

I am writing to you in support of legislation enabling the National Popular Vote interstate compact for the state of Oregon. Because I live in The Dalles, it is not easy for me to get to Salem.

The first thing is that some supporters will say that the Founders were wise in giving us the Electoral College. But we need to realize that the Electoral College of today is not what they gave us. Back then presidential candidates did not campaign or travel nor was there any TV or websites. Voters had very little information about candidates so the Founders used the option of choosing a local person they respected to make that choice for them. Today we have as much information available as we could want and do not need to delegate our choice.

Secondly, the Founders expected electors to think independently, to take the people's considerations into account, but to vote based on their own wisdom. But many states have adopted laws which force electors to vote based on the vote of the people. Electors in many states are no longer free to decide independently. Today's electoral college simply does not perform the function that the founders envisaged and it could not. I would add that most voters do not even know they are voting for electors now, and not the president, so it is not honest.

Third, the Founders chose to delegate to states the authority to decide how to award our electors. We are not bypassing a constitutional amendment process in using the authority explicitly delegated to us by the US Constitution.

Every other election in the United States is decided by popular vote, every one. No state uses an electoral college to elect their governor. If it was such a good system, why not use it for governor? After all, many states have political divisions between urban and rural, low density and high.

What the electoral college has given us is an election where all campaigning and effort is limited to a handful of swing states. Everybody else gets ignored – except when they are asked for money. Research has shown that aside from being unfair to the rest of us, this also corrupts the legislative process in Congress as pork spending for those swing states increases as candidates who expect to run push to spend money there or pass Federal laws that those states want.

Our current president has said that if there was a popular vote, he would have campaigned differently and still won. I do not know if that is true or not, but he and all future candidates should have that chance. Opponent claims that candidates will only campaign in a few high population is shown to be false when you look at campaigns in large states. Do gubernatorial candidates only campaign in big cities and ignore rural areas? They don't. They still campaign everywhere in fairness to all voters.

The preamble to the US Constitution says "We the people." Abraham Lincoln said government was of, by and for the people. While states are important to our Federal structure, we are after all a nation of citizens, each endowed with unalienable rights. These rights were not endowed to our states, they were endowed to us as individuals. Each of our votes deserves to count equal to every other voter. Our votes should not be weighted by where we live. Please vote for the National Popular Vote to bring presidential elections in line with all other elections in the US, with fairness, and with modern campaigns. The Founders expected us to think for ourselves, and I think that doing so shows that the electoral college has outlived it's usefulness.

Sincerely,

Dean Myerson

315 W. 10th St.

The Dalles, OR 97058

509.774.8232