

March 18, 2018

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

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

The present electoral process distorts the national will and vote several ways. First, only about a dozen states have closely contested races for President, as the others are expected to be carried by one party or the other. Voters in those dozen or so “battleground” states are deluged with campaign visits, commercials, fliers, and more, as the campaigns attempt to win the states expected to decide the outcome. The rest of the states are ignored by comparison. That means a Republican in Connecticut or a Democrat in Wyoming is essentially ignored in the Presidential campaigns and has virtually no say in its outcome.

Gerrymandering districts can mean each state's Electoral College delegates don't represent the majority votes in their states.

Because votes in states with smaller populations count for more. Their representation is magnified by each state having two Senators and that giving them more Electoral College votes than their proportionate shares.

The Electoral College was created when the United States was mostly agrarian, and travel and communication were slow and difficult. So, having a few representatives of each state meet to cast the votes determining the Presidential winner made some sense. Those reasons are gone. We now typically know the vote totals and winners in every state sometime during the night after the polls close. We also see times when slight vote total advantages lead to huge Electoral College margins, or even when the popular vote loser wins the Presidency.

The position of President is too important to distort it through use of the Electoral College. Voters in every state should know their votes have equal value in the choice of President. Candidates should need to campaign everywhere for votes, not just in a few “battleground” states. For all those reasons, I urge you to support this act.

Thank you,

Donald Weigt
Bloomfield, CT