

**Support for H.B. 6163:**  
**AAC An Agreement to Elect the President by National Popular Vote**  
**Comments submitted by Barbara Brockhurst**

As a veteran of numerous get-out-the-vote drives, I urge you to support legislation that would add Connecticut's seven electoral votes to the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. This action would presumably not carry a significant cost and yet, I submit could significantly increase our wellbeing and security. In Connecticut, as in the country as a whole our democracy is currently facing a very real threat from our many friends and neighbors: apathetic citizens who aren't informed and don't vote.

True security in a democracy is gained by having thoughtful voters in vast numbers who research candidates and select as our leaders bone fide public servants. However, in my experience in trying to engage eligible voters, many are adept at finding excuses. Most elections struggle to attract even half of those eligible. When I ask admitted non-voters why they don't vote, most respond with discouragement over the complexity of our problems and anyway, the impossibility of one vote among hundreds of thousands making a significant difference. Frankly, even I have to sympathize with this reaction.

Now to make matters worse, most voters have grown up with the perception, fueled by televised returns, that presidential elections are not even decided by individual voters, but by certain key states having large numbers of *electoral* votes. Based on coverage from recent presidential elections, it would appear that Connecticut's seven electoral votes have virtually no impact on the final results. Few voters appreciate what electoral votes are, or why these "mega votes" are still used in place of our own, which adds to impression of our impotence. Arguably, this perception affecting our most visible elections reduces our motivation to vote in other key elections as well.

The National Popular Vote Compact, without changing the Constitution, broadly ensures that if adopted, the winner of presidential elections will correspond to the winner of the plurality of the popular vote. Therefore this Compact holds the promise of changing popular perception that many, if not most voters are effectively disenfranchised by the Electoral College system. The League of Women Voters conducted a thorough review of this legislation in 2008, available on its website, and found it robust to cover eventualities. Please make Connecticut a leader in this effort to reduce the scourge of voter apathy with your support for joining the Compact.