

To Be Presented at Hearings in Hartford Wednesday, February 22, 2017

To: GAE Committee/Connecticut State Legislators

Subject: Debate on the Electoral College

Submitted: February 21, 2017 via email

The Electoral College is what preserves the integrity of the United States as a Republic. Our great country, so brilliantly conceived and eminently successful on the world stage as a stable, strong, vibrant, and free society - with one of the longest histories of continuous operation as a unified political force in all of recorded human history – is at risk of being reduced to a mere shadow of its current self by those wishing for the United States to adopt a purely democratic rule of law, i.e., the rule of the simple majority.

The United States of America, cannot, and should not, dilute the brilliance of the Founding Fathers' creation of the Electoral College as a means of equal representation for all people - and all places - within its borders. Elimination of the Electoral College process would completely destroy the concept of equal representation, and the United States of America would be no more.

This great country, founded on the principles of liberty and justice for all, would sink into disarray as many millions of voices go unheard simply because they don't live in a state with mega cities, or within a mega city itself. Huge urban population centers have unique needs and problems often completely unrelated to the needs and issues facing those of us who live in less populated, less urban areas; if you don't live in one of these heavily populated areas your opinion, your issues, your vote, will not matter. What is important to you will not be important to your President. In elections without the Electoral College, states with a large number of eligible electoral votes like California, Texas, New York, Florida, and Illinois would dictate the issues of the day. Worse, in the "Swing States," where Candidates would have to focus to clinch the Presidency after securing the electoral votes of the most populous states, the big cities would dictate the issues; liberty and justice for all would no longer apply to anyone, inside or outside of Connecticut, who did not live in a large, heavily populated, urban area. If you live in the country, or the suburbs, or even in a small city in a small state, your voice will not be heard if the Electoral College is eliminated.

Connecticut is a small state with a small population; simple majority rule would render Connecticut and its citizens invisible and irrelevant to those running for President of the United States. Any candidate wishing to actually win the Presidency would, by necessity, have to focus on wooing and pleasing large States with large population centers found far outside of our borders; cities like New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia and Phoenix would hold massive political power, their values, issues and culture would be forced upon the citizens of Connecticut, and Connecticut would literally have no voice in choosing a President on the national stage.

Nationwide, farmers and ranchers, the hardworking men and women who provide us all food for our very sustenance, would have no voice; suburbanites wishing a higher quality of life filled with wholesome values and more exposure to nature than can be found in cities, would have no voice; entire populations of small towns outside of major urban areas would have no voice, no meaningful say in the discourse and issues that elect a President. Vast segments of the population will become disenfranchised from the electoral process, voting participation will fall, people will become demotivated resulting in economic and political lethargy, and our nation will fall from preeminence on the world stage because narrow urban agendas representing only tiny, densely populated geographic areas will set the future course of our entire nation and all of its people. It is then that freedoms will collapse and the tyranny of the simple majority will take hold.

I urge the legislators and the people of Connecticut to maintain the integrity of the Electoral College, to firmly and unambiguously reject any and all proposals that may weaken or eliminate the Electoral College as the final arbiter in the determination of President of the United States.

In addition, I will support and encourage efforts by Connecticut's Legislators to strengthen and improve the functioning of the Electoral College, particularly any effort that makes an Elector's vote binding by means of a direct linking to how each individual Congressional District in the state has voted in the Presidential election.

The integrity of the United States as a Republic must remain intact; it is the Electoral College process that makes our country unique and far superior to ordinary, simple majority-rule democracies. What our Founding Fathers' put in place through the Electoral College assures equal representation for all people and places within our borders; the fact that everyone's voice can be heard and counted, no matter where they live, is a basic tenant of what we as Americans hold as sacred to our freedoms, and it should never be compromised.

Respectfully,

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