

HB 544 Ways and Means Committee
Repeal of Maryland participation in the National Popular Vote

Strongly support

Chairman Kaiser, Vice Chairman Washington, and distinguished members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Please accept this written testimony in **support** of HB 544

Currently, our 10 electoral votes go to the winner of the state election and give our state a “voice” in the selection of the country’s leadership. (I actually think it should be by county like Maine and Nebraska, but that’s a topic for another day).

Back in April of 2007 Maryland’s legislature was the first state to sign onto this misguided project. Who knows what their thinking was at the time?

The United States was founded as a **federation of states** with balanced representation from each to govern based on its population. As such, the eventual winner of a national election needs to build a coalition of supporters from all of the states not just the most populous areas.

Failure to build such widespread support throughout all states would mean that a few large states would be making the selections for the entire population thus disenfranchising all of voters of smaller states like Maryland.

Further, our Constitution (Article 1, Section 10) clearly states that **any** interstate compact requires congressional consent.

At its inception the founder of National Popular Vote project, John Zoza, knew that such a compact was unconstitutional and proponents of this effort are simply trying to side-step the congressional process in a rather sneaky way as they continue to push each state to adopt this dangerous compact.

Our Constitution created the Electoral College (Article II, Section 1) as the process by which to elect the nation’s leaders. The Electoral College provides a geographic balance and **protects** states with diverse interests.

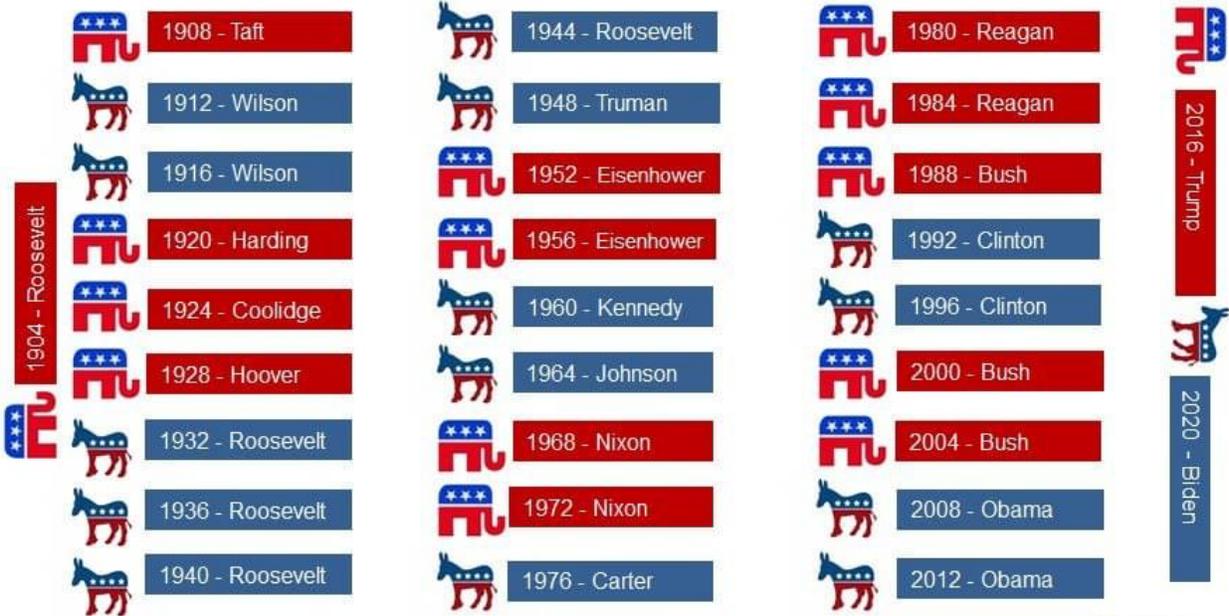
Our 50 states obviously have different vastly different economic, social, and cultural interests and what is good for the coastal states would certainly be different than for the heartland states just as the needs of northern states would be different than southern climates., Ir even the non-contiguous ones.

A national election by NPV would enable powerful regional interests to win a presidency and govern the whole country as they see fit, regardless of regional differences. Rural and small town citizens would have no voice, at all. Let’s not forget who supplies the nation’s food.

In the last 116 years the Electoral College has elected an exactly equal number of Republicans and Democrats to this nation’s highest office at 15 each, this refuting the erroneous claim that the Electoral College is biased, and further shows that the current method is a stable system that encourages that candidates build support among all voters in order to win.

The Electoral College is NOT Biased

Since 1904, the Electoral College has elected a Democrat 15 times and a Republican 15 times.



Keep Our 50 States

The National Popular Vote is dangerous for the future of the country and Maryland needs to rescind its participation this disastrous trend. That said, I **strong encourage a favorable vote on HB 544.**

Thank you.

Respectfully,
Anne White
Anne Arundel County, Maryland