The Elementary School District Empowerment System: Reorganizing State Governments from the Bottom-Up

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March 12, 2021

The Elementary School District Empowerment System is summarized in Article XVI of The Third Constitution of the United States.

ARTICLE XVI: Bottom-up Reorganization of the 50 State Governments: A Recommendation State governments will be encouraged to rewrite their state constitutions so that they are organized from the bottom-up, not the top-down: from the elementary school district (which would also be a voting precinct district) to the township level, up to the county level, up to the state level. Each level of legislative government can make not just legislative decisions but also make executive and judicial branch appointments for that level. Elected legislators at each level may vote among themselves to send a legislator to the next level above it. This method is better than the previous system in which state and local citizens often voted a straight ticket for many officers from two parties for candidates whom they knew nothing about. States could also be encouraged to consider direct democracy at precinct, township, city, and county levels of government.

State governments are also encouraged to allow the residents of any public elementary, middle, or high school geographical district to abolish its public school with a 51 percent majority vote. (End of Article XVI of the Third Constitution of the United States)

The Third Constitution of the United States shares a new method for reorganizing a state government (that would be optional) as described briefly in Article XVI called the Elementary School District Empowerment System.

Here is a more expanded explanation of how the Elementary School District Empowerment System can work:

Essentially the elementary school district (which would also be a voting precinct district) would start the process of building government from the bottom-up--from the elementary school district legislative board, to the township legislative board, to the county legislative board, to the state legislative board, the highest level.

Each elementary school district, township, county, and state legislative board will also be empowered to appoint officers to executive and judicial branches of government for their levels. For example, the county legislative board would be empowered to make executive branch appointments and judicial branch appointments for the county level. This policy makes the legislative branch more powerful than the executive and judicial branches of government.

The Elementary School District Empowerment System builds government from the bottom-up (something that has never been tried before) rather than from the top-down. However, higher levels of government can override the decisions of lower levels of government. But a lower governing body can replace the representative it sends to a higher governing body. At every level of government, participatory and consensus democracy can be encouraged.

Each elementary school district will choose one representative to serve on the township board. The township board will have legislative powers, and it will also make judicial and executive appointments that pertain to that particular township. Each township board will vote (among themselves) and send one representative to the county board. The county board will have legislative powers and make judicial and executive appointments that pertain to that county. Each county board will vote (among themselves) and send one of its board members to the state

government board. The county board could also choose one of its members to serve as mayor of the city/county government. The state government board will have legislative powers and make judicial and executive appointments. The state government board could also choose one of its members to serve as the governor of the state.

In the past, many Americans voted a straight ticket for several political officials about whom they knew very little. Therefore, citizens will no longer vote for a county recorder, state auditor, and numerous similar officials. The legislative boards will now choose or appoint officers to serve in the executive and judicial branches of government.

Members of an elementary school district can replace their representative who represents them on their township board if they are not happy with that person's voting record and performance through elections every 2 years. A township legislative board can choose to elect a different person to sit on the county legislative board. And a county legislative board can also choose a different person to represent it at the state legislative level.

To explain this new structure of state government, take the city of Indianapolis, Indiana, for example. The city of Indianapolis and Marion County largely have geographical boundaries that coincide. If there are 600 elementary schools in Indianapolis, there can be 600 voting precincts in Indianapolis, which geographically takes up almost all of Marion County. Indiana has 92 counties.

There are 9 townships inside the county. That means each township board will consist of 66-67 precinct representatives (600 precincts divided by 9 townships equal 66.6). Each of the 9 township boards will elect one representative to serve on its county board, which will thus have 9 members.

There are 92 counties in Indiana, so therefore there would be 92 members on the state legislative board, which would replace the current Indiana House and Senate state legislators. Each state legislator previously represented about 600,000 or more adult voters, a number that was way too large because legislators could not get to know their constituents on a personal level. An elementary school district delegate to the township board, on the other hand, could become acquainted with all of the 500 voters in his or her precinct.

The following scenario will help clarify how this Elementary School District Empowerment System can work under the Third Constitution of the United States. Though it may seem difficult to read at first, it is worth understanding because it builds government from the bottom-up. It empowers elementary school districts and creates a greater sense of neighborhood togetherness and community solidarity.

An elementary school district can only have one representative in the entire state legislative government system. That representative will either serve at the township level, the county level, or the state level. An elementary school district, at the least, will have one representative on the township board. At best, that precinct could have a representative who serves on the state legislative board.

But then from the township legislative board, a particular precinct representative can advance to the county board, and then possibly from the county legislative board to the state legislative board, the highest level in the state government system. To repeat, each precinct will only have one person represented in the state government system; some elementary school district representatives will advance to higher levels of government, and others will not.

Wayne Township is one of the nine townships in Marion County in Indiana, and Marion County is one of 92 counties in the state.

