



State of Connecticut

SENATE

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DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER

RANKING MEMBER
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION &
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

MEMBER
FINANCE, REVENUE, & BONDING COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Senator Musto, Representative Jutila, and Distinguished Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee,

I am State Senator Michael McLachlan, and I am here to speak in support of Senate Joint Resolution 18, *A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CURRENT ELECTORAL COLLEGE SYSTEM AS THE BEST WAY TO ELECT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES*.

This bill would firmly show support for the current form of the Electoral College in which the President of the United States is elected.

The reasons for keeping the Electoral College are simple. Our Founding Fathers, in creating our nation, rejected the concept of direct election of our President. They believed that the Electoral College would accurately represent every region of the nation, both rural and urban areas, large and small states. Other systems, such as National Popular Vote, would take away the ability for these differing areas to be represented equally. National Popular Vote directly goes against the intent of our Constitution – the one we, as legislators, swore to uphold.

This should be of particular concern because Connecticut is a small state. According to the National Popular Vote website through this system an agreement will be introduced between states that will pledge electoral votes to the winner of the popular vote across the nation. It only takes 270 electoral votes to make up that amount, therefore there is a need for the large states with more electoral votes to be a part of the agreement. Smaller states will be pushed out of that because of their smaller numbers of possible votes. It was discrimination between states led our Founding Fathers to choose a system of election that would prohibit this from happening.

Additionally, the National Popular Vote system would weaken the separation and balance of power that was established between the states and the federal government, eroding the concept of federalism that makes our nation as strong and unique as it is. If it were not for this system our authority over the matters that affect our constituents the most, like education, public safety and welfare, and police powers, would not be within our ability to govern.

With the acceptance of the National Popular Vote System citizens of Connecticut will be voting for the candidate who the majority of other citizens in the nation voted for. Therefore, it is possible that the candidate with the most votes in Connecticut will not receive our electoral votes to count toward the final total. Instead the state's electoral votes would reflect the national tide. This system provides inaccurate representation of the voting mass of a state.

Over the past 200 years over 1,000 amendments to the Constitution regarding the Electoral College, including several regarding the change to a popular vote system, have been introduced and rejected. There is precedence on this issue; precedence that confirms the Electoral College as the best means to elect our President.

I urge the committee to support Senate Joint Resolution 18 in order to preserve a system that is in line with the founding principles of our nation, accurately represents the people of all areas of the nation, and our state, as well as has been in use for the past 200 years.