

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. Some reasons for this are:

First, the current system violates the fundamental democratic principle of one person, one vote. By way of illustration, currently, Connecticut, with a population of roughly 3.5 million, has 7 Electors, while Wyoming, with a population of roughly .5 million, has 3 Electors. If you were to compare the relative importance of one vote from each of these two states, you would find that one vote from **Connecticut counts less than 40%** of one vote from Wyoming. This condition is basically repeated more than six times primarily in large area western states having small populations such as Montana and North Dakota.

Second, (and contrary to the common assertion), the current system does NOT necessarily make candidates care about small states like Connecticut, or even Wyoming, nor does it make candidates necessarily care about large states like Texas or New York, either. In both small and large states in which the outcome is clear, campaign visits by presidential candidates are minimal to nonexistent, as they were in these four states, including Connecticut, during recent elections.

Instead, candidates singularly focus on a few “swing states”. For example, in 2012, Ohio, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Virginia received 57% of the visits and 55% of the campaign money during the final two months of the campaign. The remaining 45% of all campaign money was spread over the remaining **46** states, including Wyoming, Texas, New York, and, of course, Connecticut. In 2016 of the nearly 400 general election campaign events, 94% were held in 12 battleground states; only one was held in CT.

This distortion of campaign energy, resources, and democracy itself exists because of the toxic combination of a non functioning Electoral College with the winner-take-all allocation method of almost all states, including Connecticut. By contrast, The National Popular Vote would choose the President by popular vote, requiring candidates to campaign across the country rather than “swing states” or solely large cities as is often incorrectly asserted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Henry Figlewski

Harwinton, CT