

Eliminate the United States Senate 60 vote Filibuster

The U.S. House 60 vote Filibuster is an important issue which I hope be decided well before the house turns over in 2022, but will need a great deal more support than it has garnered to date.

I am reviewing "The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure" by Alice Sturgis which is a non-partisan authority on modern Parliamentary Process, a respected alternative to Robert's Rules. In Chapter 16 page 131, there is a surprising discussion about the 2/3 majority vote. I quote it here.

"Some people mistakenly assume that the higher the vote required to take an action, the greater the protection of the members. Instead, the opposite is true. Whenever a vote of more than a majority is required, control is taken from the majority and given to a minority. For example, when a two-thirds vote is required, the minority need be only one-third plus one member to defeat the proposal. Thus, a minority is permitted to overrule the will, not only of the majority, but of almost two-thirds of the members. If a two-thirds vote is required to pass a proposal and 65 members vote for the proposal and 35 members vote against it, the 35 members have won, the 65 have been defeated. This is minority, not majority rule.

The higher the vote required, the smaller the minority to which control passes. The requirements of a unanimous vote means that one member can overrule the decision of all the other members and thus exercise what amounts to a power to veto the action of the body.

Recognition that decision by a majority vote is an integral and vital element of democracy was clearly stated by Thomas Jefferson in a letter to Baron von Humbolt in 1817:

The first principle of republicanism is that the *lex majoris partis* is the fundamental law of every society of individuals of equal rights; to consider the will of the society enounced by the majority of a single vote, as sacred as if unanimous, is the first of all lessons in importance, yet the last which is thoroughly learnt. This law once disregarded, there is no other but that of force, which ends necessarily in military despotism...

As a general rule, however, it is unwise to require more than a majority vote to commit the organization to a course of action, because of the power it gives to a minority to override the majority's wishes."

It is incredible how often a mythology of collective assumption, so blatantly incorrect remains. For more than my lifetime, and espoused by constitutional experts who should know better, we suffer the restrictions of government function and suppression of individual or minority rights.

As such, this as the single most important immediate legislative issue for the government; to eliminate the U.S. Senate Filibuster Rule. I would support this above all other agendas as the most seminal of actions this Congress shall correct immediately.

Be well,

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