

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24

INTRODUCED BY J. SHOCKLEY

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY TO INVESTIGATE THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE PLAN FOR SELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

WHEREAS, the President of the United States is the leader of the free world; and

WHEREAS, Article II, section 1, of the United States Constitution gives each state legislature the right to decide how to appoint its own delegates to the electoral college to elect the President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Montana currently awards 100% of its electoral votes to the candidate with the most votes statewide regardless of the candidate garnering the most votes nationwide; and

WHEREAS, this system can result and has resulted in the election of candidates for the President of the United States who failed to gain the most votes in the nationwide election; and

WHEREAS, currently most of the presidential campaign resources and media attention go to a handful of states, which does not include Montana; and

WHEREAS, 72% of Americans favor replacing the current system with a system that would guarantee the presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes nationwide; and

WHEREAS, 72% of Montanans also favor a system guaranteeing the presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the National Popular Vote plan is being considered in many states and has already been adopted in several states; and

WHEREAS, this form of election for the President of the United States is receiving the attention and consideration of states with both large and small populations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to:

- (1) evaluate the state's current process to elect the President of the United States; and



1 (2) investigate options, including the National Popular Vote plan, for enhancing each Montana voter's
2 voice regarding selection of the President of the United States and for enhancing the now negligible presidential
3 campaign resources and attention devoted to Montana.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study consider:

5 (1) the results of recent state and regional studies on the subject of selecting the President of the United
6 States;

7 (2) the negligible share of presidential campaign resources and attention now devoted to Montana; and

8 (3) the arguments for and against electing the President of the United states by national popular vote,
9 particularly by states with small populations and states situated within our region of the country.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be
11 presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review
13 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2012.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,
15 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 63rd Legislature.

16 - END -