



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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### ***Testimony of Representative Art Bell OPPOSED to: LD 252 & LD 1373***

Before the Veterans & Legal Affairs Committee ... April 14, 2025

Good morning Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Veterans & Legal Affairs Committee. My name is Art Bell, and I represent House District #103, Yarmouth.

I was the lead sponsor of LD 1578 in the 131st legislature, a bi-partisan bill that became law a year ago tomorrow. We are the 18th state to adopt this language. I am here to oppose its repeal as called for by LD 252 & LD 1373.

National Popular Vote is a promise to Maine and to the American people. A promise of 1-person, 1-vote. A promise that in our elections for President every vote will be equal, every vote will matter and the candidate with the most votes will be guaranteed to win.

In other words, it's a promise to make presidential elections fair and simple.

This promise uses state power handed to us in the US Constitution.

As you did a year ago, you will hear from people opposed to electing the President by national popular vote and they will offer a dizzy array of complaints and critiques. None of the objections hold water under scrutiny, as I expect others will prove.

The National Popular Vote law works because states have total control over our own electoral votes. Under the law, our four electoral votes from Maine will go to the candidate which has earned the most votes in the country. But, and this is important, only after states with a majority of the electors have passed the same law.

Maine is joined by the District of Columbia and sixteen other states that have passed this bill. Together we have 209 of the 270 electors needed to bring the National Popular Vote law into effect.

Last year, Pan Atlantic asked Maine voters about whether or not to change the electoral college. 72% of Maine voters support changing to a national popular vote for President. People want this change and I think it's because they look at the way the campaigns happen and know it's broken.

In 2024, a mere seven "battleground" states received 94% of the general-election campaign events - that is, 246 out of the nationwide campaign of 262 events. Maine voters were spectators and we ought to count, just like everybody should.

I'm handing out a chart that shows where the campaign took place and verifies that Maine was ignored.

I can't understand why any legislators would want to undo the promise that we can one day soon see a popular vote for President.

We are in an era of intense political divide. Our democracy is on the ropes and we should be working together to fortify it. We should be empowering voters, helping them to own the process. What better way to let people know they matter and can have faith in our elections than advancing the straightforward principle of one-person, one-vote?

That's the promise of national popular vote. I hope you won't turn your backs on it. Please vote ***ought not to pass*** on LD252 and 1373.

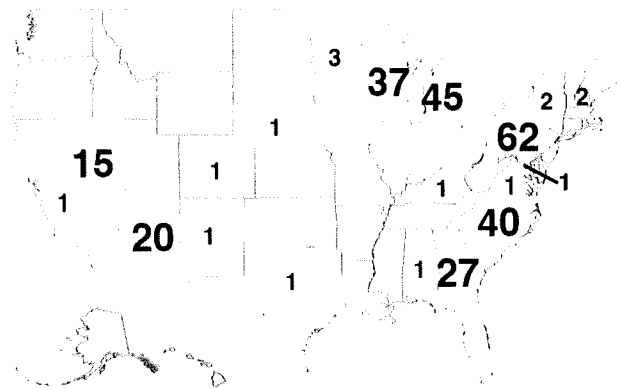
Thank you

## Maine Was Ignored in the 2024 General-Election Campaign for President, Neither Congressional Districts nor the State as a Whole Were Competitive

The current winner-take-all method of awarding electoral votes compels presidential candidates to pay attention only to the voters in closely divided states. Candidates do not visit, advertise, build a grassroots organization, poll, or pay attention to the concerns of voters in states (or congressional districts, in the case of Maine) where they are safely ahead or hopelessly behind. The reason is that they have nothing to gain or lose in such places.

In 2024, a mere seven states received 94% of the general-election campaign events (that is, 246 out of the nationwide total of 262 events).

The map below shows the number of general-election campaign events (out of 262) for each state by the presidential and vice-presidential candidates of the two major parties.



The voters living in the remaining states (such as Maine) were mere spectators to the presidential election.

The ignored states include almost all of the 14 smallest states (all but New Hampshire) and almost all of the rural states, western states, southern states, and northeastern states.

Governance—not just campaigning—is distorted when presidential campaigns concentrate on just a few states. Presidential candidates (and sitting presidents contemplating their own reelection) formulate public policy based on the concerns of the small handful of states that decide the presidency—not the nationwide constituency.

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact would make *every* voter in *every* state politically relevant in *every* presidential election. Under the Compact, no voter will have their vote cancelled out at the state-level because their choice differed from plurality sentiment in their state. No voter will have their vote cancelled out at the congressional-district-level because their choice differed from plurality sentiment in their district. Instead, every voter's vote will be added directly into the national count for the candidate of their choice.

The chart on the next page provides additional details.

# 2024 Presidential Election

## Almost All (94%) of the General-Election Campaign Events Occurred in 7 States

The first column of the table shows the Republican percentage of the two-party 2024 presidential vote. The states are shown in order of the Republican percentage—with the most Republican state (Wyoming) at the top.

The second column shows each state's number of general-election campaign events (out of a nationwide total of 262).

