

House Bill 3077 – Election of the President by National Popular Vote.
Written Testimony submitted by Fred Yates, Lebanon

I am firmly opposed to this bill, please do not let it out of committee.

The reason that the Constitution calls for an electoral college, rather than just providing for the direct election of the president, is that most of the nation's founders were actually rather afraid of democracy.

In a true democracy what ever the majority desires is voted into rule. We have almost reached that tipping point today. The number of voters employed directly and indirectly by the government will soon surpass 50%. At which time what ever suits them best will be the rule. We The People will be ruled by those that run the government, the bureaucrats, not our elected officials. We are already experiencing that phenomena today.

James Madison, and the majority of the founding fathers, worried about what he called "factions," which he defined as groups of citizens who have a common interest in some proposal that would either violate the rights of other citizens or would harm the nation as a whole. Madison's fear – which Alexis de Tocqueville later dubbed "the tyranny of the majority" – was that a faction could grow to encompass more than 50 percent of the population, at which point it could "sacrifice to its ruling passion or interest both the public good and the rights of other citizens."

In Oregon the combined cities of Portland, Eugene, Salem Gresham, Hillsboro and Beaverton are the predominant rulers. A land mass area of 10% rules what the other 90% of the state must do.

If National Popular Vote were enacted the combined States of California, New York, Florida, Illinois Pennsylvania, Ohio, Georgia, Michigan and North Carolina would have the power to select a president for the remainder of the country. Oregon is 27th in power of selection, while Puerto Rico is 29th.

This bill would ensure that the voice of Oregon would be forever silenced when it comes to the selection of a president.

I urge you to not let this bill pass out of committee. Our Founding Fathers envisioned what we are experiencing today. Please do not drive one more nail into the heart of our nation. Leave the greatest document ever forged, for the freedom of mankind, remain intact.