

HB 175 Letters of Support

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The electoral college has completely outlived its usefulness. Because it's broken, citizens' votes don't count with full and equal weight. Never has that been more apparent than in the 2016 election. If people don't feel their vote is going to count, they'll stop voting. There is no alternative to full participation in our democracy. Without the knowledge that our votes count, our democracy will fall apart. You can already see that happening.

Please support the National Popular Vote bill in Alaska via HB 175!

Judy Williams
Eagle River, AK

The electoral college has completely outlived its usefulness. Because it's broken, citizens' votes don't count with full and equal weight. Never has that been more apparent than in the 2016 election. If people don't feel their vote is going to count, they'll stop voting. There is no alternative to full participation in our democracy. Without the knowledge that our votes count, our democracy will fall apart. You can already see that happening.

Please support the National Popular Vote bill in Alaska via HB 175!

Thank you,

Naomi Davidson

Juneau 99801

Please support HB 175

Every person's vote should count regardless of what state they live in. If their vote doesn't count, and in the Electoral College system it may not, there is no representation. If people don't feel their vote is going to count, they will stop voting. There is no alternative to full participation in our democracy, and for a true democracy, it is vital.

Please support the National Popular Vote bill in Alaska via HB 175!

Donna Braendel

Dear AK Legislature:

I am writing in support of the National Popular Vote bill HB 175.

I am a registered non-partisan and believe we have to rise above the current parties and current headlines and take the long view with this issue. Every single major election in the entire country - except the presidency - is decided with a "one person one vote" system, and I think it's time to extend this to the presidential race too.

I am a patriot and I believe in America and the American dream. For me, America's greatest strength is our commitment to democracy. I think it's time to "achieve a more perfect union" by allowing each citizen to have an equal say in electing the president. The advent of the electoral college has bent this part of our democracy and it's long past time to straighten it out. HB 175 is an efficient way to do so and I encourage you to support it.

I thank you for your time on this matter and your service to Alaska!

Malena Marvin
PO Box 1611
Petersburg, Alaska
907.957.1007

Dear Rep. Fansler,

Thank you so much for reviving the issue of the interstate compact for the National Popular Vote. I was a strong supporter of this legislation last time it was in the Alaska Legislature and remember well the Republican legislator from Minnesota who addressed the Alaska Legislature in support of the compact.

Time has sharpened the value of the interstate compact. The US is now in a position where a large disparity exists between the numbers of voters represented by the electoral votes in some states, such as California, and the numbers of voters per electoral college vote in other states. This is not fair.

The electoral college, a compromise for issues no longer relevant to the US, is no longer relevant. Electors do nothing more than reflect the "winner" in their states. But since this is weighted representation, we end up in situations such as in 2016 where the voted selection of millions of voters is disregarded. This has happened in both Democratic and Republican winning elections.

The interstate compact has the advantage of not needing to change the constitution, but the capability of achieving the result of fairness, a democratic idea we all support.

Sincerely,
Margo Waring

11380 NDH
Juneau, AK 99801



P.O. Box 101345, Anchorage, AK 99510-1345

March 16, 2017

Dear Representative Fansler and Members of the House State Affairs Committee:

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) supports the use of the popular vote in the election of the President and Vice-President and supports the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as a way to achieve this goal until the electoral college can be abolished through an amendment to the Constitution. The Alaska League (LWVAK) agrees that every vote should count toward this most important election and therefore urges the passage of HB 175.

Historically the attendees at the Constitutional Convention struggled over the best method to elect the President. The end result was the use of electors from each state who would gather to pick the best possible candidate for the job. Today we have presidential elections still held with state electors who, in all but two states, are chosen in a winner-take-all contest; the candidate with the most popular votes in the state wins the total electoral vote count for that state. And with the rise of political parties, which George Washington warned against, the emphasis has shifted to winning rather than finding the best candidate.

The end result of the winner-take-all process of electing a president has several negative effects. In each state, those who voted for the candidate who did not win the state's popular vote find their votes lost in the counting because those votes go no further than the state line. Secondly, this loss of a counted vote for a national office leaves some elections in which the winner of the electoral vote loses the popular vote, leaving that President-elect with more citizens who voted against him/her than voted for him/her. This has happened five times in the history of the United States, including the 2016 election. Since 1988, when non-landslide elections increased in frequency, the ratio has been 2 elections in which the winner lost the popular vote out of the 8 elections held. This type of election result is more likely to increase in number given the trend toward non-landslide elections as the political parties retreat further from the center.

