

TO: The Honorable Craig Hickman
The Honorable Laura Supica, Co-Chairs
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

DATE: December 26, 2023

RE: LD 1578 National Popular Vote

Good morning Senator Hickman and Representative Laura Supica, and the members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee. My name is Janet Williams. I'm a volunteer member of the League of Women Voters of Maine and a resident of Jefferson.

I support the passage of LD 1578 to enact the National Popular Vote. I believe in every vote counting. Currently, only some votes are counted by the campaigns. Most campaign visits are in six states, the battleground states. These states receive more in federal grant funds and in political advertising than the other 44 states. This means that Maine is neglected and our state issues receive too little attention compared to the 6 battleground states.

Passing LD 1578 will not allow the large states to dominate the elections. Voters of each party will be counted in the popular vote. This means every vote, including the votes for the loser will be counted in the final total. LD 1578 is non-partisan. It is good for Republicans and Democrats. No voter is penalized for being from a rural state, or large city. George W. Bush won the popular vote without winning New York, California, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Illinois.

Maine should join the sixteen states and DC who have already passed NPV legislation. NPV does not change the Constitution nor abolish the Electoral College, but it does allow the candidate with the most votes, nationally, to win the election. Currently Mainers vote for governor, senator and congressional representatives directly. Our next step should be for Mainers to directly elect the president through LD 1578 legislation.

Janet Williams

Jefferson, Maine