

To the Oregon State Senate,

I'm writing to you today to endorse the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, HB2927. I oppose SB825, because there is no need to refer this matter to the voters.

Article II, Section 1, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution requires state legislatures to determine how Electoral College votes will be awarded.

That's you folks.

I'm asking you to debate the merits of HB2927 in an open session, and to pass this legislation. Let your constituents know that you are in favor of electoral reform.

While that sums up my opinion, I hope that you will read the rest of my testimony, because the more I learn about our current electoral college system, the more I think it is in need of a major overhaul.

Specifically, I'm referring to the 1929 Congressional Reapportionment Act that capped the number of Congressional seats at 435; and which in turn limits the number of Electoral College votes to 538. (Here's the math: 425 votes represent Congressional districts, 100 votes represent Senate seats, and 3 votes are reserved for the District of Columbia.)

In effect this piece of legislation perverts the intent of the founding fathers. Instead of an Electoral College based on proportional representation it creates a zero sum game where one state can only win additional representation if another state loses representation. That is not democracy; it is political gamesmanship.

Oregon is currently experiencing a rapid rise in population...mostly from transplants moving here from other states. I'm one of them myself.

As our population grows, more and more Oregon residents will be disadvantaged under the current Electoral College system. For example, right now, we have a situation where a state like Wyoming has a ratio of 189,433 residents for each of its 3 Electoral College votes. Compare that to Oregon, which has 549,801 residents for each of its 7 votes.

That situation will grow more unbalanced along with Oregon's population.

One final point: Proponents of the Electoral College point to it as the last defense against electing a populist demagogue. I agree with that. The beauty of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is that it leaves the system of electors in place. In effect, HB2927 would finally grant every citizen of Oregon a direct say in choosing our country's President, while still preserving an important safety net.

As a concerned citizen, who wants to see a vibrant, inclusive democracy reestablished in our state and our nation, I urge you to vote for HB2927.

Let's join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact today!

Sincerely,
Luisa Simone
Portland, OR