

Honorable Chairpersons and members of the Committee on Government Administration and Elections:

I am writing in support of Raised Bill No. 5421, An Act Adopting The Interstate Compact To Elect the President of the United States by National Popular Vote.

Because of winner-take-all laws in many states that govern how electors for President are appointed, five of our 45 Presidents have come into office without having won the most popular votes nationwide. This includes two of the last three Presidents. This is clearly undemocratic.

If the United States is to preserve its democratic form of government, it is necessary to make sure that Presidents are chosen according to the results of the national popular vote. The Interstate Compact referenced in the title of HB 5421 achieves this objective.

When states whose electoral votes total more than 50% of the number required to elect a President pass or adopt the Compact, the Compact automatically goes into effect for every Presidential election thereafter. According to HB 5421 the slate for President and Vice President receiving the highest popular vote nation wide wins the electoral votes in each state participating in the Compact. As a result, the slate winning the popular vote will be declared the winning slate when electoral votes are tallied.

Because of this feature of the Compact, its result is accomplished without requiring a Constitutional amendment.

One beneficial effect will be to grant equal importance to the electorate of every state during the campaign for the election. Candidates will feel obliged to appear in all or most states equally as a result. In contrast, under the present system, states deemed to be swing states or states with close electoral possible outcomes receive disproportionate attention from the candidates. A state such as Connecticut, with its small number of electoral votes, is shortchanged or ignored currently. Implementing the Compact would remedy this situation.

Respectfully,

Henry E. Auer  
New Haven, CT  
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