

Chris Titterington's Testimony February 12th in support of the NPV

When the Founding Fathers established the Electoral College, their principal rationale was two-pronged: to moderate the influence of larger states in selection of the Chief Executive; and, to temper the influence of those who might otherwise manipulate a relatively naive, dispersed population or the elected representatives themselves. Both these intents are pertinent to Coloradans when deciding whether to join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, and here I speak to the second point.

As published in Federalist No. 68 of the Federalist Papers, authors Hamilton, Madison and Jay wrote that ... "electors would be ... most capable of analyzing the qualities adapted to the station of Chief Executive...most likely to have the information and discernment" to make a good choice and to avoid the election of anyone "not in an eminent degree endowed with the requisite qualifications." Further, only Electors would be in a position to minimize risk of "...corruption of an electoral process that could arise from the desire of foreign powers to gain an improper ascendant in our councils." Electors, who could not be elected representatives or elected officials, would make their choice in a "detached situation."

This may all seem elitist today; however, in 1787 few among the general public were equipped with education, information or experience sufficient to evaluate candidates for the office of Chief Executive or to protect against foreign machinations and inducements.

Today much of the electorate is well-informed and savvy. We have nearly universal access to political analysis and candidate views, and most people hold strong views on who is best suited to lead the country. In the case of suspected impropriety, virtually everyone may follow the investigation. With this change, however, the risks envisioned by the Founding Fathers, which the Electoral College could at that time minimize, are now those very risks exacerbated. Lack of choice by popular vote opens the floodgates to manipulation, interference by foreign nations, undue influence among electors by elected officials and corruption of judgment and discernment of the Chief Executive.

I encourage you to recognize that the change in the profile of the electorate makes choice of Chief Executive - the President - by popular vote the best way to protect the interests of all the states individually and the nation as a whole.

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