

Thank you, Chairs Fox, Flexer, McLachlan and other distinguished members of the GAE Committee:

My name is Janet McMahon and I am from Cos Cob CT. I drove over an hour and a half this morning to testify in support of proposed House Bill No. 5421, An Act Adopting The Interstate Compact To Elect The President By National Popular Vote.

I feel very strongly about this nonpartisan compact because it is right and just for ALL registered voters in CT. Full disclosure: like you, I am an elected member of government as I am a member of Greenwich's Representative Town Meeting (RTM). Like you, I was elected by popular vote. As you know, all other elected officials in our state and federal government are elected by popular vote. The office of the President should not be any different.

A lot of viewpoints and facts on this matter have been expressed today so I don't want to waste your time and be redundant. However, I would like to leave you with just one point that I hope you will consider: Some of my Greenwich Republican constituents have said that they feel disenfranchised. I imagine this is the case not only for Greenwich Republicans but for all Republicans statewide. ***Did you know that a Republican has not won CT's electoral college vote since George H. W. Bush in 1988?*** That's more than a quarter century ago and that is frankly staggering. Even though I'm a Democrat happily living in a blue state, this doesn't sit well with me. Why should my vote count more than my Republican neighbor's vote? Why should they even bother to go out and vote in any presidential election? Their vote has been spoken for by the elector, after all.

This is the very reason that the issue is a bi-partisan one, most recently passing in the NY legislature where 48 of 68 Republicans voted in favor of the compact. The bill has passed in 35 legislative chambers in 23 states, including red and purple states such as AZ, AR, NC and OK. ***Let's end the disenfranchisement of our Republican voters, while also making the voting process more transparent and democratic.***

Thank you for your time and attention. Please vote yes on H.B. 5421.