



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE TESTIFIES ON ELECTORAL REFORM

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole testified as the lead-off witness today at the Subcommittee on Constitutional Amendments of the Senate Judiciary Committee's hearings on electoral reform.

"Although it has seen the country through forty-three elections, the system of choosing a President requires major improvement," Dole said. "The fact that it has worked so far, does not obscure the haunting prospect that a number of eminently plausible circumstances could result in the presidential mandate being cast under a cloud that would threaten our tradition of orderly succession of power."

"The system of direct election of the president embodied in S.J. Res.1 appears to meet the need for change and in ways which satisfy the most important requirements of our democratic system. It provides an acceptable approach to electoral reform on the basis of three considerations: (1) Its simplicity and certainty of operation; (2) Its conformity with the patterns and practices of modern political life; and (3) Its compatibility with the strength and growth of the two party system."

"Direct election is the most straightforward electoral reform measure I have seen so far, for it makes the ballots cast by the individual voters the primary determinant of any election."

"Direct election offers real hope of promoting the interest of every American in seeing that his vote is equal to that of any other citizen, regardless of the size of his state. It also holds the seeds of opportunities and incentives for the Republican and Democratic parties to expand their efforts to reach the voting population and build broader and more effective consensus coalitions."