

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

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

Twice in recent history the candidate for President of the United States who did not get the majority of votes was elected because he received the most votes in the Electoral College. Both times I was really upset. In every election that I have voted from my elementary school student council to United States Senator or Governor of Connecticut the candidate with the most votes was the winner. I believe that the person who receives the most votes should also be elected President of the United States.

I believe that the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is a nonpartisan solution to make everyone's vote matter. Article II of the Constitution gives exclusive power to the states how to vote their electors. The intent of allocating electoral votes equal to the number of a state's Congressional seats was done to give slave-owning states more influence than they would have with a direct vote . I believe that it would probably be better if we were able to amend the Constitution but since this is unlikely and extremely difficult I support the Compact.

I have been annoyed every four years when both candidates ignore Connecticut due to the number of votes that we have in the Electoral College and the fact that it is perceived as a blue state. Low voter turnout is always a problem, even in presidential elections in Connecticut. Voters who cast ballots for Republican candidates could have stayed home because their votes really didn't count and some Democrats feel that the Connecticut electors will go to the Democratic candidate whether or not they come out to vote. If Republicans and Democrats felt that their vote would impact the outcome of the election I believe more people would vote.

Please consider my thoughts in this testimony and cast your votes for the H.B. 5421.