

We, the undersigned, write in support of HB-5421 AN ACT ADOPTING THE INTERSTATE COMPACT TO ELECT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES BY NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE.

In 2012, Connecticut contributed \$18,644,901 to both major party campaigns but only saw \$330 of that invested back in the state's political effort.

In the entire 2016 presidential campaign election cycle there was only one public presidential campaign event for the two major parties in Connecticut.

These combined circumstances have a direct negative impact on our state's voice at the national level and on the substance of state and local races. We cannot benefit from the large sums of campaign financing we provide the major parties as they are invested in the handful of "swing states" under the current system; this cultivates a sense among voters that "Connecticut does not matter," engendering apathy and low voter participation.

It is also a statistical fact that States where presidential candidates actually campaign receive more in the form of federal grants: this would return more of Connecticut's tax dollars back home.

In a recent poll, 92% of Democrats, 62% of Republicans, and 76% of independents in Connecticut expressed support for the state to join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact honors the integrity of the Electoral College: it is an exercise in the constitutional right outlined in the Constitution's Article II, Section 1. It requires no constitutional amendment:

"Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors." It's up to states how to decide how to vote their electors.

We urge this committee to refer HB-5421 to the floor, and urge the Connecticut General Assembly to pass a law that would truly protect, re-legitimize, and boost our voice in the national political discourse. We urge passage of these two bills as an exercise of our constitutional rights as a state and as voters.

Sincerely,

Jody Weitzman, Newtown, Connecticut, Chair
David Golden, Milford, Connecticut, Vice-Chair
Eduardo Lopez-Reyes, Greenwich, Connecticut, Secretary
Marie Lopez-Reyes, Greenwich, Connecticut, Director
Keith Velia, Ridgefield, Connecticut, Director
Kitty Lewis, Newtown, Connecticut, Director

Our America Initiative – Connecticut