

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE

STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2927

Brooke Hazard, Multnomah County

Does my vote really count? Because I live in a spectator state and because of the Electoral College system, I **do not believe** it does.

The over 1 million votes (1,002,106) cast for Hillary Clinton in Oregon in 2016 were lost – not one of our votes counted towards her win because of the Electoral College.

At its most basic, Clinton lost the election by 77,744 votes (Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin), six hundredths of 1% (.06%) of the total votes cast for both lead candidates. The 6,5777,816 votes cast for her in those states did not count towards her win, yet she won the total vote count by 2,868,691 votes or 2.23% of the total votes cast for both lead candidates.

The United States is the only country in the world still inserting an Electoral College between voters and the Presidency.

A candidate could **win just 22 percent** of the popular vote and win the Presidency, and a candidate has won the Presidency **with just 31 percent** of the vote.

Because Presidential candidates can win with so few popular votes, they spend their time and money in battleground states. In 2016, 94% of all campaign stops were in Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina. Nevada, with a smaller population than Oregon received 17 visits. Oregon received zero visits from the lead candidates. In fact, Trump cancelled his visit to Portland in August.

A candidate's understanding of our issues is a motivation to vote. If they never come to Oregon, do they understand the issues we face? DOUBTFUL.

The Constitution lets states decide for themselves how to assign their Electoral votes.

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact bill, pending in your committee, would use the power of the Constitution to modernize U.S. Presidential elections.

Forty states have introduced at least one bill into the Legislature and 12 have passed legislation through at least one house. Many of these are solidly red states, such as Arizona where the House passed a bill by a 2/3 majority – 40-16 in 2016.

A 2008 poll shows that 76% of Oregonians want the NPV. You know the history of Oregon bills, which passed the House in 2009 (39-19), 2013 (38-21) and once again in 2015 (37-21). And in 2015, a majority of Oregon Senators sponsored a bill. None of these bills made it out of the Oregon Senate.

But, Oregon is trying again via HB2927 and SB823 with bi-partisan sponsorship.

I WANT MY VOTE, AND EVERY VOTE, TO COUNT TOWARDS ELECTING OUR PRESIDENT!

As such, I respectfully request that the House Committee on Rules move HB2927 forward with a "DO PASS" recommendation and a YES vote in the Legislative session.