

If you don't regularly receive my reports, request a free subscription at steve_bakke@comcast.net!
Follow me on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BakkeSteve> and receive links to my posts and more!

 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"**
**OPPOSITION TO THE
ELECTORAL COLLEGE:
IS IT A SOLUTION IN
SEARCH OF A PROBLEM?**



By Stephen L. Bakke  March 10, 2016

Here's what provoked me:

An opinion originally appearing in the Washington Post was picked up in the Minneapolis StarTribune's "Opinion Exchange" section. It encourages a revolution of government, including doing away with the Electoral College so that Presidents are elected by direct popular vote. Nowhere does the writer discuss the original reasons for the current process, an analysis of which should be done in order for an objective decision to be made. Remember, our Founders set us up as a representative republic, not as a pure democracy. A balanced presentation should be insisted upon, so I tried to get that process moving with a brief letter to the Editor.

Here's my response:

Opposition to the Electoral College: Is It a Solution in Search of a Problem?

Jonathan Turley gave his opinion on how citizens can have a more direct and meaningful role in government ("Voters want a revolution. Here's what it would take," Opinion Exchange, March 8). One of several desires is having "direct, majority-based" Presidential elections, thereby eliminating the Electoral College process.

Douglas Allchin takes a more focused view in supporting Turley's goal. He would focus exclusively on achieving "one person, one vote." He states: "We need nothing so elaborate as overhauling the Constitution." But Allchin misses the point that the electoral process IS provided for in the Constitution and eliminating it WOULD require a Constitutional amendment.

These writers might be delighted by a movement currently afoot to effectively accomplish this merely by agreement between states, without a formal Constitutional amendment process. It's called the "National Popular Vote Interstate Compact." This would forego a vote by Congress, by the states, and even a Constitutional Convention. States would agree to cast their electoral votes for the candidate winning the popular vote. 10 heavily democrat states, controlling 165 electoral votes, are currently "signed on." Just a few more states will be required to control the necessary 270 out of 538 total electoral votes.

Thankfully, the agreement won't be definitive because of serious Constitutional issues involved with states entering into "any agreement or compact" with another state. Before getting behind this movement, one should take the time to understand our valuable system of "checks and balances," and reasons why the Founders set us up as a "representative republic."