

My name is Robert McMonigal, and I live in the Lents area of Portland, Oregon. I am writing to submit testimony in support of HB 2927, aka the National Popular Vote Bill. While I understand that this is coming in after the noon deadline, I ask that these comments be entered into the written record if at all possible. Thank you.

First of all, thank you for allowing this bill to come to a hearing. I know that sometimes it is difficult to change a tradition, and it's very much tradition for the United States to use the Electoral College instead of a popular vote. The fact that you are giving this a hearing is important to me, and I want to thank you for that.

Despite its history, the use of the Electoral College system instead of a popular vote system is flawed. In 2000 and again in 2016, the will of the people was clear--they wanted either Albert Gore or Hillary Clinton to be President. But despite winning clear majorities, neither were elected, due to a system that enables smaller states to have significant power in the voting totals.

As we continue to see population shifts, states with growing populations such as Oregon are not being fairly heard, as their overall vote is diluted by smaller states with at least 3 Electoral College votes. Further, because only 271 are needed to win, as we have seen, candidates only visit those states who "matter." If you are in a so-called "safe" state--no Presidential Candidate will come to your door.

To fix this, Oregon needs to join the growing coalition of states who want to move to a Popular vote. It does not bind Oregon until 271 electoral college votes are decided in this way. But Oregon needs to help lead the way on this issue. We are a leader in so many other areas, let's make this another one. Please vote to move HB 2927 to a floor vote.

Thank you.

Robert McMonigal  
Portland