

February 21, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I believe that in a democracy every vote should matter equally and the nation's leader should be the candidate who wins the most popular votes. That is why I support HB 5434. Under the current state-by-state winner-take-all method of awarding electoral votes, this isn't the way modern presidential elections work.

Because most states, including Connecticut, are reliably blue or red, candidates have little incentive to campaign beyond the ten or so "battleground" states. Of nearly 400 campaign events during the 2016 general election, 94 percent were held in just 12 states; only one was held in Connecticut. The distortions of the winner-take-all method thwart the will of the people. In two of the past five elections, the candidate elected president received fewer popular votes than the loser.

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is a way 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. The Compact takes effect once states possessing 270 electoral votes, the number required to elect the President, have joined. To date ten 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.

Every person's vote should be equal, regardless of where they live. The current system puts all the focus on a small number of swing states. Candidates never campaign in solidly red or blue states like Connecticut - so they aren't listening to our concerns. Candidates shouldn't only come to Connecticut when they need campaign cash. They should be coming here for our votes.

As in all other elections, the presidential candidate with the most votes should win. Despite winning the popular vote by 2.9 million votes (2.1%) in 2016, Hillary Clinton lost the Electoral College. Similarly, in 2004, had 60,000 Ohio voters switched from George W. Bush to John Kerry, Bush would have won the popular vote by a similar margin but lost the presidency.

Studies show that disproportionate federal grant money goes to swing states to curry favor with their voters. That's unfair to the rest of the states that are sidelined because their votes don't matter.

By joining the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, it can help Connecticut lead the nation towards a more equitable, more representative and more perfect Union - one that restores the principle of one person, one vote. Please support HB 5434.

Thank you for your time on this very important matter.

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