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*Testimony of Senator Mattie Daughtry supporting*  
**LD 1578, An Act to Adopt an Interstate Compact to Elect the President of the  
United States by National Popular Vote**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs*  
January 8, 2024

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and Esteemed Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, my name is Mattie Daughtry, and I proudly represent Senate District 23, which includes Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell, Pownal, Chebeague Island, and part of Yarmouth. Today I am pleased to testify in strong support of [LD 1578](#), “An Act to Adopt an Interstate Compact to Elect the President of the United States by National Popular Vote.”

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact ensures that the Presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes across all 50 states and the District of Columbia will become the President of the United States.<sup>1</sup> So far, a mix of states – ranging from small to big – has enacted the Compact: DE, HI, RI, VT, CO, CT, MD, MA, MN, NJ, NM, OR, WA, CA, IL, NY, and D.C. The Compact will take effect when a combination of states that has at least 65 electoral votes enacts it. If Maine enacts the Compact, and I hope that we will, then we can contribute 4 electoral votes to this effort.

I often hear from constituents who believe that the person who receives the most votes should become the next President. In my lifetime, the President candidate who received the most popular votes failed to win the Presidency in four of nine elections: 1992, 1996, 2000, and 2016. In the most recent case, when Donald Trump was elected President, candidate Hillary Clinton received almost 3 million more popular votes than Trump; yet, the Electoral College gave Trump the Presidency with 306 electoral votes.<sup>2</sup> How can a candidate become President when they do not receive the majority of votes?

In Maine, we already use an alternative method – the Congressional District Method – which was authored by the Honorable John Martin in 1969. Maine, along with Nebraska, is one of the two states that does not use the Winner-Take-All Method for allocating their electoral votes. Since 1972, the Presidential candidate who received the most votes in the state also received the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nationalpopularvote.com/written-explanation>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/elections/2016/results/president>

most votes in both of Maine’s Congressional districts. Once again, 2016 was an exception: Hillary Clinton won the First Congressional District electoral vote and the two statewide electoral votes, but she lost the Second Congressional District electoral vote. At first, one might think that the Congressional District Method is an improvement to the Winner-Take-All Method, but [Fair Vote](#) has determined that expanding this method to all 50 states would increase the likelihood of a candidate winning the election without winning a majority of the national popular vote.<sup>3</sup>

In Maine, and the United States, we have an opportunity to enshrine the principle of “one person, one vote” in our democracy. The Electoral College is an antiquated feature of America’s democratic tradition. When the Founders established the Electoral College, they wanted to balance the desires of the voters with Members of Congress who were better educated or informed to make such a decision.<sup>4</sup> Today, the world is different: We have a broadly educated and enfranchised citizenry that can – and should – choose who becomes President through free and fair elections.

I urge the Committee to vote “Ought to Pass” and put the power to pick the President directly in the hands of Maine people.

Thank you,



**Mattie Daughtry**

Assistant Senate Majority Leader, Senate District 23

*Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell, Pownal, Chebeague Island, and part of Yarmouth*

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<sup>3</sup> [https://fairvote.org/archives/the\\_electoral\\_college-maine\\_nebraska/](https://fairvote.org/archives/the_electoral_college-maine_nebraska/)

<sup>4</sup> <https://archive3.fairvote.org/articles/john-martin-examining-the-history-of-electoral-votes/>