
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8009

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2003 Regular Session

By Senators Schmidt, Fairley, Horn, Kohl-Welles and Winsley; by request of Secretary of State

Read first time 01/27/2003. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, It has become obvious that the manner and method by which
9 presidential nominees are selected in the fifty sovereign states of
10 this federal union could benefit from a new method; and

11 WHEREAS, A regional presidential primary system would end the
12 current practice of states trying to "front load" the presidential
13 primary calendar; and

14 WHEREAS, Such a plan would allow the selection of national
15 convention delegates to be grouped by region beginning in 2004 with the
16 West in March followed by the Midwest in April, the South in May, and
17 the East in June; and

18 WHEREAS, A regional primary could be rotated among the regions with
19 the Midwest moving to first, followed by the South, East, and West in
20 the 2008 election; and

1 WHEREAS, Provisions could be established to assure that two states
2 with smaller populations could always have a chance to conduct a
3 presidential primary before the regional primaries occurred; and

4 WHEREAS, Possible regional groupings to start the rotating regional
5 primary system in the 2004 presidential election could be as follows:

6 West: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho,
7 Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and
8 Guam.

9 Midwest: Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri,
10 Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

11 South: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana,
12 Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee,
13 Texas, Virginia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

14 East: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New
15 Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia,
16 and the District of Columbia; and

17 WHEREAS, Recognizing the historically important role that smaller
18 states have played in the presidential election process, the states of
19 New Hampshire and Iowa would be allowed to conduct their primary
20 election or caucus before the start of the rotation schedule;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United
22 States Congress, without delay, provide for a rotating regional
23 presidential primary system in 2004.

24 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
25 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
26 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
27 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
28 Washington.

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