

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

My name is Al Saubermann, I'm from Deep River. I am testifying in support of proposed House Bill No. 5421, An Act Adopting The Interstate Compact to Elect The President By National Popular Vote.

I am speaking to support this bill because I want to assure that our government will actually derive its "just powers from the consent of the governed". The Constitution creating the United States government is based on this principle. Our consent is realized by voting, with one person exercising one vote, where the candidate with the majority of votes has our consent.

The glaring exception is the President.

Our electoral college system as configured today is failing us in this regard. We know that a few "battleground" states determine who becomes president. We know there can be a disconnect between the results of the national vote count and the electoral college winner. We know that battleground states are targets for intervention by foreign governments and financial interests.

When a candidate wins the electoral college vote but loses the national popular vote they become the legitimate president. Yet, there is a palpable and nationwide sense of unfulfilled legitimacy. This is bad for the new President, it is bad for our government, and it is bad for the citizens of our country because it causes a lingering loss of trust between those who govern and those who empower them. While lawful it just feels wrong, it feels unfair, it feels unjust. No democratic system of governance can function without trust.

We should remember that the current winner-take-all system exists because our state governments, have over the years, used powers granted by Article 2 section 1 of our Constitution to make individual state laws that created this problem. State legislatures have voted to have presidential referendums - remember there is no requirement for presidential elections in the constitution - used to direct their electoral college delegates to cast their votes for the winner of their state's referendum. States have enacted "faithless elector" laws, to compel electors to vote as instructed. Together these laws have defined our current electoral college system. States made the laws and they can change them.

I am asking you to vote yes on Bill No. 5421 and enable Connecticut to join the Interstate Compact to elect the President by a national popular vote. By doing so you will assure that every vote - regardless of party - will go towards the national tally - giving our State and our Country a true national referendum that will clearly inform the electoral college of the consent of the governed.

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