

Alexander Hamilton, to sell the Constitution to the people of the United States of America, though at that time it wasn't quite the United States of America, and in the Federalist Papers, in Federalist Paper #10 James Madison spends a considerable amount of time discussing the virtues of representative government and he says in his discussion that one of the virtues of representative government is it tends to be a government of more balance than you will customarily find during the direct election approach. Why? Because sometimes through the direct election approach a faction can seize the ballot box for a temporary time being and reek havoc on what is happening. On the other hand through the representative government approach you can approach issues a little more carefully, a little more thoughtfully, with more balance and it is much more difficult for any faction to obtain control. He writes, for example, "The influence of factious leaders may kindle a flame within their particular states but will be unable to spread a general conflagration through the other states. A religious sect may degenerate into a political faction in a part of the confederacy but the variety of sects dispersed over the entire face of it must secure the national councils against any dangers from that source. A rage for paper money, for an abolition of debts, for an equal division of property or for any other improper or wicked project will be less apt to pervade the whole body of the Union than a particular member of it. In the same proportion of such a malady is more likely to taint a particular county or a district than an entire state. In the extent and proper structure of the Union therefore, we behold a republican remedy for the diseases most incident to a republican government and according to the degree of pleasure and pride, we feel in being republicans," that means representatives, "ought to be our zeal in cherishing the spirit and supporting the character of the country." Now, we have provided, through our statutes, adequate checks on irresponsible behavior by local officials. We have given the right to recall in virtually every election that is around. We can recall city council people. We can recall school board members. We can recall county officials. We can't recall state legislators but on the other hand we haven't provided for any right of the people to directly impose a lid on state government. In other words, if the Nebraska City School Board, if the Omaha School Board, continues to chart a course that is unpopular in the minds of the people they have the right to recall school board members. They have that right. They also have the right to defeat school board members, city council members and what have you at the next election. That is what representative government is about. I think