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(To the State Journal)

I am submitting the following as a Letter to the Editor. My name is Steve Harry. My address is 3125 Tecumseh River Road, Lansing, 48906. My daytime phone number is 622-4401.

The standard Republican argument against electing the president by popular vote is that smaller states would receive less attention from candidates. Since the smaller states' voting power would be in proportion to their populations, candidates would ignore them in favor of larger states, where there are more voters to win over. But how important is a campaign visit? Does seeing the candidate in person provide information voters can't get from newspapers, television and other sources? If so, there is a problem, because even if a candidate spoke to a crowd of 10,000 a day, it would take 76 years to get to the entire U.S. population. Not being able to see the candidate in person is an awfully lame excuse for not allowing the people to choose their president. In a republic as well as a democracy, the power resides with the people, not the states and not tree stumps.