

SB 825 VOTE NO

HB 2927

Vote NO

Rebecca Roth

Most Oregonians I have the pleasure to converse with have no idea that there is an effort being made to strip them of their state sovereignty. If this is done without the permission of the people of Oregon, and behind their backs, just because some billionaire wants Oregon out of the picture, and can pay activists (not all billionaires love the United States or the sovereignty of the states), Oregonians will no longer enjoy a finished popular vote of our own for the presidential election.

The presidential election is the only election in which Oregon participates with the rest of the states. In it we choose the leader of the executive branch. Those who designed the brilliant form of government America enjoys, recognized EACH STATE with A FINISHED POPULAR VOTE for this election. WE ALREADY ENJOY A POPULAR VOTE. WE DO IT! It is OUR popular vote. Oregon's popular vote.

The Electoral College DELEGATES REPRESENT the VOTE WE HAVE TAKEN. WE CONTROL it. Even when it does not represent ME because Democrats control Oregon, I still have been represented by the popular vote taken in Oregon.

Look at the people who are organized and paid to run across America stripping us of our sovereignty. What motivates them? What power will the billionaires and millionaires who are paying them receive from reducing Oregon to NOTHING? Instead of being the FINISHED POPULAR VOTE OF EACH STATE, our COMPLETED, AUTONOMOUS ELECTION, in concert with other states, will become a NATIONAL vote, and we will lose our ability to control ANY ASPECT of the OUTCOME. It will become a NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE, ORGANIZED NATIONALLY. We will lose control over the process. Our vote will count for nothing, and population centers will control. No matter how much they say it will not be like that, it will be. That is what the Electoral College idea was supposed to correct for—population centers controlling everybody else.

By giving geographic areas power to run each election themselves and expressing the final outcome of THEIR popular vote, the Constitution guarantees that the population centers will not be the only voices heard.

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The UNITED STATES are supposed to be united, but retain all rights as states. The Bill of Rights says that outside of the limited amount of power required for the FEDERAL government to do its LIMITED actions, the STATES and the PEOPLE are to have all other powers and rights. We are not a NATIONAL government, but a FEDERAL one. By stripping Oregonians of the power to run a FINISHED POPULAR VOTE, those who desire to see us lose our voice and vote, will cause Oregon to become lost in a sea of other people who also have been stripped of their powers, and we will be no different than any other nation controlled in a top-down approach.

\*\*\*\*\*It is the Electoral College that gives us the right to conduct an election in concert with other sovereign states, and come to a FINISHED POPULAR VOTE by the PEOPLE OF OREGON, and then send delegates to represent the will of the people of Oregon.\*\*\*\*\*

If Oregonians were TRULY INFORMED and involved in a debate that would include the education they lack about the brilliant idea of the Electoral College, and how it expresses the will of the people of the state of Oregon much better than a national popular vote, they would understand, and would CHOOSE to retain the rights that have been given them, rather than to relinquish them. Once a right is relinquished it is extremely difficult to get it back. That is why those who are paying for this campaign are attempting to steal our rights without truly engaging in an honest debate. They know that if they can steal our rights, we will have little chance to get them back. We see them in the halls, lobbying for their organizers, and they are indoctrinating our young people on how supposedly there will be "a more fair and equal outcome" if we give up our right to conduct the vote for president within the state of Oregon.

When debates are staged at schools and those that should be presenting the arguments FOR the Electoral College, somehow can't think of a single argument for it, then it is highly suspect that the debate was staged not for honest purposes, but to impress young people that there is absolutely no reason for the Electoral College. The truth is suppressed by what is supposedly an open forum of debate. Schools that WE PAY FOR should make sure their students understand

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the benefit of the Electoral College to the fullness of the expression of their right to be represented in choosing the single representative that is chosen by every state.

It is seductive to look at processes that differ from the process of the Electoral College, and to dream about the supposedly “more fair” outcome that comes with all sorts of promises of no longer being “dis-enfranchised,” –but it isn’t even true. The siren song that lured sailors to their death in the Greek mythology is still making alluring promises that will never be realized. The good ship “America” that we have been blessed to be a part of must resist promises that will shipwreck the actual solid practices that have built a deck for us to walk and run on, and LIVE well.

We already are blessed to conduct our own elections. We have powers far beyond any subject of national government around the world. We have processes that were created with MUCH OPEN DEBATE, and recorded for us to read...and the amendments to the Constitution that we embrace, MUST NOT STRIP US OF OUR SOVEREIGNTY. That is precisely what the billionaires who are paying to promote the national popular vote are hoping they will be able to accomplish through individual representatives supporting it in committee. Behind the scenes, lobbying and entertaining the representatives of the people— they hope to acquire by stealth what Oregonians would never give up if they knew what is being done.

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