

Testimony in favor of LD 1330

Marna Miller
Falmouth, Maine
May 11, 2021

Senator Luchini, Senator Caiazzo, and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee. My name is Marna Miller. I'm a 20-year resident of Falmouth. I am writing to express my support for LD 1330, "An Act to Join the National Popular Vote Compact," although I do not support the repeal of ranked-choice voting in general elections for President as this is not necessary to the implementation of a National Popular Vote system

I have voted in every presidential election since I became eligible to vote. During my childhood in New Hampshire, I witnessed the frenzy of attention voters received from presidential candidates. Every few years my state—and even my tiny rural town—was graced by multiple visits from every candidate. These visits included rallies, door knocks, town halls, even unannounced pop-ins at sites like my local library. People in my town buzzed with conversation about personal interactions they'd had with individual candidates. People knew where candidates stood on issues with specific relevance to New Hampshire. My impression was that candidates cared about my family and my community. Our votes mattered.

When I turned 18, I was excited to be involved in that conversation, and to cast my own vote for President. I felt this way as long as I remained a resident of New Hampshire.

During adulthood, I lived in several different states before settling in Maine. I've now observed presidential campaigns in two small states besides New Hampshire, and also three large states, including one with one of our country's largest cities. But never again did I experience the level of candidate attention that I saw in New Hampshire. Big states, small states, rural, urban—none of that matters. I have learned that candidates pay attention only to *battleground states*. In 2020, 96% of general election campaign events were in just 12 states. Maine received only two visits.

Candidate inattention doesn't just mean Mainers have less opportunity to meet with the people who might become President. It also means that Mainers' issues are largely ignored during campaigns. For example, there are more people in the logging industry than in fracking nationwide, but in the last election, I only knew candidates' positions on fracking. More Mainers are directly affected by issues involving logging and forestry, but candidates have no reason to learn about logging or form a position on it because in the current system, Mainers' votes aren't needed to win an election.

I'm tired of being ignored. If presidents were elected by National Popular Vote, candidates would have to pay attention to the issues important to voters in all 50 states and D.C. Why should my vote matter more when I live in New Hampshire than when I live in Maine? I urge

the committee to support efforts to have Maine join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. Please support LD 1330.

Thank you,
Marna Miller
Falmouth, Maine