



National Conference of State Legislatures

524988

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Washington, D.C. 20001
202/624-5400

President Irving J. Stolberg
Speaker
House of Representatives
Connecticut

Executive Director
William T. Pound

H. Rauden

October 23, 1987

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC

Dear President Reagan:

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures, I am forwarding to you an enclosed copy of a newly-adopted policy urging Congress to permit citizens of U.S. territories to vote in presidential elections. This policy was adopted overwhelmingly by state legislators attending our annual meeting in July 1987.

House Joint Resolution 217, which has been referred to the Judiciary Committee, calls for a consolidated amendment which would grant citizens voting rights in presidential elections. I urge the Committee to conduct hearings on HJR 217 as expeditiously as possible and encourage its passage in both houses during the 100th Congress.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tom Loftus

Tom Loftus
Speaker, Wisconsin
Assembly
Chair, NCSL State-Federal
Assembly



National Conference of State Legislatures

OFFICIAL POLICY

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Appointment of Electors by the Territories

The Constitution of the United States requires equal protection under the law.

The twenty-third article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States enabled the people of the District of Columbia to vote for the President and the Vice President of the United States.

Citizens of the United States who relocate from any of the fifty states to any of the American territories lose their constitutional right to vote for the two highest public offices in the nation.

American citizens who are residents of the American territories are denied equal protection and are thus discriminated against as a result of being denied the franchise to vote in the national elections of the United States.

Americans living in foreign countries are not denied the right to vote for President and Vice President of the United States.

One hundred and eighteen members of the United States House of Representatives introduced House Joint Resolution 217, which proposes an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to provide for the appointment of electors of President and Vice President of the United States by the Virgin Islands of the United States, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

House Joint Resolution 217 is currently pending before the United States House of Representatives' Committee on the Judiciary.

As American citizens the residents of the American territories are entitled to the privilege of voting in the national elections of the United States.

The National Conference of State Legislatures hereby expresses its support of House Joint Resolution 217, "Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to provide for the appointment of electors of President and Vice President by the Virgin Islands of the United States, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,"



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and urges all members of the United States Congress to give this pending legislation their support.

A copy of this resolution shall immediately upon its passage be forwarded to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States as presiding officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and the members of the United States Senate and House Committees on the Judiciary.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

NOVEMBER 4, 1987

TO: DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

ACTION REQUESTED:
APPROPRIATE ACTION

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 524988
MEDIA: LETTER, DATED OCTOBER 23, 1987
TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN
FROM: THE HONORABLE TOM LOFTUS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
CHAIR
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE -
FEDERAL ASSEMBLY
SUITE 500
444 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON DC 20001

SUBJECT: ENCLOSURES COPY OF RESOLUTION, ON BEHALF OF THE
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES,
URGING CONGRESS TO PERMIT CITIZENS OF U.S.
TERRITORIES TO VOTE IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE