

Karen Benoit  
South Berwick  
LD 1578

My name is Karen Benoit and I live in South Berwick]. I am testifying in support of LD 1578, "An Act to Adopt an Interstate Compact to Elect the President of the United States by National Popular Vote". Maine needs the National Popular Vote because it is nonpartisan and works within the Electoral College.

This pact leaves the Electoral College in place, so it does not require a constitutional amendment. Instead, it is a pact among states that they will instruct their electoral college representatives to cast their vote for the candidate that gets the most popular votes nationwide.

The National Popular Vote bill would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. It gives candidates a reason to campaign in all 50 states, even Maine, because every voter, in every state, will be politically relevant in every presidential election.

Five of our 46 Presidents have come into office without winning the most popular votes nationwide. Most recently, in 2016, Hillary Clinton surpassed Donald Trump in the national popular vote by nearly 2.9 million votes, yet she did not become President.

It is time that the United States correct the flaw in our election process that can deny the person who has the most votes across the country the position of Presidency!

The National Popular Vote bill has been enacted by 17 jurisdictions possessing 205 electoral votes, including 4 small states (DE, HI, RI, VT), and 9 medium-sized states. It needs an additional 65 electoral votes to go into effect.

Please support LD 1578. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.