

Members of the Connecticut Government Administration and Elections Committee,

Historically there have been five elections in which the electoral college (EC) opposed and overrode the popular vote. Before 2016, in which the popular vote margin was approximately three million votes, it happened in 2000 by about a half million popular votes, in 1888 by about one hundred thousand votes, in 1876 by about twenty-five thousand votes, and in 1824 by about forty thousand votes. In each of these cases, the popular vote was overridden due to the EC, and the candidate with the lesser popular vote won the Presidency.

As you can see, this contradiction of the EC and the popular vote is a huge problem which appears to be getting worse. Our Constitution and Bill of Rights were founded on the ideas that the democratic process means each and every citizen has equal power to vote for their elected officials. When the EC opposes the will of the majority, we need to fix the system so that it accurately reflects the will of the people. The EC must reinforce and support the will of the American citizenry, not compete with it.

I believe Election Day results should be more significant than an inaccurate tally. Some states' EC votes are given up when the popular vote begins to lean heavily toward one candidate. This is what is called the "winner-take-all" outcome, and it is based merely upon the leading number of votes and not the precise number of popular votes. I feel this is not right and every, single vote should be counted.

The EC made sense in the post-Constitutional era, where policies were susceptible to slavery ideas, and before the invention of the telegraph. Reason for implementation of the EC was that it was difficult to securely transport a large number of ballots to a central location (e.g., Washington DC) to be counted. Thus, the solution was to divide each state equally into EC districts so that states could submit only the number-about 1 or 2 dozen per state-of EC votes. But, as technology increased and the telegraph was invented, states became able to easily transmit data (i.e., numbers of votes counted) amongst themselves. Thus, the necessity for the antiquated vestige that is the EC became less and less. In today's era of communications technology, the EC is quite unnecessary.

With regards to the most recent election, we witnessed the largest number of deviant EC members in history. Five Democratic and two Republican electors, in dissent, casted their votes for someone other than the candidates for president. This caused Donald Trump to lose two EC votes, yielding 304 votes (270 is the necessary majority for election). In addition, it had been found by a team of investigators that 65 of the Republican EC members were illegitimate due to living in separate districts or holding public office positions (these situations are illegal under state laws). All of these problems should be reasons why the American people do not require an unbalanced and unregulated system of representation for presidential elections, such as the EC.

I write these words to prevent future unfairly elected president(s) and/or damage to our great nation. Basically, I'm advocating for a fairer election system. There are numerous ills with our

current system, and the EC is one such ill. In addition, I think that the EC is the reason why many individuals don't show up at the polls. An unfair and unequal system such as this dissuades individuals from becoming engaged citizens. I think, if presidents were popularly elected, we would see a much higher rate of voting.

Now is the time to put the government back into the hands of the people. Please, take this easy step and enter Connecticut into the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC).

Thank you for your time,

Garrett Sullivan
23 Clark Avenue
East Haven, CT 06512
(203) 710-1003
GarrettSull@Gmail.com