When voters know that their vote will actually count in the end result, they might be more interested in voting for President and Vice-President. The turnout for the 2016 election equaled about 60% of eligible voters. That means that approximately 27.6% of eligible voters elected the winner in 2016. When voters realize that if they live in a blue state and they support the red candidate and vice versa, they have less incentive to vote. In addition, there is the current feeling that only 11 or so "battleground" states actually matter in a presidential election, and campaign funds tend to flow to those states as well as candidate visits. Adopting the popular vote could increase voter turnout and give each voter's choice an equal opportunity.

Two of the League's purposes are to encourage voting and encourage an educated voting population. Given these principles, the League of Women Voters of Alaska strongly supports the passage of HB 175.

Sincerely,

Pat Redmond, President LWVAK
Judy Andree, Vice-President
Marianne Mills, Past-President
Gail Knobf, Secretary
Carol Dickason, Treasurer
Hetty Barthel, Director
Diane Mathisen, Director
Phyllis Tugman-Alexander, Director

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

(Emailed by

Judy Andree
5985 Lund Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801
907-780-6767 (home)
907-321-1559 (cell))

Dear AK Legislature:

I support HB 175, the bill that would join Alaska to the interstate compact for a national popular vote.

I think "one person, one vote" has a great ring to it and would like to see the United States give equal weight to each citizen's vote when we vote for presidential candidates. All of our other elections use a "one person, one vote" democratic system - shouldn't the presidency be decided in the same way?

This is not a Republican or Democrat issue - it is one of achieving equal weight for each vote, a goal that has been supported by members of both parties.

Thanks for considering my comments.

Ceal Smith
Eagle River, AK 99577

Hello,

I'm writing to express my support for adding Alaska to the National Popular Vote Compact. As a constituent from Juneau, AK, I am very frustrated that my votes in National election pretty much get wasted as I know Alaska's electoral votes will always go red, no matter how I choose to vote. By joining the National Popular Vote Compact, I would feel that my vote counted.

Thank you,

Rebecca Gaguine, Juneau, AK 99801.

Committee Members,

It is important that every person's vote count & that the President of the United States of America be elected by a popular vote of the people not a quirk of the electoral college system. The person elected must have the most votes not the least votes. These are difficult times for any President; a President who has earned fewer votes, has fewer supporters which makes our country weaker and vulnerable.

Christine & Martin Niemi

Juneau, Alaska

Dear Members of the State Affairs Committee and Juneau Delegation,

I strongly support HB 175, ratifying an interstate compact to elect the President and Vice-President of the United States by national popular vote.

Please add passage of this bill during this Legislature to the other important priorities before you.

Regards,

Karla Hart

4950 Wren Drive

Juneau, AK 99801

I strongly support Alaska "National Popular Vote Bill" HB 175. Each citizen's vote should count in the most fundamental way. One Person - One Vote!

Thank you.

Connie Bennett

Anchorage/99503

Dear Committee Members:

I urge you to vote in favor of HB 175: the National Popular Vote Bill.

Sincerely, Santa

Santa Claus
North Pole, AK 99705-0122
907-388-3836
SantaClaus@USA.net

Good afternoon,
I'm writing today to share my support for HB 175 and to request voting in favor of it. The Electoral College is an antiquated system that no longer serves Alaskans. Under the Electoral College our individual votes truly don't count, which is the antithesis of a democracy. Please give Alaskans their voices back and vote yes on HB 175.

Thank you,
Alison Brehmer
8892 Duran St
Juneau, AK 99801
907-309-4974

I fully support HB 175 aka the National Popular Vote Bill. I vote every election and am so frustrated that my vote for President is almost always discarded (a 47 year Alaska resident with a liberal mentality in a historically Republican state). I would like my vote to count. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Chadene Krome
907.715.8807
Akkromes@gci.net

Please vote for Alaska to join the National Popular Vote Compact. Every voters ballot needs to be counted without an Electoral College.

