

A Common-Sense Vision for American Democracy

A Constitutional Amendment on the Senate and Electoral College

THE PROBLEM

The fundamental promise of our democracy rests upon trust between our government and the governed. In recent years, we have seen that faith erode as reactionaries have manipulated the counter-majoritarian institutions of our political system, including a **Senate beholden to the filibuster** and a **distorted power balance in both the Senate and Electoral College**.

Numerous bills supported by the majority of Americans have passed the House but failed to even come up for a vote in the Senate due to the filibuster.

The Senate and Electoral College were designed by our founders to *not* reflect the will of the majority, in part because of concerns from southern states that a popular government would move to overturn slavery.

However, a government that doesn't represent the people cannot sustain the support of the people. Congressional approval rates around 20% should be a call to action to improve representation and accountability in our legislature.

Population shifts have accelerated the conflicts between the Electoral College and public will; two of the five times in our history that the winner of the popular vote did not win the Electoral College have occurred in the last 23 years.

THE SOLUTION

This Constitutional Amendment establishes **12 at-large Senators to be elected through a nationwide system of ranked choice voting**. The Amendment would also establish **12 at-large Electors who shall cast their votes in the Electoral College for the winner of the national popular vote**.

This will create a bloc of Senators, comprising 10% of the body, who are directly responsive to public will, **forcing the Senate to move their agenda towards the majority will**.

The Amendment will also restore the relative power of larger-state Senators closer to where it was in the Senate was first established.

This will also increase the number of Senators required to sustain a filibuster – but **reduce the proportion of Senators with an interest in filibustering against otherwise-popular legislation**.

Creating at-large Electors will also **better align the Electoral College outcomes with those of the national popular vote** and provide an incentive for candidates to win the popular vote instead of campaigning in a handful of swing Electoral College states.