

YES TO HB 5434:
A STEP TOWARD A "MORE PERFECT UNION"

I strongly support HB 5434. In other words, I am very much in favor of the National Popular Vote Compact. It provides state legislatures with an important way they can stand together for Presidential and Vice Presidential Election fairness in this country, so that each voter's vote counts equally.

The "Winner Takes All" approach is NOT in the Constitution. How each state's Presidential Electors vote is a choice left up to the states, and I would like to see Connecticut help lead the country in a more democratic direction. I would like to see Connecticut be one of the states that opts for national election fairness!

We live in a time when election fairness is under tremendous assault in this country. Gerrymandering undermines election fairness. Onerous voter-registration requirements restrict election fairness. So it is all the more imperative for Connecticut's legislators to put aside their partisanship and agree to let the national popular vote determine the Presidential and Vice Presidential winners. It would be an example of Connecticut saying that the principle of fairness is what matters most.

I am a Democrat, and Connecticut reliably votes Democratic in Presidential Elections. So I realize I will have a bitter pill to swallow if a Republican wins the national popular vote in any given Presidential Election, once this Compact is in operation. But I will still feel that I supported the right bill, because it simply is not fair to see the candidate who earned the vote of more voters in this country lose the election.

It also is not fair that, in today's America, because of the current electoral college rules, twelve states in this country determine the outcome of the Presidential and Vice Presidential campaigns. It is not fair that, as a result of the phenomenon of "swing states," the vast majority of campaign events are held in those states. It is not fair that those twelve states get more favors from politicians who aspire to national office because they want to curry favor with them.

In my opinion, we need political leaders who have the moral courage to speak out for what is right, not just for what they think will get them re-elected. Perhaps John McCain, at his advanced age, is not worrying any longer about re-election, but it is inspiring to see him now speaking frankly about what is right and good for this country, and for the world. I hope that Connecticut state legislators will see their jobs in the same way in regard to this bill and every other bill they must consider.

I have never in my sixty-seven years participated in the political process as I am participating in regard to this bill. But the many unfair things that are currently being said and done in this country have finally driven home to me my responsibility, as an individual citizen, to speak up for what is right and fair. My hope is that enough people will feel as I do, including the legislators who are voting on this bill, so that our children and our grandchildren will get to live in a country that still honors the principles on which this country was founded.

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