

I am not able to attend the Senate Rules Committee Hearing on the National Popular Vote on Wednesday.

I trust this e-mail will serve as my testimony.

If ever there was a year for the Oregon Senate to let it be known that Oregonians support the idea of allowing our votes to “count” in presidential elections — this is it! Our country is in turmoil over this issue. Oregonians' votes for president don't count for much in the big picture. . .and we hardly ever have presidential candidates come to make their case during the national campaigns after party conventions.

As I understand the National Popular Vote is a non-partisan issue. What it does is blend the popular vote count with the electoral college count to determine presidential nominees. This seems a reasonable compromise. And doesn't require a constitutional amendment to reflect voter opinions.

The current winner-take-all in states really negates the votes of losers to the total disadvantage of the entire populous.

Too many times in the last few years, we have had presidential elections won by those who did not reflect the popular vote. .
yet, in all our other elections that is the way we decide those who would represent us.

One person, one vote has been the basis of elections for years reflecting the morality of universal suffrage.

Since the Oregon House has voted to pass such legislation over the past several sessions, it is my plea to the senate to allow such a vote for their members also.

My preference is for HB 2728. SB 825 is a distraction, and would require a very expensive voter response — a battle at the polls, when it is the prerogative of the legislature to determine how votes are counted in national races. After all, our national senators and representative are counted by popular vote.

Let's be rational about this issue. And let's not let another session go by without a consideration of this issue.

I would urge the rules committee, and the senate, to vote YEA for HB 2729 and Nay for SB 825.

Respectfully,

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