

—YALE COLLEGE—
DEMOCRATS

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In favor: H.B. 5434/S.B. 9
An Act Entering Connecticut Into the National Popular Vote Compact

Critical to democracy is the idea of one person, one vote. We engage in civic life because we expect that our contributions matter, that we possess agency. There are several anachronistic institutions in our country, however, that undermine this ideal. One is the Electoral College.

The vote of every American should count equally. More fundamentally, the vote of every American should *count*. But in our current system, residents of Connecticut are essentially disenfranchised in presidential elections. When I voted for Hillary Clinton in November, I did so out of passion for her candidacy and her platform, yet with full knowledge that Connecticut was sufficiently liberal such that our state's electoral votes would assuredly be given to Clinton.

On campus, my peers are aware of this reality. "Why should I bother to vote?" they sometimes ask. "It doesn't even count!" How will we inspire our youth to be civically engaged, to grapple with questions of justice, equality, and liberty, if they don't even think their voices matter? Our electoral system should incentivize participation. It shouldn't leave Americans with the impression that their exercise of the right to vote isn't even worth the walk to the local library.