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Political Science

Assignment 1

Some of the things that require modification in the U.S. Constitution include the Electoral College and the Senate structure. Both of these bodies have high levels of undemocracy. The Electoral College, for instance, can accommodate the possibility of having a candidate with a smaller portion of the total number of national votes elected into the presidential office. Presidential candidates always ask for the votes of the citizens during their campaigns. They do this by outlining the policies they stand for and what they aim to accomplish once they get into office. If a candidate has fewer votes throughout the nation as compared to the opponent, then it means that citizens do not agree with his or her policies; hence, he or she does not represent public interests. Such a candidate will not be able to construct public policies that will benefit all people. It ought to be the candidate with a higher tally of the total national votes. The Electoral College should ensure this. On the senate part, some states have more citizens as compared to others. For instance, Wisconsin has 6 million while California has 36 million. The ratio of representation cannot be one-man one vote in this case. It cannot be that the Senator will represent the interest of everyone in his or her state. Such highly populated states ought to have more than one representative in the senate.

The Texas Constitution stipulates that the budget always has to be balanced. There should never be any deficits in the two-year budget. For this reason, when the lawmakers debate on any bills, passing of those bills solely depends on the effect they will have on the budget. If they create a deficit, then it is highly unlikely that the legislature will pass the bills into laws. The state of Texas heavily relies on the federal funding for the implementation of its projects or policies. In the case of education and health sectors, the state believes in equality in funding for these sectors. However, both sectors need improvement for better service delivery to the public. This improvement requires more funding. The federal government cannot provide the extra funds; thus, the state has to make do with the available funds. This makes it almost impossible to make any kinds of improvements to various sectors, which are in the interest of the public. Consequently, the Texas Constitution should thus allow for flexibility in its budget, such that the legislature does not discard important policies in an attempt to maintain balance in the budget.

Assignment 2

Such international agreements as GATT and NAFTA influence domestic policy making in the U.S. The two trade agreements allow free trade between the member countries. For this reason, companies in the U.S. benefit from market expansions for their products. Manufacturers are able to set up plants in foreign countries at lower costs compared to their own country. As a result, American citizens lose their jobs. This decreases the living standards in society. What is more, foreign companies have the protection of these agreements when they venture into business in another country. The domestic policies on labor laws should be flexible enough to allow foreign companies to thrive on the domestic market. Such flexibility might include allowing outside firms to set their own minimum wage levels. The level might be too low for a domestic worker to make his or her living. This increases the levels of poverty.

The trade agreements facilitate the eradication of tariffs on goods getting into international markets. However, the goods getting into different countries are not the same. Some are of a higher value as compared to others. This attribute reduces the sources of revenue for the countries. The U.S., for instance, has to come up with other ways to accumulate revenue for the running of the government affairs. One such avenue is by increasing the tax levies. This could be sales tax, income tax, or corporate tax among other forms of taxation. Consequently, it becomes expensive to produce in the U.S., and citizens have a lower level of income. Companies wend up seeking other production spots with more favorable conditions, and citizens face tough economic times with less money to spend on basic commodities. Not only is the disposable income less, but also domestic products increase in prices. This is because manufacturers will attempt to recover what they spent on the production.

The U.S. government should seek to protect its citizens first. The implications of all trade agreements ought to undergo intensive scrutiny to establish the immediate and future effects of the agreements. The U.S. government should negotiate with foreign companies such that the minimum wage is sufficient for an American worker to live on. It should also ensure that the goods coming into the country are equal in worth to those leaving the country to ensure the balance in exports and imports. By so doing, there will be no need for the government to squeeze its citizens in an attempt to cover up any trade deficits.