

Women's Eight Rowing event at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games. It was the first medal for the US Women's Eight Rowing team since they won the Gold Medal at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

Alison Cox began her rowing career at the age of 19 as a sophomore at the University of San Diego where she received her degree in Communications. She earned All-West Region honors in 2001 and All-West Coast Conference honors for three seasons 1999–2001. She competed at the 2000 under-23 World Championships and won the Gold Medal in the Women's Four Rowing event. Alison advanced to the senior national team in 2001 and helped the U.S. Women's Eight Rowing team win the Gold Medal at the 2002 World Championships.

While at Turlock High School she excelled in athletics. She lettered in tennis, soccer, basketball, and in softball, where she also received the team's most valuable player award.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alison Cox for winning the Silver Medal in the Women's Eight Rowing event at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games and for all of her accomplishments in athletics. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing her many years of continued success.

HONORING JAMILL KELLY

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2004

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jamill Kelly, an exceptional individual and remarkable athlete who won a silver medal in Freestyle Wrestling at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece.

Born and raised in my hometown of Atwater, California, Mr. Kelly attended my alma mater, Atwater High School where his wrestling career began with placing fourth in the 1995 state championships. Mr. Kelly's success as a wrestler continued as he attended Lassen Junior College, taking second in the 1996 Junior College Nationals. He then graduated from Oklahoma State University in 2000, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in History.

Over the past four years, the former Oklahoma State wrestler remained dedicated to his dream. He continued to train vigorously and compete among the nations finest wrestlers, in order to have the chance to prove his outstanding athletic ability on the world stage. This summer, Mr. Kelly achieved his dream as he spent his summer winning a silver medal in Freestyle Wrestling at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.

Mr. Kelly is the city of Atwater's first Olympic medalist. He has become an inspiration to the student athletes of Atwater High School, who witnessed a fellow Falcon strive to reach his dreams in becoming the pinnacle of his sport. He has become a local hero, a national champion, and a world-renown athlete.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Jamill Kelly for his outstanding accomplishments. I am delighted to recognize all of his dedication and hard earned achievements, and thank him for being a role model to our community, and our country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COUNT EVERY VOTE ACT

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2004

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Count Every Vote Act, legislation to provide additional time, when needed, for conducting recounts of votes in presidential elections.

At its core, our form of government is based on the premise of "one person, one vote." The presidential election of 2000, however, demonstrated how precarious that tenet can be. In the midst of an ongoing challenge to the election result in the state of Florida, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that manual recounts could not continue because there was not enough time to undertake a proper recount prior to the meeting of the Electoral College. The unsatisfactory result was a president who took office with a cloud hanging over him in the eyes of many Americans.

Given the close nature of the current presidential race, there is a very real chance that we could be faced with a similar situation five weeks from now. We could easily wake up on November 3rd with a swing state election controversy, the outcome of which could decide who will be the President of the United States for the next four years. And it could take more than the 35 days allowed under current law to resolve the controversy without risking the loss of a state's electoral votes.

Mr. Speaker, I request that a June 15 Roll Call column by Leonard Shambon, a counsel with Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr and former assistant to the co-chairman of the Ford-Carter Commission on Election Reform, be reprinted in the Record following my remarks. In his column, Mr. Shambon makes a strong case for the need to reform the timing of the Electoral College, and I have drawn from his expertise in this particular area of elections law. I appreciate Mr. Shambon's tireless research and collaboration in developing a solution to this problem.

The bill I am introducing today has the support of leading scholars renowned for their research in the electoral process, including Thomas Mann, the W. Averell Harriman Chair and Senior Fellow in Governance Studies at The Brookings Institution; John C. Fortier, a research fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and editor of and contributor to *After the People Vote: A Guide to the Electoral College*; and Norman J. Ornstein, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, columnist for *Roll Call*, and contributor to *After the People Vote*. It would establish a contingency date for the meeting of electors in all states, but only when a challenge to a state's presidential election result remains unresolved as of three days prior to the Electoral College meeting date defined in current law. For the upcoming election, if a recount in any state were ongoing as of December 10, the bill would establish January 3rd as the new meeting date for the Electoral College, providing 59 days—24 days more than current law—to ensure that the recount is given as much time as possible to be resolved.

In a dissenting opinion on the 2000 election contest that the U.S. Supreme Court later upheld, Florida Supreme Court Justice Major

Harding appropriately noted, "The circumstances of this election call to mind a quote from football coaching legend Vince Lombardi: 'We didn't lose the game, we just ran out of time.'" We cannot afford to run out of time when it comes to ensuring the integrity of our presidential election contests. That is a conclusion on which everyone should agree.

I invite my colleagues to join me in ensuring that our electoral process is given the most time possible to resolve any contested election results by cosponsoring the Count Every Vote Act.

[From Roll Call, June 15, 2004]

ELECTORAL-COLLEGE REFORM REQUIRES CHANGE OF TIMING

(By Leonard M. Shambon)

This is a modest proposal to reform the Electoral College. No, it would not abolish the Electoral College, just change its timing.

In 2000, the U.S. Supreme Court called off the Florida recount because it believed that the recount could not be concluded in time to conform to the schedule established by federal statute for the electoral college.

One of the Florida Supreme Court justices, whose position was upheld by the Supreme Court, analogized the Gore camp's predicament to a quote from Vince Lombardi: "We didn't lose the game, we just ran out of time." But running out of time should not control the outcome in 2004.

Under the federal statute, each state's presidential electors are to meet on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December. If a state appoints its presidential electors at least six days before that date, then its choice of electors cannot be overridden. The U.S. Supreme Court in *Bush v. Gore* believed it was imperative to block the recount ordered by the Florida Supreme Court because the recount could not be completed by the six-day cutoff before the electors' meeting.

But the aftermath of the *Bush v. Gore* decision, no one seriously examined the question of whether the federal statutory dates make any sense. Fearing endless debates about whether the Electoral College should be completely abolished, no one looked at the peculiarities of the federal law. But there's still time for Congress to do so this year.

Congress should amend 17 words in the statute to push those dates into January, so that any state recounts and contests that occur this fall can proceed at a more orderly pace.

The federal statutory scheme, first adopted in 1792, provides the dates for four events: (1) the states' appointing their electors, on Election Day; (2) having the electors meet and vote; (3) reporting the results to Congress; and (4) the Congressional counting.

Congress has changed the dates on which those events are to occur five times, most recently in 1934 in response to the ratification of the 20th Amendment to the Constitution, which moved the date of inauguration back from March 3 to Jan. 20.

In 1934, the Roosevelt administration recommended to Congress that the period between Election Day and the date of the electors' meeting be set at 41 days. Records reveal that a government attorney chose the 41-day period arbitrarily, without any further explanation.

Congress, without any legislative explanation, went along with this change even though it significantly shortened the period from its pre-existing statutory length.

One Member of Congress, Judiciary Committee Chairman Hatton Sumners (D-Texas), did speak out against the shortened period during the House debate, and in subsequent