



TO: The Honorable Craig Hickman
The Honorable Laura Supica, Co-Chairs
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

DATE: 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

Good morning Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,

My name is Al Cleveland. I am here today as Advocacy Director for the League of Women Voters of Maine. The League of Women Voters of Maine is a nonpartisan political organization that has been working for over 100 years to encourage informed and active participation in government, to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and to influence public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate.

We are testifying in opposition to LD 252 and LD 1373 as strong advocates for the National Popular Vote Compact. We believe that every vote across all 50 states and the District of Columbia should matter equally in electing the president. Last April, Maine joined 16 other states and DC committing to a democratic process in electing our president and vice president by popular vote.

Popular election of public officials has been a feature of our democracy across the country for over 150 years. In that time, our commitment to electoral democracy has grown in importance. It is now part of our political culture and a bedrock feature in our political system. The idea that "the person with the most votes wins" is familiar to every schoolchild and is based on a value that transcends long-ago political compromises. The presidency is unique – the only official chosen by every eligible voter across the entire country, and the only office equally accountable to each and every person in every state and territory. The president is the president of "the people," not of "the states." Yet when each state uses a winner-take-all approach based on the vote within that state for electing the president, the result does not necessarily reflect one person, one vote.

There are some persistent misconceptions around the National Popular Vote. The National Popular Vote would not center presidential elections in large cities. According to Census estimates, The combined population of the top 100 cities in the United States represents roughly 20% of the total US population. Ask yourself this: could any candidate win a national popular

vote by trying to appeal to only 20% of voters? The National Popular Vote requires a candidate to appeal to every voter in every state.

The current system centered around winner-take-all doesn't mean candidates focus on big states or small states, it means they focus on the most closely divided states -- the "swing states." Maine has not been one of the beneficiaries of this. As it is now, presidential candidates can ignore three-quarters of the states in general election campaigns and concentrate only on "swing states." With NPV, voter participation will increase because voters will know their vote matters.

The 2024 presidential campaign for both major parties was concentrated on just 7 closely divided states. These 7 states make up less than 20% of the U.S. population. Over 80% of Americans were mere spectators to the 2024 presidential election. The 43 non-battleground states and D.C. are divided almost equally between the two major political parties.

The president should be the president of all the people. There should be a clear and straightforward choice by the voters that the president would represent. National Popular Vote is nonpartisan, it favors voters, not parties, land, geography, factions, or states. It's a critical democracy reform our country needs.

That is why we support NPV, and urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 252 and LD 1373.