

Senators, there are three issues I wish to address in this short testimony against SB1, voting, winning and losing.

I am the daughter of immigrants. My parents understood the ramifications of having no voice in government. Voting in my family was a religious experience that was treated with the utmost seriousness. My folks researched candidates without the help of the internet and taught their five daughters that voting was essential to democracy and that it was our obligation as citizens of this country to vote in all elections. In my many years as a voter, I missed just one election. I was out of town and my absentee ballot did not arrive on time. That missed election was in a primary and there wasn't that much of importance on the ballot, but it still bothers me that I do not have a perfect record on voting. What can I say. Maybe I'm a little ocd on this issue.

Because of many factors in our state, certainly gerrymandering being the primary one, I am getting used to having limited representation in state government. I wish the composition of the legislature better represented the purplish nature of the population. But that's an issue for another day.

This November I voted for many folks that lost. I mean many. But like it or not, lots of folks I voted for were not successful. I wish the election had come out differently, but it didn't. My side was unsuccessful in convincing the majority of citizens in our state that the issues and candidates I supported were better for our country and state. I will continue to work for the agenda and candidates I support, but this time around we, meaning my side, were defeated on many fronts.

We did not lose though when citizens were asked to vote on candidates for state school board. We had a pretty decisive win. Citizens were voting on candidates that reflected their views on public education. Guess what. Just like most children in our state attend public school, most citizens support public schools. They demonstrated their support by soundly defeating candidates who reflected an anti public school agenda and voting for those candidates that support public education. Full stop.

Just like it is imperative that I recognize that many of the candidates I voted for in November legitimately lost their elections, it is equally imperative that this body support the members of the state board of education and the institution that we citizens voted on. We voted, we each won some and lost some. Changing the rules because you don't like the outcome is the anathema of democracy.

I implore this body to respect the rights of the voters and end this ridiculous idea that the State Board of Education needs to be under the governance of the Governor and allow it to function in the manner we chose in November.