

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 21

Session of  
1999

INTRODUCED BY ORIE, NAILOR, GEIST, THOMAS, GRUCELA, SURRA,  
RAMOS, TIGUE, HERSHEY, FREEMAN, PESCI, MUNDY, LAUGHLIN,  
YOUNGBLOOD AND BARRAR, FEBRUARY 2, 1999

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,  
FEBRUARY 2, 1999

## A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the Congress of the United States to enact  
2 legislation to amend the Constitution of the United States to  
3 abolish the Electoral College and to provide for the direct  
4 election of the President and Vice President of the United  
5 States.

6 WHEREAS, The Electoral College is an archaic method by which  
7 the President and Vice President of the United States of America  
8 are elected and was created by the Framers of the Constitution  
9 as a compromise between electing presidents by the Congress of  
10 the United States or by direct popular vote; and

11 WHEREAS, Since January 6, 1797, when Representative William  
12 L. Smith introduced in Congress the first proposed  
13 constitutional amendment for reform of the Electoral College  
14 system, hardly a session of Congress has passed without the  
15 introduction of one or more resolutions of this nature; and

16 WHEREAS, The development of national political parties and  
17 the nomination of tickets for President and Vice President  
18 created further confusion in the electoral system; and

1       WHEREAS, The constitutional provisions governing the  
2       selection of the President and Vice President have had few  
3       defenders, and many efforts at Electoral College reform have  
4       been undertaken; and

5       WHEREAS, In recent years public interest in a change in the  
6       Electoral College system was spurred by the close 1960 and 1968  
7       elections, by a series of United States Supreme Court rulings  
8       relating to apportionment and districting and by introduction of  
9       the unpledged elector systems in the southern states; and

10      WHEREAS, Since the ratification of the Constitution of the  
11      United States, tremendous strides in technology and  
12      communications have occurred with the development of radio,  
13      television, computers and high speed data collection that would  
14      permit an exact count of the popular vote, all of which must be  
15      considered in any discussion of the value of the Electoral  
16      College; and

17      WHEREAS, A direct election campaign would provide an  
18      incentive for more geographically and demographically diverse  
19      campaigns; and

20      WHEREAS, In a direct election each and every vote would  
21      count, and increased voter participation would improve the  
22      quality of campaigns at the state and local level by encouraging  
23      stronger candidates and a more informed electorate; and

24      WHEREAS, The American public has consistently shown through  
25      polls that it supports abolition of the Electoral College;  
26      therefore be it

27      RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
28      Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize Congress to enact  
29      legislation to amend the Constitution of the United States to  
30      abolish the Electoral College and to provide for the direct

1 election of the President and Vice President of the United  
2 States; and be it further  
3       RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
4 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each  
5 member of Congress from Pennsylvania.