

Dear Senator Flexer, Senator McLachlan, Representative Fox, and Distinguished Members of the GAE Committee,

I urge you to **support H.B. 5421**, the proposal to elect the President by the national popular vote in all 50 states. That way, Connecticut voters would no longer be discriminated against.

Firstly, the current system violates the fundamental democratic principle of **one person, one vote**. If you were to compare the relative importance of one vote from Connecticut with one vote from Wyoming, for example, you would find that one vote from **Connecticut counts less than 40%** of one vote from Wyoming.

Secondly, the current system does not necessarily make candidates care about small states like Connecticut, or even Wyoming; nor does it make them care about large states like Texas or New York. In both small and large states in which the outcome is clear, campaign visits by presidential candidates are minimal to nonexistent. Instead, **candidates focus on a few “swing states”**, as demonstrated in recent elections. In 2016, for example, of the nearly 400 general election campaign events, 94% were held in 12 battleground states; only one was held in Connecticut.

By contrast, the **National Popular Vote** would choose the President by popular vote, requiring candidates to campaign across the country and correcting the current system’s distortion of campaigns and of our democracy itself. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,
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