

SB-17

To Integrate Ranked Choice Voting into all Federal Elections.

IN THE SENATE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION

Mr. Lund of West Virginia introduced the following bill;

A BILL

To Integrate Ranked Choice Voting into all Federal Elections.

Be it enacted by The American Legion Boys Nation Senate assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Ranked Choice Voting Act".

SECTION 2.PURPOSE AND EXPLANATION

Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to give every American the same amount of power in their vote. With the current electoral college system, citizens of different states have differing levels of influence. For example, in a presidential election a vote from a resident of Wyoming has far more weight behind it, than the vote of someone from the state of Minnesota. This bill will also create the ability for voters to vote for independent candidates without "wasting" their votes. This ability will aid in the fight against the continued political polarization of our country. In turn, the American people will be better represented by their government.

Explanation:

Ranked Choice Voting is a system of voting where instead of just writing down one name on the ballot, voters rank the candidates from their favorite to least favorite. Then the first choices on each ballot are all counted up. If one of the candidates has over fifty percent of the votes, then the election is over. If not, whichever candidate has the least amount of votes is eliminated. The ballots that had that candidate as their first choice now have their second choice counted. This process continues until one candidate has over fifty percent of the votes. This system of voting will be implemented into all federal elections in the United States of America.

The system of Ranked Choice Voting will support the counteracting of political polarization in the United States. This issue is one that needs attention as shown in a study conducted by the Pew Research Center where it was found that "the share of Americans who express consistently conservative or consistently liberal opinions has doubled over the past two decades." The movement of voters to the extremities is a danger to the country as a whole as it decreases compromise. By integrating Ranked Choice Voting into the Electoral College, voters will be able to vote for independent candidates without "throwing away" their vote. In turn, this will help more moderate candidates, who better represent their populations, get into office. These candidates will then bring compromise back to the government, constructing a more effective and efficient process. Implementing a system of Ranked Choice Voting will grant more accurate and authentic representation to the people of the United States of America

This system of voting will prompt equity and fairness in the elections of the future. When our Founding Fathers said that "all men are created equal" they intended for everyone to have an equal say. With the current system of voting in the Electoral College people in different states across the Union have different amounts of voting power. One example of this are the states of Wyoming and Minnesota. The state of Wyoming has 3 Electoral College votes and a population of 579,000. Based on this, each Electoral College vote from Wyoming has approximately 193,000 people behind it. Minnesota on the other hand has a population of 5,640,000 and 10 Electoral College Votes. These numbers give each Electoral College vote from Minnesota 564,000 people behind it. Based on this math a voting citizen of Wyoming has almost triple the influence than that of a voting citizen of Minnesota. In order to all be "created equal" the current voting system needs to be modified. The most

effective avenue through which to do this is Ranked Choice Voting.

SECTION 3. FUNDING

The main costs of this bill will come from new voting machines and software development for reading of the ranked choice voting ballots. Funding will be provided by existing funds created in the Help America Vote Act of 2002. These funds are meant to aid in improving elections, and they will be used as such. Financial aid will be given to state governments based on demonstrated need.

SECTION 4. ENFORCEMENT

Penalties:

There are no penalties necessary for this bill

Effective Date:

This bill will go into effect on January 1, 2022.