

I am writing in opposition to HB 3475, the "National Popular Vote" bill. While it specifically addresses the election of the President (and is probably motivated primarily by the frustrated fury of the Left at the results of the election of 2000 in which they are convinced they were "robbed" of the Presidency) this bill represents a trend in our society toward mob rule, or "Democracy" as it is euphemistically called.

As such, measures such as this, while misleadingly being promoted by their proponents as somehow bettering the lot of the common man, will do nothing of the sort. Our nation was founded up on the concept of representative Government, and nearly everything that has been done subsequently - including the institution of popular referendums here in Oregon - to shift the responsibility for lawmaking from elected representatives to "popular" control has been at best of dubious benefit.

The proponents of these measures prattle on about "empowerment" or, even more rapidly, of the need to trust some purported "wisdom of crowds", etc. etc., meanwhile accusing their opponents of deprecating the intelligence of the average person. The issue is not at all one of intelligence but rather of two other factors: first, the amount of time that citizens (or at least that portion of us who are occupied with work and family) have available to involve ourselves with proposed legislation, and second, the constant distortions and lies which the citizenry at large is fed by a biased, irresponsible media no longer comprised of journalists but instead of mere stenographers, advocates for one cause or another. At least in theory, a representative form of Government provides elected officials who are able to focus all their time and attention on governance and on obtaining information accurate enough to enable them to sort out fact from propaganda, and therefore are - again, at least in theory - more likely to make decisions beneficial to those they represent.

Additionally, with the increasing urbanization of our society there is an agenda underlying this type of effort to "Democratize" elections, which is to subjugate the rural portions of America to the will of those living in the urban enclaves. Oregon in fact is one of the worst examples of this nationwide, with its population largely concentrated in the urban areas and often comprised of people ignorant if not outright contemptuous of the needs of those living outside the cities. We see more and more legislation directed at imposing the will of an insular, misguided majority, upon others who are thereby effectively deprived of representation. If the objective of this Bill is eventually realized, it will likely result in the permanent rule of Presidents representative only of city dwellers.

I ask that you reject not only this bill, but all efforts to undermine representative Government. This so-called "progressive" agenda will not only not make our society more "democratic", but will in fact result in a tyranny of a majority - and one which is increasingly misled, in this day and age.

Dave Simmons
Dallas, OR
503.243.1399