



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE SUSAN M. JOHNSON
FORTY-NINTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 4100
HOME: 860-423-2085
CAPITOL: 860-240-8585
TOLL FREE: 800-842-8267
FAX: 860-240-0206
E-MAIL: Susan.Johnson@cga.ct.gov

RANKING MEMBER
REGULATIONS REVIEW

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

February 22, 2017

Testimony from Representative Susan Johnson

In Support of HB5434 An Act Concerning The Interstate Compact To Elect The President Of The United States By National Popular Vote

HB 6154 An Act Concerning Municipal Elections

Chairman Fox, Chairman Winfield, Chairman McLachlan, Vice Chairs, Ranking Member, and Distinguished Members of the General Administration and Elections Committee. Thank you so much for hearing HB 5434.

I originally thought the Constitutional process for changing the electoral college was the best method of changing our law when I first had the opportunity to vote on the NPV in 2009. After careful consideration I now am certain that the President of the United States should be elected by the people and every person's vote should count.

The solution is to have the states vote to bind their electors to vote for the person who has won the national popular vote. The NPV solution would not be implemented until those states with the requisite 270 electoral votes have made a compact by passing legislation NPV legislation. Please support this bill and let Connecticut join the eleven states that have voted to enact the NPV.

Thank you also for hearing 6154 An Act Concerning Municipal Elections

This bill concept came to me from a constituent who believes that we should hold our off year elections with the state elections. I agree. Voter turnout in our off year elections is very low. It would be best if more people had a say in our municipal elections. So if those elections were held at the same time we

would have more voter participation. I have discussed this concept with Secretary of the State Denise Merrill and my local Windham Registrar of Voters Paulann Lescoe. The only problem they thought we would have in changing municipal elections to the state cycle is the size of the ballot.

One solution to large ballot size would be to have two separate ballots, one for the state election and a separate ballot for the municipal election. Our voting machines have the capacity to count several ballots from each voter so electronically this should not present a problem.

This is one opportunity for our state to save our local municipalities money. I am in the process of contacting OFA to see approximately how much. Given the state and local fiscal limitations this would be one more way to save our tax payers money.