

John Adrian Barrington

Born in 1945 in England, John arrived in South Africa in 1951 at the age of six and grew up as the Nationalists cemented their power and bedded down Apartheid. He naturally identified himself as an enemy of the Nationalist Party.

He has a history as a participant in the fringes of the political processes, worrying away at the dominance of party political dogma over the democratic processes and the sidelining of non-party-political opinions, from the time of the dominance of the National Party in 1948 through to the transfer of power to the ANC in the 1994 elections and beyond.

Fascinated by the ability of the Nationalist Party to hijack a fairly respectable dual-house parliamentary system, which they did very successfully, he developed the idea of an [upper house of parliament](#) drawn from the streets. He first thought of the idea in his teens and refined it over time. During the Codesa consultative processes he championed the idea, to no effect at the time, and was described as being equally disliked by both the ANC and the Nationalist Party of that era.

John is retiring by nature but discontent with the things South African politicians were doing and the direction they were taking South Africa moved John to become more involved with South African politics.

He participated in the 1994 elections as a parliamentary candidate with the Federal Party, under the leadership of Francis Kendal and Leon Louw. More recently, while continuing to champion the idea of an upper house, John also championed the idea of tax reform through the adoption of [TEAL](#).

John brought these two ideas to the notice of Nofumene Mqweba, an independent candidate for the 2011 municipal elections and together they founded the Direct Democracy Forum, using those ideas as the party's foundation.