

R0018-0304

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**A RESOLUTION CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE U.S.
CONSTITUTION REGARDING THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE**

30 **WHEREAS:**
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It is the Electoral College, not the public that elects the President of the United States of America; and,

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The number of electoral votes per state is determined by two senators per state and in addition, the number of representatives based on the population of that state according to the U.S. Census; and,

80 **WHEREAS:**

In total, there are 538 members of the Electoral College; and,

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The Electoral College gives all of a state's electoral votes to the winner of that state, no matter how slim the margin between the candidates is; and,

110 **WHEREAS:**
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Although a claim, minority interests cannot be maintained under a method that adheres to a winner-take-all system, where the majority automatically dominates; and,

140 **WHEREAS:**
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For example, in the state of California, the candidates for President and Vice President who receive the majority of the votes are then awarded all 54 electoral votes, even in cases where the majority is slim; and,

170 **WHEREAS:**
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Since 1972, Maine and later in 1996, Nebraska, uses an alternative method called "Congressional Districting" where the state reward individual electoral votes to the candidate who wins the most votes in a Congressional District and gives the remaining two votes to the candidate who received the most votes statewide; and,

220 **WHEREAS:**
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Congressional Districting recognizes the geographical divisions within states and also reduces political dominance of the large industrial states by splitting their electoral votes among candidates; and,

250 **WHEREAS:**
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Congressional Districting allows for more accuracy and better representation of the people within a state; and,

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If every state does not adopt Congressional Districting, one party might gain an unfair advantage over another; and,

290 **WHEREAS:**
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The importance of populous states will be diluted if the state distributes electoral votes by congressional districts; and,

310 **WHEREAS:**
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For example, one candidate in California could receive 30 electoral votes while his or her opponent could receive the remaining 24 electoral votes, thus leveling out the playing field and diluting the state's populace bias; and,

340 **WHEREAS:**
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In the 2000 election rather than Bush take all of the electoral votes, although the margin was slim, the electoral votes would be distributed between the two candidates in order to recognize the many votes that were not for Bush; and,

370 **WHEREAS:**
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If every state does not adopt a unified system the more populous states will be weighed more heavily against the other states which, through Congressional Districting, distribute electoral votes evenly; and,

400 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges Congress and
410 50 state legislatures to amend the Constitution to reform the
420 Electoral College to create a unified, Congressional Districting, system to ensure
430 that votes are distributed fairly and accurately; and,

440 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** The Electoral College must be reformed in order to
450 assure the presence of democracy through fair elections once 2/3 of Congress
460 and _ of the state legislatures approve; and,

470 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** Pending the approval from Congress and the state
480 legislatures, this amendment will go into effect for the 2008 Presidential
490 Election.

500 **MANDATES:** President George W. Bush
510 Vice President Richard Cheney
520 Senator Dick Durbin
530 Senator Arlen Specter
540 Senator Hillary Clinton
550 Representative Ray LaHood
560 Representative Domingo Garcia
570 Representative Tony Strickland
580 Representative Paul Luebke

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