

Dear members of the committee,

My name is Peter McKnight, and I live in Fairfield.

I support HB 5434, which will enable Connecticut to join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

This is an important step to ensure that every vote cast for president matters equally, without having to abolish 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. So far, 10 states plus the District of Columbia have joined the Compact, representing 165 electoral votes, more than half the votes needed for the Compact to go into effect.

The Constitution provides, "Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct...a number of electors" It wasn't until 1824 that states, in order to benefit their majority party, adopted winner-take-all. Winner-take-all is not an inherent feature of the Electoral College – but it is a partisan tool that makes our presidential elections inherently unfair. Let us be clear, this is not about party. George W. Bush almost lost the Electoral College vote in 2004, in spite of a popular vote margin of almost 3 million. If Ohio had voted slightly differently, John Kerry would have won the White House.

State legislatures headed by both parties have passed the National Popular Vote Compact. Let's add Connecticut to that list and make sure that the will of the American people is upheld going forward, and that Connecticut is courted rather than ignored during Presidential elections.

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