

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 23

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing that the Senate is made more representative by adding twelve Senators to be elected nationwide through ranked choice voting, and providing for twelve Electors at-large for President and Vice President, who shall cast their ballots for the respective winners of the national popular vote.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 31, 2023

Mr. CASTEN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER) submitted the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing that the Senate is made more representative by adding twelve Senators to be elected nationwide through ranked choice voting, and providing for twelve Electors at-large for President and Vice President, who shall cast their ballots for the respective winners of the national popular vote.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled*
3 *(two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the fol-*
4 *lowing article is proposed as an amendment to the Con-*

1 stitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all
2 intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when
3 ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several
4 States:

5 “ARTICLE —

6 “SECTION 1. In addition to the Senators from each
7 of the several States, the Senate of the United States shall
8 be composed of twelve Senators at-large, who shall be
9 elected by the People of the United States for six years,
10 and each Senator at-large shall have one vote. Senators
11 at-large shall meet the same age and citizenship require-
12 ments as the Senators from each of the several States.

13 “SECTION 2. Senators at-large shall be elected using
14 a nationwide system of ranked choice voting, under which
15 each eligible elector may rank the candidates for office in
16 the order of the elector’s preference. Each elector’s rank-
17 ing shall hold equal weight in the determination of winning
18 candidates. Seats of the Senators at-large shall be divided
19 equally among the three Classes of Senate seats, so that
20 one-third may be chosen every second year. Except as pro-
21 vided in section four of this article, all candidates shall
22 appear on a single ballot, with the number of winning can-
23 didates being equal to the number of seats of Senators
24 at-large then up for election. The first election of Senators
25 at-large shall occur no later than the second regularly

1 scheduled general election for Federal office following the
2 date of the ratification of this article.

3 “SECTION 3. An eligible elector shall include any
4 United States citizen who is eighteen years of age or older;
5 who has registered to vote by the deadline of the citizen’s
6 State of residence; and who otherwise meets the eligibility
7 requirements, as set by the citizen’s State of residence,
8 for voting in a general election for Federal office.

9 “SECTION 4. Within thirty days of the seat of a Sen-
10 ator at-large becoming vacant, the President shall fill the
11 vacancy by appointing a Senator at-large of the same po-
12 litical party as the departing incumbent. If the seat is not
13 up for election at the next regularly scheduled general
14 election for Federal office, a special election shall be held
15 to determine who shall serve the remainder of the term.
16 Such special election shall coincide with the next regularly
17 scheduled general election for Federal office, and can-
18 didates for the seat shall appear on a ballot separate from
19 that of the other seats of Senators at-large then up for
20 election.

21 “SECTION 5. The election of Senators at-large shall
22 be administered by each of the several States. Each State
23 shall submit all ballots cast within its jurisdiction to such
24 Federal entity as Congress shall by law provide, which

1 shall collect and count the ballots and announce the win-
2 ners.

3 “SECTION 6. References in this article to the States
4 and the electors thereof shall apply in the same manner
5 to United States territories and the electors thereof and
6 to the District constituting the seat of Government of the
7 United States and the electors thereof.

8 “SECTION 7. In addition to the Electors for President
9 and Vice President appointed by each of the several
10 States, there shall be twelve Electors at-large, who shall
11 be appointed in such manner as Congress shall by law pro-
12 vide. Electors at-large shall hold the same powers and du-
13 ties of Electors for President and Vice President, except
14 that Electors at-large shall meet in the District consti-
15 tuting the seat of Government of the United States, where
16 they shall cast their ballots for the presidential and vice-
17 presidential candidates having received the greatest num-
18 ber of votes cast by citizens of the United States. Electors
19 at-large shall be included in determining the whole number
20 of Electors appointed for the purposes of the twelfth arti-
21 cle of amendment.

22 “SECTION 8. Congress shall have power to enforce
23 this article by appropriate legislation, including by pro-
24 viding for the procedures under which the nationwide sys-

1 tem of ranked choice voting, required by section two, shall
2 be conducted.”.

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