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Liberty
LD 1578

Testimony on LD 1578 - An Act to Adopt an Interstate Compact to Elect the President of the United States by National Popular Vote

First, I would like to say thanks to all members of the Maine House for keeping the National Popular Vote Compact idea alive in the Maine Legislature and for voting to pass LD 1578 in the Maine House on 5 March with a vote of 74-67 in favor. Why all Democrats did not vote for this, I do not know.

Second, passing the National Popular Vote bill here in Maine would show the rest of the country, that Maine stands up for democracy when our country needs it the most, in this presidential election year - 2024. We are already witnessing poll results that say that if Trump actually makes it to election day that he will beat President Biden this time in the Electoral College as he did when ran against Hillary Clinton in 2016. If we had had the National Popular Vote in place by the 2000 presidential election we would not have had Former Presidents Bush in 2000 and Trump in 2016 in the White House, with all the damage they did to the Presidency and our democracy around the world. If Trump wins this election then this will be the 6th time a presidential candidate has beaten the popular vote winner by using the outdated Electoral College.

In a February 2024 poll, 72% of Maine voters supported nationwide election of the President, according to Pan-Atlantic polling.

In Maine, 88% of the Democrats, 75% of the independents, and 51% of the Republicans supported changing the current system, so the candidate who receives the most total votes nationwide wins the election. By congressional district, 74% of first district residents and 70% of second district supported the change. Moreover, 80% of the women, and 64% of the men supported the change. Among voters who call themselves "Very conservative" or "Conservative," support was 49%-51% in favor of the change. Among "Moderates," it was 71%-29%. Among Liberals, it was 91%-9%. Among "Very Liberals," it was 95%-5%. The question in the Maine poll was identical to the question used in the recent Pew national poll.

This is what the people of Maine want to happen in a big way.

I read a short letter-to-the editor in the Lewiston Sun Journal submitted by Audrey Murphy, of Auburn, which was entitled LD 1578 Would Remove Voting Power of Maine People. She said, "It is a horrible idea. If this bill is passed, then it is useless for anyone to vote in Maine. Our vote would never be heard." This is an absolute falsehood. In fact, the Electoral College system we are now under leads to Mainers' votes never being heard because the only states that politicians pay attention to are the closely divided battleground states. Just 12 closely divided swing states got 96% of 2020 campaign events. 41 States (with 80% of the U.S. population), including Maine, will be ignored in the 2024 Presidential Election. And these swing states, where the two major political parties have similar levels of support among voters, determine the outcome of every presidential election. This is why we need to change to the National Popular Vote system outlined in LD 1578, because we want every American's vote to count equally; one person, one vote. And under a National Popular Vote, politicians will not be able to ignore any vote in any state while campaigning.

I am not going to mince words here. The Republican Party uses the Electoral College as a major tool in their anti-democratic toolbox to impose minority rule on the majority of voters who do not vote for Republican Party candidates. I have done a lot of research into the history of the Republican Party and have come to the conclusion that if Republicans did not have the Electoral College working for them, if they weren't carrying out unconstitutional gerrymandering everywhere they can, if they weren't suppressing the vote of Americans by passing undemocratic laws in the states they control, then they would not win an election anywhere in the United States at any level of government.

I guarantee you, that if you do not vote for this National Popular Vote bill and Trump wins this election, you will rue the day you did not stand up to protect our democracy.