



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

June 5, 2019

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I voted in favor of SB 870, which enters Oregon into the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact because I believe it is important for every vote to matter in presidential elections.

Article II, Section I of the U.S. Constitution gives states the right to allocate electoral votes however each state wishes—and Oregon now has the opportunity to be the 16th state in the union to recognize that the most important thing we can do for our republic is to allow the people to truly have a voice in the election of our national executive branch's leadership.

Entering the NPV compact is currently within the state's right to adopt, preserves the electoral college's structure and institutional value, and avoids the state-by-state "winner take all" methodology of awarding its electoral votes, regardless, to a single candidate. The emergence of political parties, and the natural human tendency to hoard power, have caused the electoral college to contort into a system that preserves the power of a state's majority party, which, in my opinion, is far from fair. The moment many of our states adopted "winner-take-all" statutes of awarding electoral votes, long after the death of our Founders, was the moment we deviated from our Founders' vision.

With the National Popular Vote, because each person in the United States will count, candidates will not be able to isolate a handful of battleground states to determine the outcome of an entire election—they will have to fight for all of them. And if enough states sign on to the compact, it is truly possible that Oregon, and every other state, will finally be a battleground state. Additionally, while it makes sense for us to elect representatives and senators by state—it does not make sense to allow a truly national position that transcends state boundary lines, like the president and vice president, to be elected by "electors" that never even have to campaign to the general electorate in order to win the opportunity to vote on behalf of their state. In a true republic, I would argue that the two truly nationwide elected positions—the president and vice president—should be elected directly in the same way that we elect our statewide officials: through direct democracy. The "republic" piece is allowing and trusting those individuals to be the head of our executive branch.

Finally, I voted "aye" on SB 870 to empower voters. I myself have personal experience living in a state where I was the political minority and felt as if my vote didn't matter. National Popular Vote is the best way to engage voters and ensure that their votes finally count.

Sincerely,

Representative Tiffany Mitchell

