

Hello,

I am writing in support of two bills, **HB 6575 An Act Concerning Disclosure of Presidential Candidates' Federal Tax Returns** and **HB 5434 An Act Adopting the Interstate Compact to Elect the President of the United States by National Popular Vote**.

With regard to the first, it is critically important that presidential and vice presidential candidates are forthcoming and transparent about their finances. Otherwise, voters cannot be fully informed about 1) whether or not the candidate pays taxes, 2) real or potential conflicts of interest and 3) charitable donations. All of this information is vitally important in order to make an informed voting decision. If a candidate has nothing to hide there should be no issue about releasing tax returns. All candidates who wish to be on the ballot in CT should be required to release their tax returns for the prior five years.

Secondly, our presidential election should be decided by popular vote. The electoral college system is outdated and inequitable. According to latest census figures, CT with a population of 3.5 million has 7 electoral votes. WY with a population of roughly .5 million (less than 20% of CT's) has 3 votes (equal to 40% of CT's). The same could be said of VT. Another glaring example is WV with a population of 1.8 million (roughly 50% of CT's). WV has 5 electoral votes (roughly 70% of CT's). The only way citizens can be sure every vote matters equally is to decide presidential elections by popular vote.

Thank you for your time and attention.

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