

# Lenin on Elections

VLADIMIR  
LENIN



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The dictatorship of the proletariat means the overthrow of the bourgeoisie by a single class, the proletariat, and by its revolutionary vanguard at that.

To demand that this vanguard should first **ensure the support of the majority of the people through elections** to bourgeois parliament, bourgeois constituent assemblies, etc., i.e., by elections held while wage-slavery still exists, while the exploiters exist and exercise their oppression, and while the means of production are privately owned — to demand this or to assume it is actually **abandoning the standpoint of the dictatorship of the proletariat and going over to the standpoint of bourgeois democracy.**

V. I. LENIN,  
DRAFT OF THE R. C. P.'S REPLY TO THE LETTER OF  
THE INDEPENDENT SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF GERMANY

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“...5. The dictatorship of the proletariat means the overthrow of the bourgeoisie by a single class, the proletariat, and by its revolutionary vanguard at that. To demand that this vanguard should first ensure the support of the majority of the people through elections to bourgeois parliament, bourgeois constituent assemblies, etc., i.e., by elections held while wage-slavery still exists, while the exploiters exist and exercise their oppression, and while the means of production are privately owned — to demand this or to assume it is actually abandoning the standpoint of the dictatorship of the proletariat and going over to the standpoint of bourgeois democracy.”

Vladimir Lenin, “Draft (Or Theses) Of The R.C.P.’s Reply To The Letter Of The Independent Social-Democratic Party of Germany “.

Original article