Roy Saltman's presentation from EVN 2017

My presentation was based on a letter that I wrote to US Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota on April 26, 2013. The letter responded to the senator's speech two days prior on the subject "Fixing America's Broken Voting System." My letter identified five subjects for proposed Federal legislation.

The first subject was "establishing a Federal database of all citizens, as citizenship is a Federal function, not a state function." I noted in my EVN presentation that Social Security Numbers are not unique to citizens, as non-citizens entitled to work in the US will have such numbers. Furthermore, driver's licenses are also not unique to citizens. Non-citizens may have these also. I cited the case of an illegal immigrant woman who was convicted of Driving Under the Influence and subsequently deported. I aver that we don't know how many non-citizens voted, although the claim that "several million illegal immigrants voted" is certainly false and an uncalled-for insult to our election administrators. A case cited to me is a Canadian woman living in the US with her citizen husband who is illegally registered to vote here. Implementing this database will prevent such occurrences and provide more confidence in election results. A result of establishing such a database is that each citizen would have a unique "Citizenship Number" similar to (but not identical to) an SSN.

The second subject was "establishing a standard format for data interchange that will allow the voter databases of each state to easily communicate with each other as well as with the Federal database." This will assist in re-registration as citizens move across state lines or pass away. There are apparently such systems now, however not involving all states. It was reported recently that several members of the Trump White House are registered in more than one state. This is not illegal if not used for voting in more than one state.

The third subject was "employing the database and other information to provide each citizen at least 18-years old who does not have a driver's license with the necessary documentation acceptable for voting in every state." The lack of photo identification, almost always a driver's license, has been widely used to deny access to voting in a number of states. This affects primarily the poor, the elderly, the handicapped, and full-time students.

The fourth subject was "requiring each state to employ a bipartisan commission consisting of equal numbers of members from the two major parties to establish the boundaries of Congressional Districts." It is understood that gerrymandering is widespread, affecting nearly every state with more than one representative. My state, Maryland, is gerrymandered for the Democrats, but many other states are gerrymandered for the Republicans, reflecting control in the Statehouse.

The fifth subject was "requiring each state to administer elections under the control of a similar bipartisan commission at each governmental level, instead of a partisan chief state election official and partisan local government officials." Many times, there is no harm done by such

partisanship, but the 2000 election in Florida is an example of partisanship that seriously impacted the outcome.

I would add a sixth subject: "requiring the election of the President to be carried out by a national popular vote instead of by electoral votes." The popular vote winner lost the Presidential election in 2000 and in 2016. In 2000, the national popular vote winner's margin was about 500 thousand votes, but in 2016, it was 2.86 million.   A president without a popular vote win starts with two strikes against him. There has been a movement to carry out this change, but so far, it has been unsuccessful.