

# The Passy Press

## Letter to the Editor

**From:** Michael WYLY [pvt57@undisclosed.com](mailto:pvt57@undisclosed.com)  
**To:** Nick Gardiner [enpg@thepassypress.com](mailto:enpg@thepassypress.com)  
**Date:** October 14, 2016 at 6:07:02 PM  
**Subject:** Re: New Essay by George Cadwalader on Mandatory Voting

Dear Sir,

George Cadwalader's proposal to Constitutionally mandate voting by all citizens suggests taking an enormous risk! What, after all, do we know about the "ordinary man and woman in the street?" Are they sufficiently educated? How much do they really care – about the country? About the future?

Not to mandate voting and leave it, as it is, a purely voluntary act, is to leave decision-making in the hands of those with a vision. If that vision is a safe agenda and we know what it is, we reduce the risk. We think we know where we are going. We know who is in charge – and who has the power.

But a risk-free world is not a free world and a risk-free strategy does not win – in war, in sports, in any competition. "He who will not risk cannot win" is a valid dictum, articulated by one of our country's bravest champions of our Revolution.

When we cede the power to any group, by vote or by force, we reduce uncertainty and risk, but a new factor confronts us: power, in the hands of a few.

Power corrupts. This we know from history. Monarchies, Empires, Dictatorships, all seem destined to meet the same ends. The ruling class soon enough becomes drunk with power, and abusive of its subjects, while the middle-men who serve the king or dictator throw aside their morals and character in an unending struggle to keep themselves in the circle of the "chosen few". They hold themselves apart and estranged from "the masses" that they come to view as less-than-human.

Are not persons and parties democratically elected subject to the same corruption?

Today we live in a malaise of vague concepts and buzz words: "ground games", "October surprises". "Caucuses", concepts coined by the few who dwell in the world of politics while "We the People", so elegantly empowered in the opening line of our guiding document, grovel in the outskirts. Meanwhile, our "professional politicians' life experiences are all they know: politics, the art of deception for the purpose of seizing and holding power. In our politicians, parties, and families that have established political family traditions, we now have a new version of royalty, each representing its own dynastic prejudices and each surrounded by its own aspiring vassals, willing to do anything for "the crown".

It was the never-ending cycle of power giving way to corruption that gave birth to the dream that in 1776 became the United States of America. Adams, Franklin, Jefferson, all at one time or another expressed doubts that the dream could sustain itself forever. "The Revolution" would have to be fought

again and re-fought. A look at our Government today, the special interests, the deals, the money, the secrecy, in a word: *corruption*, proves them right.

Turning Government over to the people is a risk and the old monarchies were risk-averse on the part of those who held power. They suffered in the long run the conventional consequences of risk avoidance: the inevitable weakness of an all-defensive strategy in anything – whether war, business competition, or even sports: *defeat* from enterprising and courageous opponents.

So, mandate voting. Those who break the law deserve the penalty: a sentence of lost citizenship!

Our citizens' "rights" are spelled out in our Constitution's first ten amendments. Citizenship is a privilege. With the privilege of citizenship, should come responsibilities. Those unwilling to do the work of citizenship are but a burden on their society. We hear excuses: "Oh, I don't like any of the candidates!" "They are all corrupt." "I don't trust them". My reply to such attitudes is "Learn to suffer. Because you deserve it for your indolence."

For those who would violate the law to vote, loss of citizenship is not too severe a sentence. Loss of citizenship and all the rights so eloquently spelled out in our first ten amendments.

Would passing such an amendment as Mr. Cadwalader proposes be a risk?

It is. All life is a risk. Taking a risk means an obligation to press on for what we believe. It takes courage. What's wrong with that?

Sincerely,

Mike

Michael Wyly, Colonel Michael D. Wyly USMC (Ret) and was Executive Director, CEO and Founder of The Bossov Ballet Theater in Maine. He is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy