

State of Connecticut House Bill 5434
Act Adopting the Interstate Compact to Elect the President of the United States by
National Popular Vote

I am submitting this testimony to ask you to vote in favor of joining the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

The electoral college no longer makes sense. It was established for two reasons.

1. It facilitated getting the voting results to the capital in the time of horse and buggies. We now have electronic means for providing voting tallies. The electoral college does not expedite getting the voting tallies to Washington D.C. anymore.
2. It was designed to provide a safeguard from voters choosing an unqualified candidate or a candidate that had been backed by a foreign government. The electors were supposed to be smarter than the average voter. They were charged with the responsibility to go against the popular vote if the citizens had been fooled into voting for the unqualified candidate or a candidate who was backed by a foreign government. This past election just proved that the electoral college does not protect us against an unqualified candidate or a candidate that was backed by a foreign government.

Because we can't constitutionally rid ourselves of the electoral college, the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is our best chance to correct the problems with the electoral college. Here are the problems.

1. As said before, it provides no protections against electing an unqualified president backed by a foreign government.
2. It is a contrived formula established during slavery with a racist bias that skewed electoral votes in favor of smaller slave owning states. Contrived formulas will from time to time produce unexpected results such as in the last election. This is not a partisan issue. Republicans should hate the electoral college as much as democrats. I ask you, is it really fair that California puts 55 electoral votes (10% of the total electoral votes) in the democrat bucket regardless of whether 91% of the voters voted for the democrat or 51% voted for the democrat? I think not.
3. The electoral college causes candidates to only campaign in swing states. They don't bother with red states or blue states, thus marginalizing the citizens of those states.

Reasons to adopt the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact

1. Every vote will be counted equally no matter where the voter lives. This eliminates all biases. Again, let me reiterate, this eliminates all biases. The president of the United States represents the people. He/she does not represent the states. The states are represented by the Congress and Senate. It is time

that the states have no influence over the selection of president. State influence by nature causes biases. All biases need to be eliminated.

2. Virginia and Minnesota have already introduced bills to gerrymander the presidency. The national popular vote interstate compact will put an end to that kind of manipulation.
3. When every vote matters, candidates will campaign in every large city, not just swing states. By republicans campaigning in blue states and democrats campaigning in red states, the candidates will gain a greater understanding of all of the citizens of America and not just their party. Likewise, all citizens will get a better understanding of the other party's candidates. Maybe we can start to heal our divides.
4. Connecticut has the second highest population density in the nation. Under the electoral college, candidates rarely visit Connecticut because they assume Connecticut will automatically select the democrat. However, if the National Popular Vote were adopted, Connecticut would become a very worthwhile campaign destination.
5. Under the electoral college, young people feel that their votes don't matter. Under the National Popular Vote, young people in red and blue states will be more likely to vote.

Thank you so much for reading my testimony. I hope you vote in favor of adopting the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact H.B. 5434

Sincerely,



3/9/17

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