

Testimony HB 5421

Dear Senators Flexner and McLachlan, Representative Fox and members of the GAE Committee: **I submit this testimony in support of HB 5421.**

There are lots of reasons National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is an excellent idea, far superior to the problem-ridden current situation, but the two most prominent in my mind are (1) the common-sense falsity of separating winning the popular vote in presidential contests (alone of all such events in this country) from winning the election and (2) the fact that under the present system the vast majority of candidate attention (and post-election benefit) flow to the critical swing states, while the rest of the country watches on TV.

In 2016, 94% of general election campaign events were held in only 12 battleground states; only one was held in CT.

The Compact and its language have been thoroughly vetted by multiple legal authorities and are well within what the Constitution allows (see, for instance, Article II's grant to the states of exclusive power regarding Electors, and the SCOTUS decision in Virginia v Tennessee (1893) affirming the Constitutionality of such inter-state compacts).

This is not a partisan proposal. There will be no "winners" and "losers"-- just a more fair and honest way of ensuring the success of the will of the people. It has bi-partisan support across the country and in Connecticut: a Public Policy Polling survey (2009) showed CT Republicans, by a 2-to-1 margin, and CT Democrats, by a 3-to-1 margin, in favor. A 2017 national survey showed 7-in-10 voters favor a national popular vote. The League of Women Voters endorsed the idea in 2010.

Reflect: in Connecticut, Republicans could have left their ballots empty as far as presidential preference is concerned in every presidential election since 1988.

Compact votes totaling more than 270 Electoral votes will make NPVIC effectively the law of the land. There are currently 165 in place and more than the remaining 105 underway in states both Red and Blue. I urge you to put Connecticut once again on the right side of history.

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