

18 Westside Road
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March 17, 2018

Co-chairs Fox, Flexer and McLachlan and distinguished members of the GAE
Committee:

My name is Jay Kaplan from Woodbury. I am testifying in support of H.B. 5421, An Act Adopting The Interstate Compact To Elect The President By National Popular Vote.

Already twice in the twenty-first century the U.S. presidential candidate with the most popular votes has lost the election. While the founding fathers feared an “excess” of democracy and established safeguards in the Constitution to protect against it, I believe that we have reached a level of maturity as a citizenry to take on the responsibility for electing our president without the distorting and undemocratic influence of the electoral college. Is it any wonder that the United States has an embarrassingly low voter turnout percentage compared to other western democracies when millions of voters witness their votes being in effect discarded? The current presidential electoral system bears an important share of responsibility for the widespread cynicism with which all-too-many Americans view politics.

While the better solution to this situation would be the outright elimination of the electoral college, the Interstate Compact to Elect The President by National Popular Vote provides a viable and proximate improvement to the current presidential electoral system, and I urge you to support it.

Sincerely,

Jay Kaplan