

Susan DeSilver
1647 Middletown Avenue
Northford, Connecticut 06472
(203) 484-4738

March 17, 2018

My name is Susan DeSilver. I live in Northford, Connecticut. I have not failed to vote in an election since I was able to register to vote.

I am writing in support of proposed House Bill 5421, *An Act Adopting the Interstate Compact to Elect the President by National Popular Vote*.

It is clear to me that the Electoral College no longer functions as it was likely intended. I understand that the Electoral College was designed to give less populous rural areas a voice; however, it now serves to hold the voice of the many hostage to the will of the few.

In the past eighteen years, two Presidents have been elected who failed to win the popular vote. . This circumstance has disenfranchised voters and runs the risk of harming our democratic republic with erosion of both public trust and participation in the democratic process.

The US Senate refused to hold a vote on a Supreme Court nominee by declaring that they should wait a year for the presidential election to "hear the will of the people." The popular vote represents the will of the people, not the construct that is the Electoral College. If our democratic process is to retain the trust of the people, it must actually represent the will of those people.

The mathematics of the Electoral College has promoted campaigning only in swing states; we never see candidates here in Connecticut to talk about their positions because we don't matter. The only reason candidates come to Connecticut is to raise money. I believe this influences the attention and support we receive in natural disasters and the funding we receive from Washington for necessary programs. We simply don't matter.

I was present for last year's hearing on this matter and suggest that Representative Martin Looney's testimony provides great historical perspective and current statistical analysis that supports passage of this important Act.

I urge you to support this Act and vote "yes," which will return vitality to our Democratic Republic, encourage voters to participate in the democratic process and make the principle of one person one vote apply in all of our elections.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan DeSilver