

Public Hearing February 22, 2017

House Bill No. 5205, 5434, 5435, 5736 and Senate Bill No. 9 – Acts Concerning Electing the President by National Popular Vote.

My name is John Chunis. I live at 40 Deerfield Run in Rocky Hill. I have been a resident and taxpayer in Connecticut since 1975. I oppose these bills.

The Electoral College was put in place by our founding fathers as a way to help small, low populated states have a measured influence over the few large populated states in the country.

To say that it is an antiquated approach today is not valid. It is still very valid and appropriate today. Based on the past presidential election, there are 10 states that comprise 51 % of all voting eligible people (per the United States Election Project), namely, California, Texas, Florida, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, North Carolina and Georgia. Do we want those states to decide the election for us here in Connecticut?

The Electoral College actually helps Connecticut. If we were to base the election on popular vote, Connecticut's population of eligible voters would rank at only 1.11% of the total. Our 7 Electors comprise 1.3% of all the 538 electors. Our votes are worth more, based on the Electoral College, and gives our voice some extra weight against those 10 large states.

Worse yet is these bills would actually hurt Connecticut and our voice in the election process. Take the past election. Trump lost the national popular vote by 2%. He lost in Connecticut by 14%. If he did slightly better in those 10 large states and made up the 2% to win the popular vote nationally, he still would have lost in Connecticut by at least 12%. But if these bills were enacted, our 7 electors would have to go to him, even though he lost here, and give him a larger winning margin. That doesn't make any sense at all.

These bills hurt Connecticut voters. I urge that you do not approve these bills.

Thank you.