

SENATE No. 387

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Eric P. Lesser

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolution:

Resolutions calling on Congress to abolish the Electoral College and allow for the direct election of the President and Vice President by the popular vote of all citizens of the United States.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Eric P. Lesser</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>	
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>	<i>1/23/2017</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>	<i>1/25/2017</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>1/30/2017</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Cynthia Stone Creem</i>	<i>First Middlesex and Norfolk</i>	<i>3/13/2017</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/21/2017</i>

SENATE No. 387

By Mr. Lesser, a petition (accompanied by resolution, Senate, No. 387) of Eric P. Lesser, Michael J. Barrett, Lori A. Ehrlich, Sal N. DiDomenico and other members of the General Court for the adoption of resolutions calling on Congress to abolish the Electoral College and allow for the direct election of the President and Vice President by the popular vote of all citizens of the United States. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

Resolutions calling on Congress to abolish the Electoral College and allow for the direct election of the President and Vice President by the popular vote of all citizens of the United States.

1 WHEREAS, the Electoral College was established by Article II, Section One of the
2 United States Constitution whereby states are directed to appoint electors who then meet and cast
3 votes for president and vice president of the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, voters who cast ballots in the presidential election every four years delegate
5 their votes to one of 538 electors, rather than voting directly for their preferred candidate; and

6 WHEREAS, on five different occasions throughout history, including twice in the last
7 sixteen years, the president and vice president of the United States lost the national popular vote
8 but were elected by winning a majority of the Electoral College; and

9 WHEREAS, the method of electing the president and vice president of the United States
10 contradicts the principle of “one person, one vote,” which the United State Supreme Court
11 established in Reynolds v. Sims under the Constitution’s Equal Protection Clause; and

12 WHEREAS, the method of electing United States Senators and Representatives, state
13 governors and legislators, and local officials are selected by popular vote of the people within the
14 corresponding state or district; and

15 WHEREAS, the voters of Massachusetts have been disenfranchised and left to feel like
16 their vote does not count; and

17 WHEREAS, abolishing the Electoral College requires a Constitutional amendment,
18 governed by Article V of the Constitution, which calls for both houses of the United States
19 Congress to pass by a two-thirds vote a proposal that is subsequently sent to the states for
20 ratification, either by state legislatures or conventions within the states, by a three-fourths vote of
21 the states; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts Legislature calls on the United States Congress to
23 propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United States abolishing the Electoral College
24 and allowing for the direct election of the President and Vice President by the popular vote of all
25 citizens of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the
26 Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States; and be it
27 further

28 RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Clerk of
29 the Massachusetts Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of
30 the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Minority
31 Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the United
32 States Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from Massachusetts in the United States
33 Congress.