The 7 closely divided “battleground” states (in bold near the middle of the table) received 94% of the general-election campaign events (246 of 262). All the other states together received only 16 of 262 events.

Trump received 77,303,569 votes (49.7% of the national popular vote of 155,512,532). Harris received 75,019,231 votes (48.2%) and all the other candidates together received 3,189,732 (2.1%). Trump's nationwide margin over Harris was 2,284,338 votes. He received 50.7% of the two-party vote (as shown in column 1 of the table).

Republican Percent	Campaign events	State	Trump (R)	Harris (D)	R-Margin	D-Margin	R-EV	D-EV
73%		Wyoming	192,633	69,527	123,106		3	
71%		West Virginia	533,556	214,309	319,247		4	
69%		Idaho	605,246	274,972	330,274		4	
69%		North Dakota	246,505	112,327	134,178		3	
67%		Oklahoma	1,036,213	499,599	536,614		7	
66%		Arkansas	759,241	396,905	362,336		6	
66%	1	Kentucky	1,337,494	704,043	633,451		8	
65%	1	Alabama	1,462,616	772,412	690,204		9	
65%		Tennessee	1,966,865	1,056,265	910,600		11	
65%		South Dakota	272,081	146,859	125,222		3	
62%		Mississippi	747,744	466,668	281,076		6	
61%		Louisiana	1,208,505	766,870	441,635		8	
61%		Utah	883,818	562,566	321,252		6	
60%	1	Nebraska	564,816	369,995	194,821		4	1
60%		Montana	352,079	231,906	120,173		4	
60%		Indiana	1,720,347	1,163,603	556,744		11	
59%		Missouri	1,751,986	1,200,599	551,387		10	
59%		South Carolina	1,483,747	1,028,452	455,295		9	
58%		Kansas	758,802	544,853	213,949		6	
57%	1	Texas	6,393,597	4,835,250	1,558,347		40	
57%		Alaska	184,458	140,026	44,432		3	
57%		Iowa	927,019	707,278	219,741		6	
57%		Florida	6,110,125	4,683,038	1,427,087		30	
56%		Ohio	3,180,117	2,533,700	646,417		17	
<b>53%</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Arizona</b>	<b>1,770,242</b>	<b>1,582,860</b>	<b>187,382</b>		<b>11</b>	
<b>52%</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>North Carolina</b>	<b>2,898,423</b>	<b>2,715,375</b>	<b>183,048</b>		<b>16</b>	
<b>52%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Nevada</b>	<b>751,205</b>	<b>705,197</b>	<b>46,008</b>		<b>6</b>	
<b>51%</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Georgia</b>	<b>2,663,117</b>	<b>2,548,017</b>	<b>115,100</b>		<b>16</b>	
<b>51%</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<b>3,543,308</b>	<b>3,423,042</b>	<b>120,266</b>		<b>19</b>	
<b>51%</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>Michigan</b>	<b>2,816,636</b>	<b>2,736,533</b>	<b>80,103</b>		<b>15</b>	
<b>50.4%</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>1,697,626</b>	<b>1,668,229</b>	<b>29,397</b>		<b>10</b>	
49%	2	New Hampshire	395,523	418,488		22,965		4
48%	3	Minnesota	1,519,032	1,656,979		137,947		10
47%	1	Virginia	2,075,085	2,335,395		260,310		13
47%		New Jersey	1,968,215	2,220,713		252,498		14
47%	1	New Mexico	423,391	478,802		55,411		5
46%		Maine	377,977	435,652		57,675	1	3
44%		Illinois	2,449,079	3,062,863		613,784		19
44%	1	Colorado	1,377,441	1,728,159		350,718		10
44%	2	New York	3,578,899	4,619,195		1,040,296		28
43%		Rhode Island	214,406	285,156		70,750		4
43%		Connecticut	736,918	992,053		255,135		7
43%		Oregon	919,480	1,240,600		321,120		8
43%		Delaware	214,351	289,758		75,407		3
41%		Washington	1,530,923	2,245,849		714,926		12
40%	1	California	6,081,697	9,276,179		3,194,482		54
38%		Hawaii	193,661	313,044		119,383		4
37%		Massachusetts	1,251,303	2,126,518		875,215		11
35%		Maryland	1,035,550	1,902,577		867,027		10
34%		Vermont	119,395	235,791		116,396		3
7%	1	D.C.	21,076	294,185		273,109		3
<b>50.7%</b>	<b>262</b>		<b>77,303,569</b>	<b>75,019,231</b>	<b>11,958,892</b>	<b>9,674,554</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>226</b>

In Maine, Trump won one electoral vote by carrying the 2<sup>nd</sup> congressional district (northern part of the state) with 55%. In Nebraska, Harris won one electoral vote by carrying the 2<sup>nd</sup> congressional district (Omaha area) with 52%. Election data from. *Leip's Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections*. Event data from FairVote at [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/17iVQF3icMhPIRZO89imN7p3YeEb4c0u7iwX\\_wl0ZT8/edit?gid=0#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/17iVQF3icMhPIRZO89imN7p3YeEb4c0u7iwX_wl0ZT8/edit?gid=0#gid=0) April 10, 2025