

The President of the United States is supposed to be a representative of the will of the nation. With the separation of powers between the congressional, judicial and the administrative branches, the congress should be the place where ideas and concerns from around the are presented and debated. The judiciary is designed to determine if whether laws conflict with each other or the framework of government. The presidential office, more than any other branch, should be where the majority will of the populace is represented. This is why the president is tasked with giving us the State of the Union, given veto power over bills and represents the United States around the world. Unfortunately, this system has been subverted by the electoral college and campaigns that concentrate of only the states they need to get the required electors.

In a democracy every vote should matter equally. Under the current state-by-state winner-take-all method of awarding electoral votes, this isn't the way modern presidential elections work. This system give the priority to large population states and those considered "swing" states. It also give undue credence to the states that vote earlier because primary candidates will abandon a campaign if they lose a few of these electorally important states. This means that states like Connecticut hardly ever have a voice in deciding the candidates for any party and are ignored in the usual two party race for president. It also means that the majority choice for president can be overruled by a few states with a lower population. The winner take all system also means that the opinions of those that vote in the minority of a state are not considered, even if they are the majority nationally.

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is an elegant way to ensure that every vote cast for president matters equally, going around the Electoral College. Under the Compact, all of the participating states' electoral votes are cast for the candidate who wins the most popular votes in all 50 states. The Compact takes effect once states possessing 270 electoral votes, the number required to elect the President, have joined. To date 10 states plus D.C. have joined the Compact, representing 165 electoral votes, more than half the votes needed for the Compact to go into effect.

We can make Connecticut a leader in bringing our elections closer to the intention of the founders by passing HB5434. It would make the idea of "one person, one vote" closer to reality and bolster the argument that all voters are represented in our government.

Thank you,
Ben Martin
329 Ward St
Wallingford, CT 06492