1-1-1956

Constitutional amendment to modify state electors' votes to reflect the popular vote

Strom Thurmond

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Recommended Citation
Thurmond, Strom, 'Constitutional amendment to modify state electors' votes to reflect the popular vote' (1956). Strom Thurmond Collection, Mss100. 1367.
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AN ANALYSIS OF A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY SENATOR THURMOND TO MODIFY THE VALUE OF STATE ELECTORS' VOTES SO AS TO REFLECT MORE ACCURATELY THE VOTE OF THE PEOPLE RECEIVED BY ELECTORS FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT.

This plan would:

1. Give electoral votes to candidates for elector for President and Vice President in proportion to the total successful number of votes cast by the people for each candidate for elector. Under the system followed by the political parties in placing slates of candidates for elector on the ticket, this would mean, generally, that electoral votes would be limited to the top three slates.

Technically, this would mean a division of the total electoral vote of each State so as to provide that any candidate for elector receiving a sufficient number of votes to rank him among a total number of candidates not exceeding three times the total number of electoral votes to which his State is entitled, would be entitled to an electoral vote equivalent to his ratio of the total number of votes cast for all successful candidates.

Example: New York has 45 electoral votes. Under this plan it would be possible for 135 candidates for elector to receive fractional electoral votes to cast for a candidate for President and Vice President. In South Carolina, which has 8 electoral votes, it would be possible for 24 electors to cast fractional votes.

2. More accurately reflect in the national total of 531 electoral votes for President and Vice President the proportion of the popular vote cast for each candidate.
3. Select electors in direct proportion to the will of the people.

4. Preserve the independence of the individual elector.

5. Retain the present electoral college without any change in the mechanics of the system.

6. Protect the rights of the States (as the Constitution now does) for political parties to select their slates of electors by whatever method they desire.