

Members of the Senate Rules Committee:

I write in strong support of HB2927, the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. I support Oregon joining the compact for these reasons:

1. The president of the United States is the only elected official who represents every American. By that reason alone, he/she must be elected by the people he/she represents. Currently, it is possible to elect a president who does not have the popular support of the voters.
2. The remedy for this is quite easy. It does not require a constitutional amendment. The legislature in each state has the power granted to it by the US Constitution to appoint electors and instruct how they shall vote.
3. HB2927 allows Oregon to join the interstate compact along with 11 other states / jurisdictions. Once enough states, whose electoral votes combined equals 270, the national popular vote and the electoral college votes will always be the same and the person with the most votes will, fairly, win the presidential election.
4. By this remedy we avoid potential for a constitutional crisis and feelings that elections have been stolen. We energize voters, young and old, who have felt that their votes don't count (so why bother).
5. A president elected by popular vote has a clear mandate - strong or weak. It is the clearest message that can be given to an incoming president.
5. One person, one vote: all votes equal, is FAIR.

Please support HB2927, vote yes, and advance this bill to the Senate floor. The competing bill SB825, however, transfers the decision from the legislature to the voters. HB825 is subject to legal challenge right out of the chute. Why would the legislature want to expose itself in such a way? In addition, many polls have shown Oregon voters already strongly approve of NPV. 70 - 76% want their votes to go to the candidate who wins the most popular votes. With this kind of approval margin, is it not folly to spend the kind of money required to launch a statewide campaign to get a result that is already known? No legislature, including Oregon, asked voters to approve the winner-take-all system. Please say no to SB825 and yes to HB2927. Thank you.

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