

HB 5421 National vote

Dear Senator Flexer, Senator McLachlan, Representative Fox, and Distinguished Members of the GAE Committee,

The constitution established the Electoral College to provide a layer of respected community leaders between the general citizenry and the election of the President. The notion was that people would know the leaders of their local community better than those running for the presidency. They would vote for a local leader whom they trusted to vote for President on their behalf. This is no longer the case. Most voters have no idea who their electors are, but have many more ways to learn about national politics than when the Constitution was written. The electors are not even listed on many state ballots. The college distorts the election several ways. Campaigns focus on those States who provide their best shot for reaching the number of electoral votes required for victory. Were there a popular vote, campaigns would need to focus countrywide and speak to the needs of all voters. All would have the sense that their vote counted in equal proportion to any voter anywhere in the country. We would not have scenarios where the popular vote could be won, but the election lost. We would not have scenarios where a few counties or districts determined the outcome for the nation. HB 5421 provides a simple mechanism to restore sanity and fairness to the way we elect President. This is a non-partisan issue, as in the long run, both parties benefit when democratic values are preserved and elections are universally held as legitimate.

Please vote in favor of HB 5421

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