

I am writing in support of HB 5434, as I become increasingly concerned for voter enthusiasm every day. I hear too many excuses from friends and family as to why they will not vote. I hear it from the friend in New York City who is the only Republican voter within a five block radius. I hear it from a cousin in California who, as a Democrat, is fairly sure her state will vote her way anyway. I hear it from friends in states who constantly get passed over by presidential candidates, who never see a television ad, or get to chat with someone from either campaign, because the candidate takes their state for granted as an easy win or loss. Our electoral college process has led to less informed, and less motivated, electorate. It is time to change that.

A national popular vote would truly bring us back to the principle of "one person, one vote." Instead of sitting there, on election night, wondering why an election in which million participate comes down to what several thousand voters in Broward County, Florida, or suburban Cleveland, Ohio, do, it will be a celebration of who came out to vote nationwide. It will make for better presidential candidates, whose message will have to resonate with both the coasts and the middle of the nation. It will make for a stronger nation, especially at a time when we have now had two elections this century in which the popular vote winner has not won the presidency.

There is very little reason not to do this. While some may argue that this puts more power in the hands of larger cities, I argue that it actually puts the entire country on even ground. It no longer becomes about electoral votes. It becomes about individuals getting out and voting.

I enthusiastically support HB 5434, and hope that my few words help this bill move through the General Assembly, and take another step towards CT joining the National Compact. Thank you for your time.

Jorge Fernandez

Hamden, CT