

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE**

20 **WHEREAS:** The Electoral College as outlined in Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution and
30 clarified in Amendments 12 and 23 of the Constitution is outdated and leads to
40 undemocratic elections; and,

50 **WHEREAS:** The function of the Electoral College has led to the election of fourteen
60 Presidents who did not win a majority of the popular vote; and,

70 **WHEREAS:** The Electoral College has led to the election of four Presidents who did not even
80 win a plurality of the popular vote, most recently George W. Bush in 2000; and,

90 **WHEREAS:** Over 75% of Americans are in favor of abolishing the Electoral College; and,

100 **WHEREAS:** There have been over 700 proposals in the US Congress to abolish the Electoral
110 College; and,

120 **WHEREAS:** The Electoral College leads to an unfair distribution of votes, meaning that
130 people living in smaller states have more powerful votes than those living in
140 large ones because there are more electoral votes per person; and,

150 **WHEREAS:** The Electoral College system does not allow politicians to campaign in non-
160 competitive states because they must use all resources fighting for very
170 competitive, sometimes small states; and,

180 **WHEREAS:** The winner-take-all method that the Electoral College employs leads to lower
190 voter-turnout in non-competitive states; and,

200 **WHEREAS:** Twenty-one states have no laws that bind electors to vote for the candidate they
210 were selected to represent; and,

220 **WHEREAS:** In the twenty-nine states where electors are bound to vote for their candidate,
230 they can vote for another party without being replaced ; and,

240 **WHEREAS:** Under a condition where there is no majority in the Electoral College, the vote is
250 sent to the House of Representatives and Senate, where a partisan battle would
260 likely ensue, damaging the office of the President of the United States; and,

270 **WHEREAS:** The winner-take-all nature of the Electoral College does not allow third parties
280 any possibility of ever winning a Presidential election; and,

290 **WHEREAS:** The Electoral College was devised to combat problems such as a lack of public
300 knowledge about candidates due to poor communications methods and as a
310 compromise to the problem of how to count the votes of slaves which counted as
320 3/5 of a vote. Neither of these issues are a problem today, rendering the
330 Electoral College unnecessary; and,

340 **WHEREAS:** The Electoral College is a major purveyor of voter disenfranchisement; and,

350 **WHEREAS:** The Electoral College is unconstitutional due to the Supreme Court's precedent
360 of "One Man, One Vote" as determined by the 1962 case of Baker v. Carr; and,

370 **WHEREAS:** The Electoral College was created to ensure that the needs of each state were
380 considered, but today, this antiquated system does just the opposite, it allows for
390 politicians to consider only the needs of a few battleground states; and,

400 **WHEREAS:** Special interests in large states have the ability to swing the vote of the entire
410 state to one party through the Electoral College; and,

420 **WHEREAS:** A candidate technically only needs the electoral votes of eleven states to win the
430 Presidency. Those states are: California (55), Texas (34), New York (31),
440 Florida (27), Illinois (21), Pennsylvania (21), Ohio (20), Michigan (17),
450 Georgia (15), New Jersey (15), North Carolina (15).

460 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the United
470 States Congress to pass a constitutional amendment to abolish the Electoral
480 College, and to allow all future elections for the office of the President of the
490 United States be based upon the popular vote; and,

500 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislatures urges that all elections
510 use the “One Man, One Vote” precedent, where each vote counts the same
520 towards the election of the President.

530 **MANDATES:** President George W. Bush
540 Senator Harry Reid, Senate Majority Leader
550 Representative Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House

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