

Dear Senate Rules Committee,

I am writing to urge you to vote no on SB 825 and instead support HB 2927.

I strongly support the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact and the people's right to have a say in Oregon's adoption of this compact. That is what we are doing right now, and have been doing all session, making our voices heard to our elected officials whose job it is to make this decision.

The Constitution Gave This Job to the State Legislatures

The U.S. Constitution specifically assigns the job of choosing the method of awarding electoral votes to the state legislature. There has never been a case in the history of the electoral college where anybody other than the state legislature made this decision. Oregon's winner-take-all law was not referred to a vote by the people. It is the job of the legislature to decide this issue.

SB 825 Turns the Process Upside Down

The Oregon 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 questions then goes onto the November general election ballot.

The plan proposed by Senators Courtney and Devlin turns this totally upside-down. #1 The opponents don't have the usual burden under the Oregon Constitution of demonstrating substantial opposition to the legislation by getting a petition signed, we as supporters have the burden. #2 Under SB 825, the vote would be in a low-turnout primary election, instead of the November general election.

Cost

Running a ballot campaign in Oregon is extremely costly. It would be very easy for a well-funded opposition group, **likely from outside Oregon**, to come in and confuse the issue. Our grassroots group that has gotten the bill this far is made up of volunteers chipping in \$5, \$10, \$20 at a time and donating their time. We don't want a repeat of measure 97 resulting in a non-Oregonian getting to influence how your vote counts.

It is clear that the statewide winner-take-all aspect of the Electoral College system is deeply flawed and has caused many Oregonians to believe their votes don't count when electing a President. Our state has been a leader in election reform, and it would be a shame for the idea of "one person, one vote" to be put off any longer. Please don't politicize this non-partisan issue unnecessarily by referring the issue to the voters.

Sincerely,
Eileen Reavey

Portland, OR