

March 17, 2018

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

I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 5421, the bill to have Connecticut join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. The Compact is a nonpartisan solution to make everyone's vote for president matter—regardless of whether they live in blue, red or battleground states.

I serve on the board of the Norwalk River Watershed Association, so I am focused on the environmental issues facing our area. I am frustrated by the disproportionate amount of federal funding that goes to swing states, versus non-swing states like Connecticut, because our present system makes them the only states key to presidential electoral politics. For example, swing states receive more superfund site funding, something Connecticut could certainly benefit from. Long Island Sound's water quality is threatened by high levels of nitrogen, something that threatens our coastal region's economy as well as public health. This is the sort of interstate environmental issue that could benefit enormously from a greater federal focus.

Most Connecticut voters across party lines support electing the president by the national popular vote. Overall 78%--62% of Republicans, 76% of Unaffiliated voters and 92% of Democrats--agree that the candidate who wins the most votes nationwide should become president (polling by Making Every Vote Count, Feb, 2018)

At this time, when we face a rise in power and influence of authoritarian regimes around the world, it more important than ever to bolster the strength of our own democracy. Let's start by listening to the people of Connecticut and empowering them to have a more proportionate influence on our presidential election process and its outcome.

I urge you to support H.B. 5421, the proposal to elect the President by the national popular vote in all 50 states. Please help make Connecticut votes matter.

Sincerely,

Louise Washer  
Norwalk, CT