

Introduced: 1/22/70  
Referred: State Affairs  
and Judiciary

1 IN THE SENATE

BY LEWIS

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 71

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the position of the State  
6 of Alaska regarding the direct election  
7 of the President and Vice-President.

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 WHEREAS, under the Constitution of the United States, Presidential and  
10 Vice-Presidential electors in the several states are now elected on a state-  
11 wide basis, each state being entitled to as many electors as it has senators  
12 and representatives in Congress; and

13 WHEREAS the Presidential and Vice-Presidential electors who receive the  
14 plurality of the popular vote in a particular state become entitled to cast  
15 the total number of electoral votes allocated to that state regardless of  
16 how many votes have been cast for other elector candidates; and

17 WHEREAS this method of electing the President and Vice-President is  
18 vital to the federal framework of our government envisioned by the founding  
19 fathers; and

20 WHEREAS the change to a direct election would lead to irresistible  
21 pressure for national laws governing election procedures and voter qualifi-  
22 cations which in turn would constitute a blow to state power and jeopardize  
23 the states' control over election procedures and voter qualifications for  
24 all other offices; and

25 WHEREAS direct election of the President and Vice-President would under-  
26 mine the stabilizing influence associated with the federal system of allowing  
27 the states to operate as political units; and

28 WHEREAS this new Presidential election procedure would deprive a state  
29 with a small population, such as Alaska, of the slight advantage it enjoys

1 through the two extra electoral votes accorded each state regardless of size.

2 BE IT RESOLVED that the Sixth Alaska Legislature, through this Resolu-  
3 tion, expresses its opposition to the direct election of the President and  
4 Vice-President.

5 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M.  
6 Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable John W. McCormack,  
7 Speaker of the House of Representatives; the Honorable Richard B. Russell,  
8 President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and  
9 the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Howard W.  
10 Pollock, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.  
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