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Proposal to Implement Electoral College Down to the State Level for Colorado

One of the major challenges facing our founding fathers during the 1787 Constitutional Convention was how to elect the President of the United States. States with larger populations wanted congressional representation based on population, while smaller states demanded equal representation.

The fathers debated for months - with one group arguing that Congress should elect the president while another group argued that the election should be decided by a straight majority democratic vote. Eventually they reached a compromise by creating the electoral college.

At the federal level, a temporary group of individuals called electors become representatives of all the voters for each state. The number of electors is based on the number of representatives each state has in Congress. Colorado has nine representatives in Congress so it has nine electors.

The purpose of the Electoral College is to ensure that *every person in every state* in the United States has a say in who becomes president, *not just the states with the highest population centers*. Currently, population centers in many states — New York, Illinois, Texas, Florida, and California, just to name a few — when combined, have a high enough population to win a national presidential election. This means that the other 45 states would *have absolutely no say* in the outcome of a presidential election. They do not have equal representation. The five most populous states could determine and control governmental policy in perpetuity. The founders were against a strong centralized government and wisely created the electoral college to ensure *all* states had a say in the election of the President of the United States. This electoral college system has served the country well of over 200 years.

Due to the success of the electoral college at the federal level, now it is time to consider implementing the electoral college system down to the state level. The state level faces the same dilemma our founders did at the 1787 Constitutional Convention - the small, less populated counties do not have equal representation for electing the President of the United States or any other governing entity. This is exactly the same scenario our founding fathers were facing at the federal level at the 1787 Constitutional Convention. Colorado's election results could be controlled by the five or more most populous counties.

The population of the five most populous counties in Colorado is 3,259,360 (at the time of this writing) while the population of the remaining 59 counties is 2,595,128. Thus, the five most populous counties, under our current purely democratic system of voting, could effectively control which party candidate represents Colorado in the federal nationwide election in perpetuity. Those other 59 counties have no voice in the electoral process even if the losing candidate won all of those counties in the state.

Proposal

By implementing the Electoral College down to the state level, each person in every county would get a voice in the election, not just the counties with the highest populations. We propose assigning each county an electoral vote based on a weighted average of the state population. For example, if Denver County has 13 percent of the state population, that county would be assigned 13 electoral votes. If Garfield County has 1 percent of the state population, they would be assigned 1 electoral vote. If Custer County has .2 percent of the state population, they would also be awarded 1 electoral vote. Every county has a voice in the election process. The candidate who wins the majority of electoral votes would then win the state, just as they do in the national Electoral College.

With this system, every voter in every county in the state would have equal representation. Furthermore, by applying a weighted average to the number of county electors, representation is proportional to the county populous. Thus, voting is conducted as a true constitutional republic, not a pure democracy. In some states, population centers are so populated that they have more people in them than the rest of the state, and that state ends up being controlled by those population centers.

Taking the Electoral College process down to the state level for all presidential and statewide elections, like the national Electoral College, would give all voters across the state a voice and give all counties equal representation in the voting process.