Shirley Carlson
Member LWV

Economist Brad DeLong posted this after last November's election, and it seems to me that he is correct, a failure rate of one time out of every 10 is too high. Not to mention making us voters think that casting a ballot is futile, always a dangerous attitude in a democracy. Would you please include Dr. DeLong's brief comment in the testimony concerning this bill. Thank you.

Chris Prussing

4655 Thane Road

Juneau, AK 99801

The complete commentary from Dr. DeLong:

Hillary Rodham Clinton won the vote over Donald Trump. You can be terrified at the fact that she won the vote by such a narrow margin--and you should be. But when you say that on November 8, 2016 that Donald Trump and Trumpism won the vote, you are telling a lie: it now looks like Hillary Clinton is going to wind up with 1.4% more votes than Trump. Americans who voted chose Hillary Clinton over Donald Trump.

Why, then, is Trump the president-elect?

Because the electoral college failed. Again.

The United States has held 58 presidential elections. In six of them--Adams-Jefferson in 1800, Jackson-Quincy Adams in 1824, Tilden-Hayes in 1876, Cleveland-Harrison in 1888, Gore-Bush in 2000, and now Clinton-Trump in 2016--the winner of the popular vote has not become president.

That is a 10.3% failure rate.

That is unacceptably high.

Political democracy is not an especially good way of choosing technocratically competent leaders. Political democracy does not effectively guard against rent-seeking--rather, it guards against some kinds of rent-seeking but not others. You can say that a political democracy is unlikely to repeat a choice of a technocratically incompetent leader. You can say that aristocracies and oligarchies are more vulnerable than democracies to being captured for the particular form of rent-seeking that is carried out by a particular social caste that has preferential access to the levers of political control. But that is all you can say.

Choosing technocratically competent leaders and guarding against rent-seeking are not the reasons why democracy has an advantage.

Democracy has an advantage because it short circuits the process of coup or revolution to throw the bastards out by violent means. It short-circuits this process because it was the people--most

of the people who voted, that is--who put the bastards in. Thus the majority must blame itself before it starts looking for others to blame.

It is for this reason that it is very dangerous to have an institution that is a failure point in that it generates a non-majoritarian choice of leader in what is supposed to be a democracy.

A 10.6% chance of failure--and that is the rate of electoral college failure in the United States since its founding--is way to high.

So the big stories of last Tuesday are two:

1. Big Story: Hillary Rodham Clinton won the vote--more Americans chose her for their leader than chose Donald Trump.
2. Big Story: The electoral college failed to do its proper democratic job for the sixth time in 58 elections--and a 10.6% failure rate is much too high.

Anybody who does not focus on those two big stories is not being your friend



Representative Fansler,

I support HB 175 that would add Alaska to a compact of states who agree to have their state's Electoral College votes go to the winner of the national popular vote. I encourage you to support this bill. With passage of this bill, I would finally feel that my vote in Alaska counts. One person, one vote. The Electoral College is an archaic system that no longer serves a functioning role in the United States of America. When the popular vote chooses one candidate with ~ 3 million vote advantage and the electoral college sways the vote to the other candidate, we no longer have a democratic form of election. Please support this bill and encourage your fellow Representatives to follow suit.

Best Regards,

Patti Berkhahn
907 394-0008
39195 Coulter Ct.
Soldotna, AK 99669

Dear Representative Zach Fansler (D-Bethel),

Thank you for introducing Bill HB 175. I am strong support of your efforts to have the Alaskan Electoral College votes go to the winner of the national popular vote instead of how each individual state votes.

Keep up the efforts to pass this bill into law. You and others like you will make a difference in the future to ensure another scandal like the Republican 45 administration does not occur.

Respectfully-

Heather Szundy
Owner/CFO
Ascending Path Guide Service

I think HB1 75 is way overdue and I wish you the best of luck in getting it passed. We have to do something and this is a beginning.

Susan Royce
Sitka, Ak

Good morning,

I wanted to let you know that, as an Alaska resident, I stand behind you and the proposal for HB 175 100%! Please keep fighting the good fight! There is no reason each vote should not be counted equally, no matter where a person lives. Thank you for your hard work in a time of such need.

Kristin Summers
5706A Vosler Ave
JBER, AK 99506
207-239-8076

I whole heartedly support [HB 175](#) .

