

Dear Committee Members,

This letter is being provided as testimony of the opinion I hold of the Electoral College System and to encourage Connecticut to be at the forefront of "true" election reform.

I have no need to reiterate the problems of the elections of 2000 and 2016 that stemmed entirely from the Electoral College system in which the popular vote was usurped in favor of small splinter groups in a few key states. In effect, control of the government was wrested from the 120+ millions of voters and determined by a very small number that provided the plurality in those states (I believe the number was something akin to 800,000)

I understand that the founding fathers had concerns about states with small populations being over-shadowed by those with large populations, but I don't believe they had any way of foretelling that the very mobile population of today's America would mean that a candidate could win by a 3 million person majority in the popular vote and still not be elected because of a mere plurality in three states. When they created the system, it applied to 13-16 very different states in size, economy and lifestyle, but just like the fact that they built the system based on the electorate of all white males, that has changed and the election laws have evolved to represent the majority of the people except in this archaic system which is now revered by the party that keeps winning those so-called "swing" states. I recently heard the description of our government and election system as not being a democracy because of the "winner take all" concept of the electoral college, and I think that is an accurate conclusion.

I believe Connecticut should be a leader and join with other states in accepting the popular vote for the federal elected office of President of the US. It is the only office really that is not state centered in its behavior or breadth, so why should it continue to be elected this way? The presidency should be a reflection of the entire popular vote particularly since the electors can and do move about the country with regularity these days as opposed to spending their entire lives in small villages and not moving around throughout the nation.

In closing, I encourage you to work on changing the system so that the travesty of the 2106 election does not happen again where the highest vote getter in the history of the country lost the election because of three small states. If the electoral college system is maintained, then it needs to no longer be a "winner take all" system, but I really do believe, it just needs to go the way of powdered wigs, muskets and only elite white male electors in order to represent the world of now.

Thank you,

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