
From: John Dale <jcdaled@protonmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 1:35 PM
To: ATG Ballot Comments
Subject: [EXT] Interplay between democracy and republicanism ..

Good Afternoon;

These thoughts and opinions are with respect to the proposal to put regulation on the ability of the South Dakota legislature to change the citizens initiative process.

Whether we should embrace pure democracy depends on the wisdom of the crowd.

The salient point:

An unwise crowd turns into an angry mob, which can have bad consequences at the ballot box.

The initiative process in South Dakota is not pure democracy, but could hobble the ability of the legislature to react accordingly to some really bad initiatives become law without legislative reinforcement.

For your consideration: The wisdom of the crowd suffers by the addition of fluoride in the water, known to lower IQ.

Of note: I am a fan of representative republican democracy with constituent rights for audit.

Mr. Weiland's proposal seems to question the efficacy of our legislature in dealing with the political wishes of large numbers of concerned SD citizens.

If this characterization of the legislature is correct, it begs the question, is our legislature also drinking too much fluoridated water?

Inasmuch as the people of South Dakota seem disconnected with the direction of the legislature, it seems wise to preserve, even in the face of chemically induced idiocy, the citizens right to petition to the extent it the SD political process does not devolve into a pure democracy.

It stands credulity that some limitations be placed on the legislature's ability to react too harshly to the informative citizens initiative process, which serves to answer the question, "what is at the top-of-mind of the South Dakota rank-and-file, so much so that they would sign their names en mass in lieu of mass producing pitch forks and torches?"

Thank you for considering my thoughts and opinions.

Sincerely,

John Dale

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