

I strongly oppose HB2927 it is very disturbing why Republican and Democrats are signing onto this bill . Boiling it down to the root, it is a case of national neglect on both sides of the aisle. People want the NPV in Oregon because it will supposedly give Oregon a greater exposure and more of a voice in national politics. However, the opposite is true.

The concern is neglected States: if the candidate neglects the state during the campaign, they will neglect the state while they are in office. Healthy competitive debate produces promises to the citizens of the state as the candidates vie for votes. A state that is not competitive is ignored, as the candidates will not waste money or resources in areas where they have no chance, or where they are assured that they can ignore the state and still win the votes. National Popular Vote appeals to the neglected states, offering a perceived stronger voice to the state. However, NPV raises moral and budgetary issues. If a president under NPV spends more public money on neglected states, they will not pull money out of competitive states, they will let the federal deficit rise which will be financed by public borrowing.

One of the effects of National Popular Vote will be to eliminate the States from their share in the political process. A president elected by popular vote would be more likely to pursue national issues, instead of states' concerns, because state identities as electoral districts would no longer exist as far as presidential elections are concerned. Such a president would be more apt to grow national power and the scope of the federal government. While NPV seems a good idea at first blush, the empowering of the federal government and an increase in its power, would be detrimental to the states' self governance. "Ultimate power corrupts ultimately."

National Popular Vote also assumes that people living in the United States are a homogenous, unified people that act as one in selecting a leader. The US is polarized through regional, ideological perspectives and life styles, and seems to be becoming more so. For example, even here in Oregon, Eastern Oregon has issues that are different from Western Oregon, giving two different perspectives and philosophies in the same state. This is amplified at the national level, with urban areas such as New York and the East Coast having a totally different perspective and philosophy from the Midwest and western states. Instead of trying to force these differences into a single national voting district, states should be allowed to remain the electoral district of its citizens, expressing their views and identity as a state body with its own influence. This allows citizens who disagree strongly to live apart from each other in ideologies and politics. Instead of a national identity we should allow the citizens a decentralized and local state government to express their views and identity. With National Popular Vote, the populous states of New York, California, Texas and Florida would control national elections and policies, giving the smaller states such as Oregon little or no voice or attention at the national level. With the current system of the Electoral College, people can strongly disagree about things, live separately in peace with their concerns and issues, yet still attract the attention of candidates who want their votes. National Popular Vote, with its focus on the aggregate national vote rather than individual states, would make this state identity and governmental decentralization more difficult.

This bill disenfranchises the Oregon voters and raises all kinds of problems including a blatant attempt to circumvent the Constitutional amendment process. I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB2927 and ask you to vote against it.

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