

Dear Members of the Working Committee,

I write to voice my strong support for HB 2927, the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact Bill. I believe no one who loses the popular vote should be President of this country. This is not a partisan issue; it is one of common sense and fairness. Not only does it de-legitimize that person in the eyes of many here and around the world, it undermines basic concepts of our democracy, that a person's vote matters, that we are all equal.

The Interstate Compact does not contest existence or function of the Electoral College. As with most changes to our voting standards, it continues in the tradition of being initiated at the state level. Reforms like suffrage for women and African Americans were initiated in states before they were adopted at the national level, as were the change to an 18-year-old voting age, abolition of the property ownership requirement as a qualification for voting, and even the winner-take-all standard for distribution of state electors that is currently used by most states. This last standard is what the NPVIC proposes to change.

The bill does not dilute Oregon's statehood and power because it groups our voters with those of other states. Oregonians vote for presidential candidates based on their individual beliefs about what is good for them and their country, not as cogs in state machinery. No one cheers because their presidential candidate won their state. The bill strengthens us because all our votes will count.

If passed by enough states to reach the threshold of 270 electoral votes needed to win the presidency, it can enfranchise all Americans because it requires that a state's electoral votes go to the winner of the national popular vote. It will mean that every vote counts equally and that the person who wins the popular vote will be the President. No longer will a tiny minority of voters in swing states be more powerful than the voice of the majority. No longer will minority voters in their states have their votes negated, whether they are in a red, blue or swing states.

77K voters across 4 states determined the winner of the last election even though the winner lost the popular vote by nearly 3 million votes. That gave those 77K voters more than 30 times the influence compared to those 3 million. Did that not disenfranchise the majority of Oregonians? What about the voters in the minority in Oregon who have their votes negated in every presidential election by our current winner-take-all system? And how does that increased power these swing state voters have translate into extra federal benefits for those states; more disaster funds, more project funds? It is time for the Oregon legislature to give Oregonians equal voice and power with their brethren in swing states and to make all our votes count.

Paula Grisafi
Lane County, OR
[541-345-2326](tel:541-345-2326)

Sent from my iPhone