

February 20, 2017

Dear Chairman Fox, Co-chair McLachlan, and co-chair Winfield and members of the GAE Committee:

I am writing to support HB5434, "AA Adopting the Interstate Compact to elect the President of the United States by Popular Vote." This bill will allow for States to cast its votes for the winner of the national popular vote. By joining this group of previously joined States, Connecticut can take action to help move the Nation closer to the concept of "one person, one vote."

It has become accepted practice that the Presidential election is decided in only a handful of "battleground" States. These States offer large electoral vote totals and voter bases that can swing towards one candidate or another. In this system, the majority of American voters do not actually cast meaningful votes for President, as their State result is not in question. This situation causes large national campaigns to focus efforts (and associated spending) on only those battleground States.

As you are aware, Connecticut is not one of these battleground States. At the National level, Connecticut is safely a "blue" State and so there is little reason for either major Party candidate to spend resources. If every vote was counted towards the National totals, not just winning would be relevant, but margin would count as well. This would cause national campaigns to work for every vote and make every single vote count. For the 2016 election, only one Presidential campaign event (something featuring a President or VP candidate) was held in Connecticut, this is the same number as Mississippi. Ironically, both of these events were held by Republican candidates.

If each vote matters, more trips to Connecticut will be scheduled and national campaigns can be seen as a form of economic development for Connecticut. These campaigns will spend resources on media outlets, hotels and conference centers, banquet halls and with state and municipal security forces. These expenditures can help boost budgets for Connecticut and municipalities via taxes and can also support business revenues.

So I ask that you support HB5434 to move Connecticut forward in a direction that makes every voter's voice be heard equally and will also be an opportunity for financial benefits to the public and private sector of our State.

Thank you for your consideration and hopeful support.

Sincerely

Chris Sullivan
18 Pine Hollow Road
Branford, CT 06405