4/14/2016

135th KZGN News Talking Points Editorial

By Tom Wiknich

As we hear about delegate battles, is it time to get rid of the delegate and Electoral College system of elections?

As the presidential campaigns march along, we are now hearing about the possibly corrupt delegate system in both parties. They both have problems. The problem is rooted in power, plain and simple. Power.

Trump is making charges of unfair delegate distribution by the RNC rules. What he says makes sense. The democrats have the super delegates. Good grief. These are nothing more than establishment hacks that tow the party line and exert power over the candidates. Why do the rules make a distribution of delegates where the person that wins the popular vote for the whole state, can be awarded less delegates than the looser in the election?

Before someone proclaims I need to read the rules for that determination, I declare I have read the rules. I understand them. I do understand how that can happen, but is it right? I cannot fathom a set of rules that allows the popular vote winner to get fewer delegates than the loser. Any set of rules should be made with this first rule. The winner of the state’s popular vote must get at least one more delegate than the next placing candidate in the process, at least one more. Probably more than that based on percentage points. The popular vote has to stand for something. It has to be the main factor in awarding delegates. If there is a rule of proportioned delegates, then the formula must be set in a manner to allow the winner of the popular vote to get more delegates than any other candidate. This world of super delegates and formulas that seem to favor a certain type of candidate has to go.

Let me be clear on this popular vote notion though. The main reason that some states have set up this unusual distribution of calculating delegates has merit. The rule is meant to solve a similar problem we have in California. We are not alone. Distribution formulas are set up to balance the power of large popular voting areas of a state to the lesser populated areas. It is meant to balance the power for all the voters, but, that formula must be appropriate. Too often, party officials have the formulas set to allow them to make major decisions concerning who actually serves as a delegate. Like the Colorado Trump delegate that got replaced by the Colorado party chief with a Cruz-supporting delegate. That is wrong. Too few people making the decisions on whom our candidate should be: power. It’s all about power. Power equals money. Eventually we get to the real election. Then, we get to the Electoral College.

Just imagine this. Consider how the establishment is fighting Trump’s and Sanders’ nominations. Just consider for a moment, both of them ultimately winning the nominations. Then, we have a Sanders/Trump election. I’m not going to get into who would win, that is not the purpose of this editorial. We have Sanders against Trump. Also consider there is no real viable third party candidate. Now, here comes the Electoral College. These are the people that ultimately elect the president. There are 538 Electoral College votes. This, too, is a power set up. While these electoral voters are supposed to vote in accordance with their own states popular vote, they don’t have to. Each state has its own rules how these people can vote. That’s why it is possible to have a president win the election, that did not get the majority of the popular vote.

What happens if the majority of these electoral voters don’t want either Trump or Sanders? Do they put up their own third party candidate? Think about it. I won’t go any further into that prospect now. Back to the current situation in the primaries, I agree that the states must have a way to distribute the delegates in a fair manner. Some states are winner take all. Most states have some formula to distribute the delegates. Right now, I hear the RNC is currently refiguring the South Carolina delegate distribution. This in an effort to deny Trump the amount he won there. Are you kidding me? How powerful is this establishment? I think they are much more powerful than any of us outsiders ever imagined. I stay pretty close to political actions, but, what is happening now is even more than I imagined.

All of you out there have got to understand this Washington power battle is momentous. Both parties appear to have candidates that are not part of that power system. They are not going to easily accept this loss of power. They will fight tooth and nail to the end. Even to the destruction of their party. You ask, why would they let their party destruct? It’s actually very simple: because, they would rather lose an election and a party, than lose the power. If they destroy the party, they’ll just build a new one for the next election—a new party they control.

While they will say on every talk show they value the people’s vote, no they don’t. If they did, they wouldn’t be fighting the vote of the people now. It’s all about power. They seem willing to sacrifice the country and circumvent the will of the people, as long as they maintain their power. The question of this editorial is: is it time to get rid of the current delegate and Electoral College systems?

We’ll discuss the Electoral College later this year, but the current delegate primary system can’t go away. I believe formulas for delegate distribution needs to have more emphasis on we the people’s votes. The candidate with the most popular votes must at least get one more delegate than any other losing candidate. The people’s vote has to mean something.

In conclusion, the power in Washington is now out there for all of us to see. These elitists are not going to give it up easy. This is about both parties. We, the people, have to take back control of the power. It’s time.

I’m Tom Wiknich, and that’s what I think. I’d like to know what you think. If you have any comments about this editorial, or would like to discuss or recommend a topic, I’d like to hear from you. Please email them to info@kzgn.net.