

Dear Members of the House Rules Committee,

My name is David Zine and I live in Cloverdale, Or 97112.

I am writing to ask that you support HB2927, which would result in Oregon joining the Interstate Compact that would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes. I am sure this seems like a no brainer to you. The Oregon house has passed similar bills three times in the past.

It is clear that the electoral college is not fulfilling its original purpose which was, according to Alexander Hamilton in "The Federalist Papers," to ensure "that the office of President will never fall to the lot of any man who is not in an eminent degree endowed with the requisite qualifications."

Our founding fathers somehow felt that, while one man one vote made sense for most other elections, the popular vote was not adequate to choose the best qualified candidate for President of the United States. Clearly it failed in the most recent election.

But studying the history of the electoral college makes it clear that our founding fathers were apprehensive about this "new thing called democracy" and did not trust the "masses" to make an informed choice. They put other limitations on direct election too, such as appointment of senators by state legislatures, banning women from voting entirely, and of course counting slaves as only 3/5 of a person. All of those direct election inequities were corrected through constitutional amendments. Only the electoral college remains.

But measure HB2927 does not do away with the electoral college. Rather it subjects it to represent the popular vote. It will finally will ensure that we have a true democracy - one person one vote. Please support this measure.

Thank you, David Zine