

The Liberal Party machine has taken voters for mugs for too long

The Daily Telegraph 9 April 2017

Miranda Devine

THE once safe state seat of North Shore sent an unmistakeable message to the Liberal party yesterday.



Enthusiasm for independent candidate for Sydney's North Shore Carolyn Corrigan was palpable at polling booths yesterday. (Pic: News Corp)

While the Liberals appeared last night to have won the by-election, the roughly 16 percent swing across the blue ribbon heartland of Mosman and North Sydney [signals the disenchantment of conservative voters](#) with a party overrun by factional daleks.

Enthusiasm among disaffected Liberals for little-known independent Carolyn Corrigan was palpable yesterday at polling places where her blue and white-clad volunteers outnumbered Liberals by as much as five to one.

A clue to the electability of Liberal candidate Felicity Wilson is that photos of Premier Gladys Berejyklian outnumbered hers by more than five to one.

Wilson spent the last two days of the campaign trying to explain away allegations she lied on a statutory declaration about how long she had lived in the electorate.



Felicity Wilson (right) and Premier Gladys Berejiklian on the North Shore campaign trail. (Pic: News Corp)

Despite being among the least impressive candidates on offer, Wilson won preselection last month by six votes over the standout local hopeful Tim James, thanks to the backing of Liberal kingmaker, Michael Photios, a lobbyist banned by Tony Abbott.

Photios reportedly boasted recently he had secured the jobs of Prime Minister and NSW Premier for the party's left faction.

And in the safest state and federal seats in NSW in the past 18 months, the factional fix saw honourable, community-minded preselection candidates lose to lacklustre apparatchiks. The party machine has taken the voters for mugs for too long.

But the price is voter loyalty.

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/rendezview/the-liberal-party-machine-has-taken-voters-for-mugs-for-too-long/news-story/cc11e7d506f443c840b31aead26ec823>