

Dear xxxxx,

Martin Ferguson MP recently announced his intention to retire as the Member for Batman, after 17 years of service to the residents of this proud area.

Martin is one of Labor's giants – as President of the ACTU during the Hawke/Keating Government and a Labor frontbencher for almost two decades.

The people of Batman deserve a local Labor MP who can uphold the values to which Martin devoted his professional life.

That's why I've nominated to be the Australian Labor Party's endorsed candidate for Batman in the upcoming 2013 Federal Election.

Local branch members in Batman deserve a clear say in this important decision. I am writing to seek your support in Labor's pre-selection.

My entire life, I have been a person of Labor values, and I have spent my career fighting for the great causes of our movement.

I joined the Labor Party at university. In my younger years, I worked for the union movement, helping workers in the transport industry get a fairer day's pay.

I'm proud of the work I did as Labor's Campaign Director for Steve Bracks in the 2002 Victorian State Election, and for Mike Rann in the 2006 SA State Election.

They were Labor's greatest ever victories in those States. It shows just what can be done when Labor clearly and powerfully articulates great reforms that are true to its values.

I am a progressive and my values are important to me. It's those very values on which the election will be fought this coming September.

Tony Abbott and the Liberal Party do not represent a fair and modern Australia. The Greens continue to be just a party of protest, sitting on the sidelines of serious reform.

The choice must be Labor – for a Government that has implemented the greatest social reforms since Medicare and created one million Australian jobs.

Serving in a Labor Government has been the greatest privilege of my life, but there is much more work I want to do to improve our community and our country.

With your support, I will be Labor's candidate for Batman. I will use

my extensive experience in campaigning and take Labor's message into the streets and homes of our community.

I will take our values into the House of Representatives and be your voice for strong Labor policy, both in the Parliament and inside Labor's Party room.

We can't take anything for granted. This will be a tough election, but I know which side of the fight I want to be on.

I want to fight for the people of Batman. They deserve a better future and a fair and modern Australia. They deserve a Labor Government.

I'm not going to be a candidate on training wheels. I have the experience and I know how to get results. I am ready.

It would be an honour to receive your support in the upcoming Batman pre-selection. I won't let you down.

Sincerely,

DAVID FEENEY

Candidate for Labor Preselection in Batman