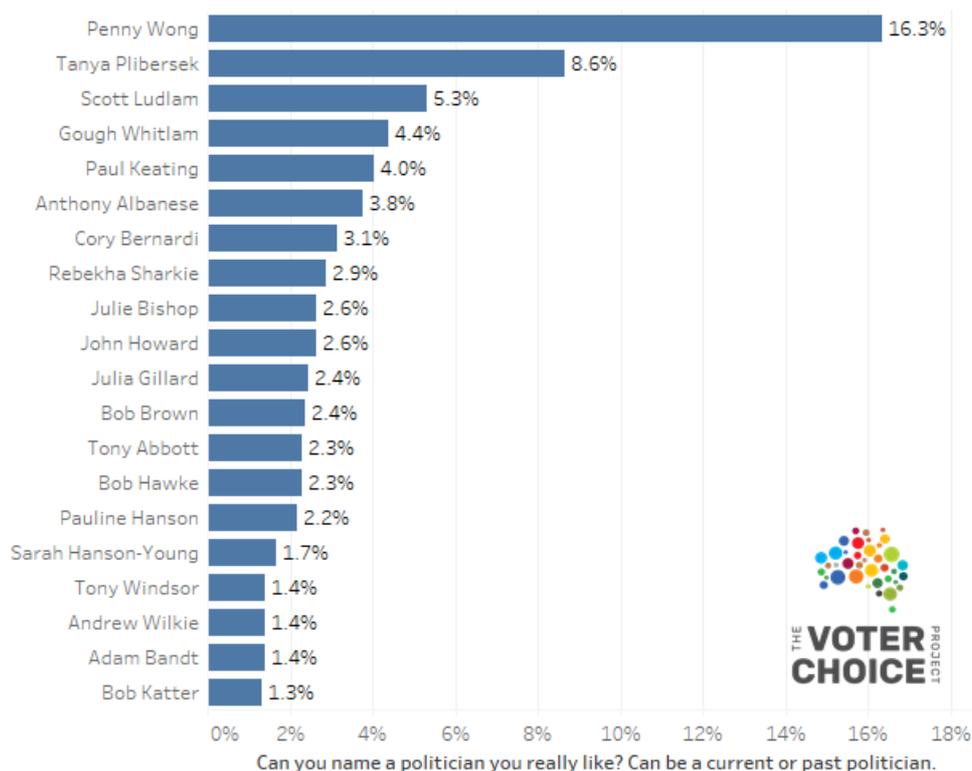


Australians want women politicians, Penny Wong most liked

The latest results of the Voter Choice Project have found that over a quarter of voters would prefer to vote for a woman, and Australia’s most liked politician is Penny Wong.

The Voter Choice Project is an independent national study which involves a representative panel of voters being asked different questions each month in the lead up to the federal election. When asked to name a politician they really liked, participants from across the political spectrum named Labor Party Senator Penny Wong. She earned more than double the number of mentions of colleague Tanya Plibersek who came second, and former Greens Senator Scott Ludlam who came third. All three attracted admiration from supporters of other parties.

Most liked politicians (top 20)



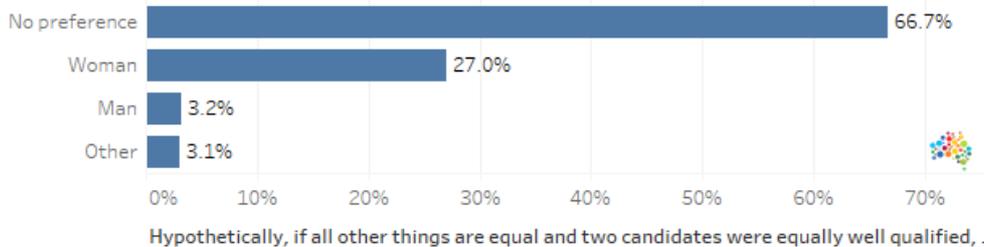
Top 20 responses to “Can you name a politician you really like?”, asked in Wave 2 of the Voter Choice Project. Responses collected between July 15 and July 21, 2018. Sample size 1160. Data is not weighted, however, weighted responses were not significantly different as politicians were not named along partisan lines. Total number of actual mentions for Penny Wong was 187. See more results at www.voterchoice.com.au

Notably, when it came to sitting politicians, women scored the most mentions for each of their parties except the Nationals. Julie Bishop topped the list for the Liberal Party, Sarah Hanson-Young for The Greens, Rebekha Sharkie for Centre Alliance and Pauline Hanson were all in the top 20. Jacinda Ardern

also topped the foreign leaders list, with more mentions than Barack Obama or Donald Trump. Malcolm Turnbull, Bill Shorten and Richard di Natale were all outside the top 20.

When asked if they would rather vote for a man or a woman if the candidates were otherwise equally qualified, 27% said they would rather vote for a woman, with 66.7% saying they had no preference or it wasn't a factor they considered.

Gender preference



Wave 2 of the Voter Choice Project, responses collected between July 15 and July 21, 2018. Sample 1160. Data weighted on age, gender and reported 2016 vote. Question text: "Hypothetically, if all other things are equal and two candidates were equally well qualified, would you rather vote for a man or a woman?", Response options were Man, Woman, No preference/it isn't something I consider, Other. Most 'other' responses were qualifying their answer, such as saying they would lean towards voting for a woman until gender balance is achieved, or saying they would only look at a factor like gender if they knew nothing else about the candidates.

Voter Choice Project director Raphaella Crosby says the result is both interesting and unexpected, and underscores how the current composition of the parliament is not what the people want.

"There were a total of 280 different politicians named by the panel participants, ranging from Ronald Reagan and Gough Whitlam to a wide range of current members of federal and state parliaments, and a small number of foreign leaders.

"Women were certainly more prominent than I had expected. Combined with words like 'compassionate' and 'caring' in the desired qualities of candidates and leaders, and the 27% of people that said they would rather vote for a woman, it points to a real disconnect between what the people want and what is in parliament," Ms Crosby said.

Among the other results:

- 89.2% said candidates should live in their electorate.
- 65% said the Government has been doing a bad job since the 2016 election
- 53% said they were financially worse off since the 2016 election
- 83% said the country is on the wrong track, compared to just 10% who said it is going in the right direction.

Further details and results are available on the Voter Choice Project website www.voterchoice.com.au

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