

Testimony in Opposition to
LD 252, An Act to Withdraw from the National Popular Vote Compact”
and LD 1373, “An Act to Repeal the National Popular Vote Compact
Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, April 14, 2025

Douglas Rooks, Augusta

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and distinguished members of the VLA Committee:

This Legislature has considered joining the National Popular Vote Compact eight times before, and I have testified in its favor five times. Only last year was the effort finally successful as LD 1578 became law.

Maine added its four electoral votes to those of 17 other states, including four New England states, and the District of Columbia, to bring the total to 209. Another 61 electoral votes will be needed before the National Popular Vote takes effect.

I believe it would be a grievous error to repeal this law.

We all honor the principle that every adult citizen should have the right to vote, and that all votes should count equally – the one-person, one-vote standard established by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1962.

Manifestly, this is not how the elector system established by the U.S. Constitution works. Rather than counting votes equally, votes in a handful of “swing states,” usually six or seven, count far more. That’s because all states, with the exception of Maine and Nebraska, award all electoral votes to their own popular vote winner, whether the margin is three million votes or 1,000 votes.

This discourages voting in the other 43 states, where the outcome is known in advance and those not on the prevailing side conclude their vote doesn’t really matter.

If every vote counted equally, then each vote in Maine would count exactly as much as a vote in North Carolina or Wisconsin or any state with a tight race. Candidates would have to provide equal attention to every state in proportion to its voting population.

And believe me, a state like Maine that regularly competes for the nation’s highest turnout would get plenty of attention.

Beyond equality and fairness, we must consider how to strengthen our Great Republic in these embattled times. By selecting the president the same way we decide every other election, from governor and senator to school board and council, we honor our fundamental democratic principles by joining the rest of the world in choosing its top leaders by popular vote.

I urge you to vote “ought not to pass,” and would answer any questions you have with pleasure.