

To: Government Administration & Elections Committee
From: John P. Flanagan
71 Chester street
Hamden, CT 06514 [91st District]

Re: Opinions concerning HB5434 & HB 6575

HB 6575: To require disclosure of income tax returns before allowing a presidential candidate on the ballot.

Whether or not a person's income tax return is public is totally irrelevant to voting for that person for President. It, by Federal statute is private and between the taxpayer and the IRS. This custom (and that's all it is) didn't become common until Richard Nixon was desperately try to appear honest and Jimmy Carter voluntarily published this. We all have common knowledge of who's wealthy and who isn't and the demand for the income tax forms appears to be coming out of frustration tat the results of the last election. It's unnecessary!

And, I urge you members of the legislature to not waste your time with it and vote it down!

HR 5434: Joining an interstate compact supporting the election of the President of the US by popular vote.

This bill, essentially, disenfranchises the voters of the smaller States. The Founding Fathers recognized the wisdom of keeping some power with the smaller States. They realized that they wildness of an election and the emotional forces that sometimes drive the voters on election day could, if left to the majority, over ride the rights of the citizens of smaller States.

If those supporting the election by popular vote, rather than a system that has served us well for almost 240 years, wish to have the Electoral College eliminated, there is a method called Amendment written in the Constitution of the United States which gives a proper methodology and allows for considered action. If they want to change the Constitutional rights I possess, follow the procedure and propose an amendment, in Congress assembled, as the Constitution provides and skip the end runs.

Please vote down this attempt to disenfranchise the voters of Connecticut and allow yourselves time for the more important things such as how to fund programs with as little increased pain to the taxpayers.

Thank you for your attention and consideration!