

Here's a crazy idea for stopping Trump

Doug Clark

December 6, 2016

Here's the craziest but most plausible suggestion for denying Donald Trump the presidency, from Michael F. Cannon of the libertarian Cato Institute:

"The only way Democrats stand any chance of persuading Republican electors to abandon Trump is with a dramatic gesture of true bipartisanship," Cannon writes in today's Washington Post. "If all 232 Democratic electors pledge to reach across the aisle and vote for a Republican alternative to Trump, it would take just 38 GOP electors to make that person the next president."

Cannon argues that such a strategy would be perfectly in keeping with the purpose of the Electoral College:

"As Alexander Hamilton explained, the electoral college provides a backstop in the event voters select a dangerously unfit candidate. 'The process of election,' Hamilton wrote, 'affords a moral certainty that the office of President will never fall to the lot of any man who is not in an eminent degree endowed with the requisite qualifications.' Electors would use their judgment to prevent the 'tumult and disorder' that would result from 'this mischief' of presidential candidates exploiting 'talents for low intrigue, and the little arts of popularity.' One might call it the cooler-heads college."

Trump has done nothing since the election to reassure those who opposed him of his fitness to hold the office of president. But if the "cooler heads" of presidential electors did abandon their duty to vote for the winner of their respective states when they meet Dec. 19, whom would they choose instead?

Cannon mentions Mitt Romney. I would prefer John Kasich, the Ohio governor who actually ran in 2016.

Could this really happen? Theoretically, I suppose. Realistically, not at all. I mean, it basically would be stealing the election.

Unless, between now and Dec. 19, Trump does something so outrageous that it becomes clear to many more Americans that he cannot become president.
And that is not beyond the realm of imagination.

Here's a plan to shift the Electoral College.