Sincerely,

Khristy Herrington
3290 S Heritage Farm Road
Wasilla, AK 99654
907-841-8417

Rep. Fansler, I support HB 175 allowing Alaska's electoral votes to align with the national popular vote. I am a voting Alaskan who resides in Anchorage. Thank you for promoting this cause. Paula Saylor

Representative Zach Fansler,

Please help move us toward popular vote for president.

Thanks,
Conrad

--

Conrad E. Muller
326 4th St 509
Juneau, AK 99801

206 388-6053

I support this legislation and believe joining other states in awarding Electoral College votes to the winner of the national popular vote will create a more equitable, legitimate election process that encourages wide participation rather than disenfranchise minority party voters.

Thank you for advocating on behalf of this bill.

John Lamb
638 Gold Street
Juneau, AK

I support this legislation and believe joining other states in awarding Electoral College votes to the winner of the national popular vote will create a more equitable, legitimate election process that encourages wide participation rather than disenfranchise minority party voters.

Thank you for advocating on behalf of this bill.

John Lamb
638 Gold Street
Juneau, AK

I want Alaska to join the compact to award our Elector College votes for U. S. President to be based on the winner of the national popular vote rather than the electoral college vote. This means I am in favor of HB 175 which will be voted in front of the state legislature on Thursday, March 23, 2017.

Duane L. Howe

41640 Gladys Ct.

Homer, AK 99603

duhowe@alaska.net

I strongly support HB 175 to award out electoral College Votes based on the Nations popular vote.

Helen Woodings, Palmer, AK

I am writing because I strongly support Alaska joining in the compact to award our Electoral college votes based on the winner of the national popular election vote.

Thank you very much for your efforts to make this happen.

Sincerely,

Libby Stortz,

215 Observatory

Sitka, Alaska 99835

I want to voice my support for HB 175. The only truly democratic way to win the Presidency is through winning the popular vote. Currently we have a strange system that does not honor everyone's vote. This bill creates a way for that to happen. I urge the legislature to pass this bill.

Marian Allen
829 Pherson Street
Sitka, AK 99835
907 738-1970

Dear Representative Zach Fansler,

Thank you so much for proposing HB 175 to make Alaska's electoral college votes go to the winner of the national popular vote! Bravo!

I hope to be proud of this legislation soon!

Sincerely,
Sarah Bean

1305 N. Smith Rd.
Palmer, Alaska 99645
(907)746-1087
(907)355-2094 cell

Dear representative Zach Fansler. I completely support your House Bill 175. This is why I support this bill. In a united country of many states, with very different life styles, have been divided by the electoral college. We no longer are a United States, we are a divided peoples. The minority ruling a Democratic Republic is NOT what our fore fathers envisioned when writing the constitution. This is why the constitution was written to give states the powers to govern. In our case approve this bill to fix our broken national election voting system.

If an election is held within a state for "local" decision, winner take all is the correct answer to the democratic vote. If a "national" election is held, IS it right to only count the winning votes of each state? Not in current times. The "Republic" representative number used to determine the number of chosen electorates is good because it gives small as well as large populations equal voice. In our case 3 electorates. But the winner take all of the "Democratic" vote has silenced sometimes virtually half the votes. As is the case in Alaska, and all states who still use the "winner take all" voting scheme. Yes I call it a scheme, because it is a way to silence votes on the national level. Thats precisely why all local votes for the national election must be counted on the state level. The electorates party votes will be determined by the percentage of votes as to how many electorates go to each party. For the 2016 election in Alaska it would have been 2 electorates to Trump, and one electorate to Clinton. That gives all votes a voice! Now the national electorate count can include that true reflection of the "Democratic" system voters voice, while retaining the integrity of the "Republic" electoral college for equality in population.

In this way the election brings our country closer by listening to all voters. This will eliminate the minority from ever ruling again.

P.S. To day I watched the supreme court justice hearing opening statements on C-Span2. The republicans continually drove the "majority rules" importance is a major factor in being a supreme court judge. In counter to those republican statements, we currently we are living in a minority rules government. That is wrong!

James Moberly
P.O. Box 872441 Wasilla AK. 99687
907-671-8196 cell

I support this bill!

