

I am expressing to this committee that I stand in opposition to the concept of the State of Oregon to pass this HB2927 pushing the National Popular Vote within this session of the Oregon Legislature.

After going through some very interesting information I support of the NPV effort makes the concept sound good. I myself have great pause in passage of this legislation within the state. The supporters make the claim that the movement makes “every vote count”.

If this concept was true. Then we would be waiting days to find out the results in any election for President. There are always votes to be counted after 8PM on Election night and sometimes the process has those votes being counted several days after an election.

The other side of my position is.. the framers of the US Constitution understood that higher populations would and could run roughshawed over smaller population areas. The National Popular Vote website has many explanations on how this “is not true” with interesting formulas on their websites.

But the simple fact is the 3.97 Million people in the State of Oregon will never hope to be represent the nation as a whole, even Washington State with 7.062 Million in population can over ride voters in Oregon. It would be even worse when you factor in the population of California, New York, Texas and other high population areas in compared to our state. The Electoral College was put into place for reason.

Democrats on a whole support this effort especially after the recent results in the presidential election. Automatically they claimed that Hillary Clinton won the popular vote. But even if that is true.. the goal to institute NPV in this country could backfire on them if a candidate suddenly appears that goes against their values. What if a Republican candidate wins the popular vote? Would they accept the results then?

I have been observing elections in Multnomah County closely now for six or seven years. Actually being in the building and watching the process carefully. I feel that on the national level the process works for the office of President.

But if Oregon is to put in National Popular Vote in to “let all votes count” Then do the right thing. Put it up to the voters to vote for the concept instead of ratifying the results for them. Let the people decide if they want to do this instead of you in the legislature decide for them. If every vote counts.. then that is the way it should be put into place.

Frank Martin, Portland OR

MCRP Election Integrity Chair