

January 8, 2024

Good morning Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee. My name is Marc Miller. I live in Cumberland and I am here to testify in support of LD 1578. I am a semi-retired physician and not a political scientist or constitutional lawyer but I have for some time been concerned about the effect of the Electoral College on our elections and democracy.

The Electoral College is anti-democratic. It gives disproportionate influence to voters from states with smaller populations at odds with the 1 person 1 vote rule. It is essentially a national gerrymander. It can produce the election of a candidate who does not win the popular vote as has occurred twice already in this century.

It is an anachronism having its roots in colonial America with its concerns about the ability of the general population to make sound electoral decisions and at a time when part of the country was interested in the preservation of slavery.

The Electoral College deprives the voters of non-swing states including Maine from their fair share of campaign attention and therefore interest in specific issues pertaining to their state.

Because of these and other concerns, the Electoral College should not be how we decide our presidential elections. However, given that Congress has failed in the past and is unlikely in the future to vote to amend the Constitution to eliminate the Electoral College, the National Popular Vote Compact is a sensible alternative that will essentially eliminate the Electoral College and strengthen our democracy.

Most efforts to retain the Electoral College come from those who want to maintain the status of their swing state or from those whose candidates are unlikely to win the popular vote but could prevail in our current system. These are not small democratic concerns.

I therefore urge you to support the passage of LD 1578, The National Popular Vote Compact. The Compact has so far been approved by states that count for 205 electoral votes. 270 are needed for the National Popular Vote system to be implemented.