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Editor

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To The Editor:

Sam Prentice gets it wrong again. Yes, some of the founders (notably Adams and Hamilton) were suspicious of democracy. Others (Jefferson, Paine) were sympathetic. Within a generation, we were regularly described as a democracy. Many great quotes on democracy came from Jackson, Lincoln, both Roosevelts, and Reagan.

The 14th, 15th, 17th, 23rd, 24th, and 26th Amendments and arguably various others, expanded our democratic features. Yes, we have democracy-limiting checks and balances, but we've gradually grown more accustomed to "a government of the people, by the people, and for the people."

The recent conservative mantra about not being a democracy defends remaining anti-democratic provisions: the Electoral college and state's equal weighting in the Senate. This is ideology trying to retain power, nothing more.

Mr. Prentice cites the Federalist Papers in defending the Electoral College. (Odd, isn't it, how small-government conservatives love to promote the Federalist Papers whose sole purpose was to argue for a more powerful, more centralized government?) The relevant one, #68, described a collection of deliberative bodies, nothing resembling the modern Electoral College. 2016 embodied the complete failure of Hamilton's goals.

We are a democracy. We'd become a better one by eliminating the Electoral College.

Sincerely,

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