Let us say Wayne Township has 67 school districts or precincts (Precincts #533-600) of the 600 precincts in all of Marion County. Mrs. Smith lives in Precinct #539 in Wayne Township, and Precinct #539 elects Mrs. Smith to serve on the Wayne Township legislative board. But then 3 years later the Wayne Township legislative board who is pleased with Mrs. Smith's performance and votes among themselves to promote Mrs. Smith to represent them on the 9-membered Marion County legislative board. Mr. Jones from Precinct #581 had been representing the Wayne Township legislative board before at the Marion County legislative board before they chose Mrs. Smith.

Now when the Wayne Township legislative board advanced Mrs. Smith from Precinct # 539 to the Marion County legislative board, it was short of one member. From which precinct will the Wayne Township legislative board get a new member? It will get a new member from Precinct # 581 because when Mr. Jones was removed from county government, his precinct had no representative in government.

Now, let us say the Marion County legislative board also really likes Mrs. Smith's expertise, as she keeps moving higher up the ladder. They vote among themselves and choose Mrs. Smith to represent them on the Indiana State legislative board, replacing Mr. Poindexter, their representative from Precinct #545. Mr. Poindexter is now removed from state government altogether, which means Precinct #545 has no one in state government, so it will have to vote for someone to serve on the Wayne Township legislative board.

As Mrs. Smith from Precinct #539 serves on the Indiana State legislative board (which has 92 members, one from each county in Indiana), she will have to keep convincing the Marion County legislative board where she came from that she is doing a good job because if she is not, she could be removed from the state level by the Marion County legislative board who put her there. Moreover, when Precinct #539 has elections every two years, it also could remove Mrs. Smith, and if it should do so, the person

they vote for will represent Precinct #539 at the Wayne Township legislative board. However, since Mrs. Smith has advanced to the highest level, Precinct #539 will probably not want to remove her from government altogether, but it would have the power to do that.

Now let us say that after 5 years, the Marion County legislative board is no longer happy with Mrs. Smith from Precinct #539, who is representing them at the state level. The Marion County legislative board now chooses Mr. Davis, one of its members form Precinct #32, which is located in Perry Township, one of the 9 townships in Marion County, to serve on the Indiana state legislative board. Perry Township consists of Precincts 1-67 of the 600 precincts in Marion County, which largely encompasses the city of Indianapolis.

So now Mrs. Smith from Precinct #539 is removed from government altogether, and Precinct #539 will have to elect someone to serve on the Wayne Township legislative board.

When the Marion County legislative board (consisting of 9 members, one from each township) advanced Mr. Davis to the Indiana State legislative board, it was short of one member. Which township will Marion County get its new member from? From Wayne Township, because Mrs. Smith, who was removed from her position at the state legislative board altogether, came from Wayne Township.

Under the previous federal government system before the Third Constitution was adopted, the bicameral Indiana State Legislature consisted of 50 representatives in the Indiana Senate and 100 representatives in the Indiana House. If Indiana chooses the Precinct Empowerment System of state government organization under the Third Constitution of the United States, then the Indiana State Government Board, consisting of one member from each of the 92 counties in Indiana, would replace the former 150 representatives from the Indiana House and Senate.

Indiana has 10 federal legislators who serve in the US House of Representatives and also 2 US Senators (like every other state). Since the US Senate is eliminated under the Third Constitution, Indiana will have 10 federal legislators to serve in the new, unicameral federal legislature, which will have 435 members, based on a system of Proportional Representation.

Hypothetically this US federal legislature could be represented by the following 7 largest national political parties: 32% Republican, 28% Democrat, 11% Libertarian, 10% Green, 10% Constitution Party, 5% Socialist, and 3% Communist.

So, if the citizens of Indiana with a 51% majority choose the Precinct Empowerment System of state government organization, that would mean that each Indiana citizen would vote for one person from his or her precinct to serve in state government, either at the township legislative level, the county legislative level, or the state legislative level.

Moreover, each Indiana voter will also vote for a president of the United States using a system of ranked choice voting, and the voter will choose a national political party to be represented in the unicameral federal legislature. That makes a total of only 3 elected officials to closely monitor, as opposed to voting a straight ticket for countless township, county, and state officers whom the voter usually knows very little about.

Under the Elementary School District Empowerment System, a state will grant its counties with a maximum degree of self-determination, and each county will grant its townships with a maximum degree of self-determination, and each township will grant its elementary school districts with a maximum degree of self-determination. All levels will have the maximum amount of self-determination or autonomy. This Bottom-Up System of state government organization is more democratic than having a top-down system of state government.

After adopting the Elementary School District Empowerment System, a state government board with a 51% majority vote could decide that it no longer wants the Elementary School District Empowerment System. In that case, it would have to organize a state constitutional convention, in which each county would send one representative to the convention. After the state constitutional convention creates a new state constitution, it will then need to be ratified by the citizens of that state with a 51 percent majority.

(End of Expanded Explanation of the Elementary School District Empowerment System: Building Intentional Community and Reorganizing State Governments from the Bottom-Up)

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