

Christopher Pearson
National Popular Vote
in support of LD 1578

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

John Martin first introduced this bill here in March 2007. Weeks later, a newly elected State Senator – Jamie Raskin ushered his bill into law in Maryland. Raskin has gone on to Congress and played a central role in the January 6th hearings where he saw in great detail how vulnerable our system is because we depend on state outcomes to determine the winner. Raskin has consistently and urgently called for states to follow Maryland's lead.

2020 was a good example of how vulnerable our system is. We had a clear choice from the nation and a razor thin margin out of the states that ultimately decided the outcome. Biden won by 7 million votes but AZ, WI, and GA - where the total margin was under 43,000 votes – handed him the victory. A lawsuit can't credibly challenge 7 million votes but dozens did challenge the 11,000 vote margin in GA and elsewhere. Suddenly charges of fraud and stolen elections gain credibility, judges and lawyers get involved while the people wonder if their choice will be honored.

That would all change under National Popular Vote.

A few weeks ago, a Washington Post analysis said 18% of Americans will be in a position to cast a decisive vote for President in 2024 – a record low. And many polls suggest a 2nd place President is likely.

People are losing faith in our systems. Our democracy is on the ropes and in front of you is an idea that is firmly based in the Constitution and supported by 2/3 voters. This bill gives you the power to make every voter matter in every election in every state in the nation. This is how you ensure voters in the 2nd CD always have influence. This is the shot in the arm our troubled democracy needs.

Our paid opponents - Save Our States – have consistently and repeatedly made false statements to slow our progress. They misstate what is actually in the Compact, what is in federal law, and other easily verified facts and I expect them to do that again today.

Last year, in front of committees in Michigan, Alaska and elsewhere, they said there is no official national popular vote count ignoring that federal law has required states to certify their official counts since 1887. They falsely say that there is no way to adjudicate disputes under the Compact, but also say the Compact is going to overwhelm the courts. They incorrectly say that individual state administrators can judge the election returns of other states, and later complain states are forced by the Compact to accept the election returns of other states.

We have catalogued their charges and answered each one.

If you agree every vote should be equal and the winner should get the most votes, please make 2024 the year Maine passed this bill. Thank you.