

Kevin Craig  
Waterville  
LD 1578

Chair Hickman and Chair Supica and the distinguished members of the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Good morning, my name is Kevin Craig, and I live in Waterville, Maine. I work with Maine Youth Power, and I am here today 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 prides itself on having strong democracy policies like ranked choice voting, public financing of elections, early voting, vote by mail and so on. So let's join the rest of New England (except New Hampshire) and the 17 states that have already passed National Popular Vote and bring the country just 61 electoral votes shy of the 270 trigger needed to bring the law into effect.

Maine has nothing to lose by passing, since the compact doesn't go into effect until 61 other votes are secured. In fact, elections would be administered the same, and the status quo is maintained. Once the compact is able to materialize, you protect both the integrity of the electoral college while empowering voters in Maine to stand on the same footing as voters in more of a swing state like Pennsylvania. You restore trust in elections since voters know exactly how their vote impacts the election and goes toward the candidate of their choice, instead of voters in the minority being ignored if they live in a state with a winner-takes-all electoral vote distribution. You also protect elections, since individual states with electoral votes could be contested or compromised, but under the compact, there would be no disagreement regarding who rightfully won, and compromising the national popular vote would be much harder.

As a voter, I strongly urge you to consider LD 1578 - An Act to Adopt an Interstate Compact to Elect the President of the United States by National Popular Vote.

Thank you for your time.