



Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate

THE MAINE SENATE
129th Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony in Support of LD 816
An Act to Implement the National Popular Vote for President of the United States
Presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Senator Luchini, Representative Schneck, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, my name is Troy Jackson, and I represent the people of northern Aroostook County in Senate District 1. I am here to present LD 816, "An Act to Implement the National Popular Vote for President of the United States."

All 50 states - with the exception of Maine and Nebraska - currently choose their presidential electors through "winner take all" system in presidential elections, which awards all of a state's electoral votes to the candidate who wins the most votes in each state. This bill changes that method so that enacting states award their electoral votes to the presidential candidates who receive the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. For the bill to take effect, it must be passed by states that have 270 electoral votes - in other words, enough votes to elect a president.

I have often said that there are too many people in this country who feel left out of the political process. That's why I feel it's important for every American's vote to count equally. It's only fair. Here are a few points to consider:

- Our current system for electing presidents gives candidates no reason to campaign or pay attention to voters in states where they are easily ahead, or way behind. For the most part small, rural states receive little or no attention.
- The current "winner take all" method states use to pick electors has resulted in 5 of our 45 presidents coming into office without winning the most popular votes nationwide.
- Article II, Section I of the U.S. Constitution grants states the right to decide how their electors are chosen, and it wasn't until 1828 that even half of states used the current method.

This form of election also has the backing of the majority of Americans. Public opinion polls have supported a nationwide popular election for decades with large margins. A 2009 survey of Maine voters of all ideological stripes showed 77 percent support for a system that elects the candidate who gets the most votes on a 50 states basis.

This proposal offers us a path forward where the person with the most overall votes is elected president. Whether you are a Republican, Independent or Democrat, this is a basic tenet that we should be able to agree



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on. All Mainers should feel like their voice and vote matter. Adopting a national popular vote policy ensures that Mainers have the same political power at the ballot box as Americans in swing states.

I thank you for your time, and would be happy to take any questions you may have.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Troy Jackson".

President of the Maine Senate
Senate District 1