

My name is Ronny (Roslyn) Kaplan, from Stamford, CT.

I am offering **testimony in support of HB 5421**, an Act Adopting the Interstate Compact to Elect the President by National Popular Vote.

I believe one-person-one vote is the defining principal of our democracy. Currently, we do not count each person's vote equally in Presidential elections, as evidenced by the fact that two times in the past 18 years; we have elected Presidents who did not win the popular vote. If all states passed the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV), each state would commit its electors to the person who won the national popular vote. This would insure that the President is elected by a majority of all those who voted in the country.

In our current system of Presidential election, the campaigns and policy debates are highly concentrated in a few "Battleground states". This gives CT and many other states short shrift in terms of campaigning, getting their voices heard, and affecting national policy. All votes should matter, red or blue, urban or rural. Why should votes in Florida and Ohio count more than mine do? In addition, due to extreme gerrymandering, states sometimes commit all their electoral votes to a candidate who did not win the majority of votes in that state.

Those people, not living in "Swing States" consequently feel that their votes do not matter, and voter participation is severely affected. Why bother to vote in a state, which is considered reliably Republican or Democratic under the current system? If the votes that counted were the number of votes nation-wide for each candidate – all votes would be equal. Voting was 16% higher in the 2012 election in states where the margin was close between candidates.

The NPV is a non-partisan solution to making one-person one-vote the true rule of the land. The non-partisan League of Women Voters endorses it, as do many other good government organizations (Fair Vote, Common Cause, LegitAction).

Thank you for your attention.