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In the November 2024 election voters sent a clear message that much of the current political system isn't listening to them or being responsive to their needs – and they are sick of it.

Fixing the Electoral College and electing our President using National Popular Vote is a smart way to restore confidence in our politics and in our elections, something that surely appears to be lacking now.

National Popular Vote is the path toward a more equitable democracy and a president elected by voters - each treated the same, their vote counting equally no matter where they live.

I travel all across this country and people know the system is broken. Last fall we saw voters in just 7 battleground states decide the outcome, only 20% of American voters. Too many of us are marginalized.

That is especially true for voters of color. Black voters are heavily concentrated in the South and in urban centers in so-called "red" or "blue" states. They find themselves disregarded, their concerns relegated to the periphery of political discourse.

When I look at politics in America I see a deep need for reform and to fix a system that leaves too many on the sidelines. And I also see a moral imperative to advance National Popular Vote.

Conceived by slaveholders as a way to protect their interests, the Electoral College baked injustice into our democracy's highest office from the beginning. It inflated the electoral power of slave states by counting the number of enslaved people among those states' populations even though they had no vote and no rights. It enshrined an assault on human dignity in a system supposedly meant to uphold democratic principles.

Three generations on my father's side of my family are buried in Thomaston Maine so the headline jumped out at me when you all enacted National Popular Vote a year ago. I think it's something you can be proud of and, as you know, there are only a few more states required before this law gets triggered.

This effort has come a long way since my home state of Maryland got it started in 2007. That bill, by the way, was authored by now-Congressman Jamie Raskin. At the time he was a Constitutional Law Professor at American University Law School and a brand new State Senator. National Popular Vote was the first piece of legislation Raskin ever introduced.

You will make your own decisions on behalf of the people of Maine. But electing the President by popular vote matters here in Maine and all across the country.

I hope that Maine will retain the National Popular Vote law and block the repeal effort currently before you. It is long past the time to right our historic wrongs, and empower citizens in every state, in every election so they can meaningfully participate and know that their vote is exactly as important as everyone else's.