

Anne M. Gallaudet
Scarborough, Maine

April 14, 2025

Re: LD 252: An Act to Withdraw from the National Popular Vote Compact

LD 1373: An Act to Repeal the National Popular Vote Compact

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

I appreciate this opportunity to address you on these two important matters. My name is Anne Gallaudet. I am a resident of Scarborough, Maine. I am writing in opposition of LD 252 and LD 1373.

Maine passed legislation supporting the NPV in 2024, making Maine the 18th state to join the National Popular Vote Compact. If passed, this bill would withdraw/repeal Maine's participation in the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV) and modifies various sections of Maine's statutes to reflect the withdrawal/repeal. For these reasons set forth below, I believe you should oppose these two bills.

First, the majority of Mainers are for the NPV: Quoting from <https://www.nationalpopularvote.com/state/me>:

In a February 2024 Pan Atlantic Research poll, 72% of Maine voters support nationwide election of the President. Voters were asked:

Thinking about the way in which the president is elected in this country, which would you prefer?

- Change the current system, so the candidate who receives the most total votes nationwide wins the election
- Keep the current system, in which the candidate who wins the most votes in the Electoral College wins the election

The Maine poll had 791 respondents. In the Maine poll, 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.

Second, NPV provides basic democratic reform, adhering to the core principle of democracy - one person, one vote. The candidate who gets the most votes, wins the election.

Third, right now the Electoral College process yields too much leverage to a small number of states - the so-called "swing states". In the 2024 presidential election there were seven swing states out of fifty – a mere 14% of states.

Fourth, these swing states in 2024 did not include Maine and the 42 other states. The focus on them is at Maine's expense. The lack of NPV in Maine offers no inordinate benefits and, indeed, offers substantial disadvantages.

Common Cause stated:

Candidates have no reason to poll, advertise, organize or visit states that they cannot possibly win or lose. And because of the winner-take-all laws very few states are competitive. We all know that the swing states: Ohio Florida Pennsylvania and 6 or so smaller states. Voters in these states, not the American public as a whole, pick the president. The rest of us are spectators.

The current system also means that the candidate who placed second in the national popular vote was elected in 2016, 2000, 1888, 1876 and 1824. That's not democracy.

<https://www.commoncause.org/colorado/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/NPV-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

Fifth, the NPV is nonpartisan - it does not favor any particular entity. It favors solely the individual voter. It gives no advantage to a particular region, state, group or political viewpoint.

The Maine League of Women's Voters points out that with NPV:

Every vote in every state in every presidential election will be equal. No battleground states, no spectator states.

The candidate with the most votes across all 50 states and DC will win. No 2nd place winners.

Candidates will be motivated to seek voter support in all 50 states and DC. No more swing states or spectator states.

Voter participation will increase because voters will know their vote matters.

<https://www.lwvme.org/NPV>

Thank you for considering my appeal. I urge you to vote "Ought Not to Pass" on both LD 252 and LD 1373.

Anne Gallaudet,
Scarborough, ME