

Testimony In Support of HB 2927

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I will be brief.
My name is Gerritt Rosenthal and I live in Tualatin, Oregon.

I want to testify in support of HB 2927 regarding the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPV-IC)

I want to make several simple points:

- 1) The Electoral College is an anachronism dating from the period with only 13 states, difficult travel, sparse communication networks, and a vote that was very limited in enfranchisement.
- 2) I have heard no positive logical reason by anyone as to why we should continue a presidential election system that is demonstrably undemocratic and by which a small cadre of states can elect a president against the general will of the people. There is no Constitutional support for the fact that a voter in a low population has up to 3.3 times the voting power of a voter in a populous state.
- 3) There are only 2 ways to change the current system and correct the current imbalance, either by a mechanism such as the NPV – IC, or by a full Constitutional Convention. I think we all understand how difficult a full convention could be.
- 4) The Constitution clearly intended the state Legislatures to be the agents to decide how electors were to be selected in that it clearly says, “each state, in such a manner as the Legislature may direct...” It does not state, “in a manner the people of the state may decide”! The Legislature has the sole authority and a vote of the people of the state can only be advisory and could be ignored.

This is my personal testimony, however, I also want to note that the Democratic Party of Washington County recently (2/22/2017) passed a resolution supporting the NPV-IC by a near unanimous vote of the Central Committee.

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