

Senate Rules Committee,

I'm writing against SB 825. I support Oregon joining the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC) via HB 2927. The constitution is very clear about how states allocate their electoral college votes. Because the members of the Constitutional Convention could not agree on a method for choosing the presidential electors they turned the matter over to the state legislatures. In the Constitution the role of the state legislature is unquestionable: *Each state shall appoint in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors, equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress*. Nowhere in this article does it say the decision should be referred to voters, and the extent to which a decision made via this route would be upheld in a court challenge is unknown. Furthermore, Oregon's decision to use the current winner take all allocation approach was not referred to voters and there has never been a case in U.S. history where anybody other than the state legislature made this decision.

If the legislature thinks that only the people can make these important decisions, there is no reason to have a legislature. The governor can just refer all the issues to the ballot. If the only decisions legislators can make is whether or not to designate the third Saturday in March of each year as Cherry Blossom Day or whether Newberg should be designated as the Camellia City of Oregon, why do we need you? Either do the job you were elected to do or find a new job. If it's so important for the people to decide issues in their state, why is it not important for the people to decide issues in their country? If by referral, the plurality of voters makes decisions for their state, the plurality of national voters should make decisions for who their president is.

A final caveat: Oregon's Constitution provides a specific way for opponents to obtain a statewide vote on legislation after it is passed by the legislature. Under this established "referendum process," the opponents have the burden of getting a certain number of signatures against what the legislature has passed within 90 days after it passes. The question then goes onto the November general election ballot. The plan proposed by Senators Courtney and Devlin turns this totally upside-down. The opponents don't have the usual burden under the Oregon Constitution of demonstrating substantial opposition to the legislation by getting a petition signed.

Over the past 50+ presidential elections, states have used a variety of different systems to allocate their electoral votes. Nothing is sacrosanct. I believe that the president represents the country and, as such, should be elected by the national popular vote. We need this change. I do not believe that a presidential candidate is necessarily listening to the concerns of a particular

state. He or she is listening to the concerns of groups of individuals across the country, many of whom are expressing many of the same concerns regardless of the state they live in. We have our members of Congress who effectively represent the needs of states' residents living in close geographic proximity and who often have similar concerns. All of these federal positions, our state legislators, governor, mayor, school board members, and on and on, are elected by the popular vote. The president should be too.

I want my vote and each person's vote to be equal. My vote should not count less than a vote from a person in MT. I want my vote to count. I want all votes to be cast, counted, and the winner decided by the largest number.

From the input members of both the house and senate have received from constituents, it is clear we prefer the rules committee passes a clean HB 2927 to the floor for a vote by all senators.

Thank you,

Angela Roccograndi

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