

SB 825: National Popular Vote
STRONGLY OPPOSED

June 20, 2017

Dear Committee Members:

Although I am a strong supporter of national popular vote legislation in Oregon, I do NOT support SB 825, which would refer NPV to the ballot for a vote. No other state that has joined the compact has done so this way and for good reason. 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 U.S. history 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.

Additionally, if SB 825 were to go to the ballot, it would do so in a low-turnout primary election, leaving the vote to a much smaller group of voters. This could likely lead to the ballot measure failing. A ballot campaign is also, of course, very costly. It would be very easy for a well-funded opposition group—likely from outside of Oregon—to sweep in and confuse the issue. We do not need a repeat of measure 97!

If there really is strong opposition to national popular vote legislation, HB 2927, there is, of course, a way for opponents to still get the legislation on the ballot. As you probably know, 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. This seems like a much more logical way to send NPV to the ballot if it must go there.

Please vote NO on SB 825 and YES on HB 2927. Oregon needs to set this country onto the path of electoral reform, and HB 2927 will do just that.

Respectfully,

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