

Jun 22, 2017

Senate Rules Committee

OR

Dear Committee,

The Electoral College focuses the election in only a few spots in the country, which then are subject to election tricks as we've seen in numerous places (but thankfully not Oregon) the past twenty years. The use of black box voting machines has made for odd outcomes, most notably the 2004 election in which exit polls didn't match with final totals. I attended a voting conference at PSU after that election and learned that a professor and lawyer had teamed up to investigate the Ohio totals and found that Kerry should actually have won Ohio. I bought a copy of their book that contains copies of the evidence. Had the popular vote been counted, Ohio wouldn't have totally backed Bush in that election, but the recorded votes (already corrupted through a number of Republican maneuvers) would have been split much more evenly. Today, obviously, we've seen right-wing tactics such as disenrollment of 100s of 1000s of voters they claim are registered in two states (though in numerous cases the SS#s don't match and middle initials differ). This past fall, the Republican secretary of state in Michigan stopped the recount paid for by a candidate, bringing the question of uncounted Detroit ballots to a halt and giving the election to Trump.

Where Republican governors believe the ends justify the means, as in Wisconsin, election totals can be guaranteed inaccurate (from all I've read in credible sources). Just look the results of the recall election there. President Carter's foundation has monitored elections in many countries over the last forty years, and he says a clear indication of election fraud is a difference between exit polls and final counts.

That certainly appears what is happening in the US, and only adoption of a fool-proof system such as the one we have here in Oregon promises a remedy. Since controlling every detail in every precinct would be impossible and counting on honesty from the right wing isn't a good bet, what we can do is give the national election to all Americans by switching from the Electoral College plan to a transparent popular vote. Thank you.

PS The Electoral College obviously did not even question the election and competency of D. Trump, since Republicans stood to gain by his being in office, in spite of the psychological red flags.

Sincerely,

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