

July 19, 2010

## ***House Republicans Play Politics with Legislation to Establish US Senate Elections Procedure***

### ***Governor Joe Manchin Forced to Move Forward on Attorney General's Ruling so West Virginians Can Vote***

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – House Republicans moved yesterday to effectively prevent the people of West Virginia from voting to succeed Senator Robert C. Byrd by election this calendar year. By voting as a bloc to prevent the election bill from becoming effective immediately, Republicans have acted to disenfranchise all West Virginians.

“This is a sad day for the people of West Virginia. It’s disappointing that the process for electing Senator Byrd’s successor has been politicized by House Republicans,” said West Virginia Democratic Party Chairman Larry Puccio. “They are doing the bidding of Republicans in Washington rather than the people of West Virginia. It’s a shame.”

Attorney General Darrell McGraw has ruled that Governor Joe Manchin has the authority to set a election this year for the U.S. Senate. Governor Manchin called the legislature into special session to codify the succession laws for this year and for the future.

“Governor Manchin should now move forward with an election so that West Virginians have a voice in choosing their next U.S. Senator,” said Puccio.

“It’s disappointing that after five years of working together in a bipartisan way to move West Virginia forward, every single Republican in the House of Delegates voted to keep the bill to establish a election from taking effect immediately – effectively killing the bill.”

“These are the tactics that have created gridlock in Washington. West Virginians deserve better than being held hostage to partisan politics,” Puccio added.

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