

Betsy Williams
Brunswick
LD 252

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Veteran's and Legal Affairs Committee. My name is Betsy Williams and I live in Brunswick. I am testifying today in opposition to LD 252, An Act to Withdraw from the National Popular Vote Compact. One of the fundamental principles of my faith as a Unitarian Universalist is very simple, though often hard to uphold, and that is fairness. And the principle of fairness is at the heart of the National Popular Vote Compact.

Fairness means every vote carries equal weight, is counted equally. With our use of the Electoral College, even with our district distribution of electors, every vote cast for the candidate who does not win in one's district simply does not count. With NPV no Mainer's vote would be discounted because it was among the minority in their district.

Fairness means every state in the union is treated equally by our national leaders, both during presidential races and after, when federal resources are allocated. With our current use of the Electoral College, 48 of our 50 states use a "winner take all" statewide strategy, creating a handful of "swing" states whose electors decide the outcome—of a national election. The fallout of that? In addition to millions of votes nationwide being discounted, candidates spend their time in these few states, often making promises to address the concerns of these few states, and, if elected, currying favor with these few states so they get those electoral votes again next time. Democrats do it—Republicans do it. The system encourages it. It's not fair.

The race for president of the United States is a national contest, not a contest between states. We know our individual votes matter in elections for state leaders and representatives because our vote carries the same weight no matter where we live. With NPV we will know our individual votes carry the same weight for our national leader as well, no matter where we live.

Please vote ONTP and do not remove Maine's participation in the National Popular Vote Compact, a system that is a better, fairer way of electing our national leader.

Thank you.