



PORTLAND

June 20, 2017

Oregon State Senate Rules Committee
Attn: Sen. Ginny Burdick

Ref: HB2927 & SB825

The Alliance for Democracy is dedicated to creating true democracy. The United States and the states have a form of democracy, one which needs improvement. Changing how we select our president is one such improvement

Over the course of our history, several changes have made the process more democratic but we are still burdened with the undemocratic Electoral College.

The electoral college has

- allowed candidates with less than a plurality of vote to be imposing on the nation twice this century – first, George Bush, and second, Donald Trump.
- given increasing weight to the voters in small states even as those states continue to lose population
- caused the people to lose confidence in democracy by imposing the candidate on the nation in spite of having lost the popular vote

Short of abolishing the Electoral College, we have the opportunity to make the Electoral College decision reflect the popular vote by enacting the National Popular Vote, which requires that states instruct their Electoral College delegates' votes to be cast for the candidate with the most national popular votes. This would happen only when enough states agree to do this that they represent a majority of the Electoral College votes.

As an Oregon organization, we urge that the Senate Rules Committee vote Yes on HB2927 and send it to the full Senate with a "Do Pass" recommendation.

Regarding SB825, we recommend that this bill not be send to the full Senate. Let it die with the Senate Rules Committee. The current winner-take-all system in Oregon and most of the nation was not approved by a vote of the people; legislatures took responsibility for deciding the method for instructing our delegates on how to vote. This responsibility is clearly assigned to the state legislatures in the US Constitution and should be followed now as we move to a more democratic system reflecting the will of the People.

Further, should voters not like the decision of the Oregon Legislature, they have the constitutionally authorized ability to Refer it to the ballot by gathering the required number of voter signatures.

Vote Yes on HB2927 and Vote No on SB825.

Sincerely,

David e. Delk
President, Alliance for Democracy