

Bonnie Sand  
Round Pond  
LD 1578

Dear Members of the Veterans and Legal Committee,

I am urging the committee to seriously support LD 1578 so that Maine can join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact and create more fair and democratic process to choose our president be the majority of voters and not just a handful of states.

I care deeply about democracy. I have voted in every presidential election since I became eligible to vote and in fact have missed only two mid-cycle elections in my lifetime.

When I turned 18, I was excited to be involved and to cast my own vote for president. Unfortunately, I have voted in two presidential elections where the winners of the election did not win the majority of votes.

When Hillary Clinton had millions more votes than Donald Trump but lost the election I felt like my vote just didn't matter if I lived in Washington State or Maine. I feel that this is undemocratic. I have witnessed the frenzy of attention voters received from presidential candidates in a smaller "swing" state that I lived in before settling in Maine. When I lived in more critical voting states my impression was that candidates cared about my family and my community, that our votes mattered. But when I moved to a larger state that was not a swing state and then to Maine my experience was vastly different. There were fewer visits to my state and the issues that were pertinent were not addressed by candidates.

I have learned that candidates pay attention only to "battleground states," because our presidential elections are decided not by the majority, but by a small handful of states.

In 2020, 96% of general election campaign events were in just 12 states. Maine received only two visits.

Candidate inattention doesn't just mean Mainers have less opportunity to meet with the people who might become President. It also means that Mainers' issues are largely ignored during campaigns. For example, there are more people in the logging industry than in fracking nationwide, but in the last election, I only knew candidates' positions on fracking. More

Mainers are directly affected by issues involving logging and forestry, but candidates have no reason to learn about logging or form a position on it because in the current system, Mainers' votes aren't needed to win an election.

I'm tired of being ignored. If presidents were elected by National Popular Vote, candidates would have to pay attention to the issues important to voters in all 50 states and D.C.

Why should my vote have more value in Florida than in Maine? I urge the committee to support efforts to have Maine join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. Please support LD 1578.

Sincerely,  
Bonnie Sand