From: Bee Tessum, a person that votes & lives in Anchorage.

bebetessum@gmail.com

As a 30 year Alaskan resident and voter, I am writing in support of HB175, which would join Alaska to the National Popular Vote compact. As we have seen in several recent elections, it is possible to win the electoral vote without winning the popular vote. I believe in the principle of "one person, one vote", not "winner take all". Everyone's vote should count. Please vote in favor of this bill.

Thank you,

Christine Everett
2308 Robinson Circle
North Pole, AK 99705

Dear Rep. Fansler-

I absolutely support HB 175 which insures presidential candidates would have to campaign more broadly. Alaska's electoral votes should go to the winner of the popular votes.

Thank you-

Kay Gajewski

I fully support HB 175. This idea is long-overdue in a state where so many justify not voting in federal elections because, due to the time difference, they believe our votes do not count anyway. This bill will not only validate our votes, but will reconcile the travesty of a candidate winning the presidency without winning the popular vote. Thank you for introducing this bill.

Louise Dekreon-Watsjold

Eagle River

Thanks, Zach, for your work on this important proposal. The electoral college is discriminatory, outdated and unfair on its face. The League of Women Voters has supported this change since the seventies. It's time. Peggy Mullen, Soldotna

Dear Representative Fansler,

I strongly support the bill adding Alaska to the compact of states who agree to have their state's electoral votes go to the winner of the national popular vote. It is a travesty that a candidate for President can win while losing the popular vote. In addition, the Electoral College system undermines participation in our democracy by making potential voters feel that their vote does not count.

Thank you,
Cindy Litman

--

Cindy Litman
715 Sawmill Creek Rd.
Sitka, AK 99835
530.574.3468

Dear Representative Fansler:

The Electoral College is no longer relevant. It deprives citizens of their right to vote. Our country was founded on the principle of no taxation without representation.

We no longer live in the 18th century. We have the technology to allow all registered voters to vote for the President of their choice. I urge you and your fellow representatives and senators to vote to require the electors to cast their votes for the winner of the popular vote.

Thank you.

Tasha M. Porcello

1503 West 31st Avenue, Suite 201

Anchorage, Alaska 99503

907 770 7750

Representative Fansler;

I fully support the effort to change our national election process to a 1 person-1vote, popular vote system. Thank you for your efforts.

Ken Petty

kenpetty@gci.net

216 S Sarah Circle

Palmer, AK. 99645

(907) 354-7758

The presidential election should be based on the popular vote not this outdated system of the electoral system. Too many people get disenfranchised with the electoral vote.

Christel Petty

I am supportive of doing away with the whole Electoral System. It obviously does not weed out unfit people becoming president – as it was intended. If this is a step in that direction, then I am supportive.

Debbie Hinchey

Anchorage

907-278-2814

Rep. Fansler, I support HB 175 allowing Alaska's electoral votes to align with the national popular vote. I am a voting Alaskan who resides in Anchorage. Thank you for promoting this cause. Paula Saylor

Dear Representative Fransler,

I am writing to express my support for HB 175. I believe very strongly that our electoral process is distorted, not enhanced, by the electoral college. I would ideally like to see it done away with, but realize that is unlikely to fly. I think the proposed measure, HB 175, ensuring that electoral votes go to winner of the national popular vote is a good first step in the right direction.

All the best,

Kathryn Carovano

Anchorage, AK 99501

Rep. Fansler,

Please let the legislature know I'm supportive of letting the Alaska electoral votes go to the candidate who receives the most popular votes. I know the history of the electoral college and feel it's long overdue for changing. Let each persons vote count equally.

Jonna Naylor
375 E Chickaloon Way
Wasilla, AK. 99654
907-707-9751

Representative Fansler,

I am a registered voter living in Sitka, Alaska. I support the National Popular Vote 100%. Twice in recent elections the presidential candidate who won the popular vote was denied the presidency due to the archaic and very undemocratic electoral college. This needs to change. It is very unfair and contrary to a true democracy that voters in some states carry more electoral weight than those in other states.

Patricia Hanson
Phanson@gci.net
Phone 907-957-2914
Address 800 Halibut Point Road, Unit I,
PO Box 6028
Sitka, Ak 99835

From: Deborah E Corral [<mailto:dcorral@mtaonline.net>]

Rep. Zach

Please help pass the National Popular Vote Bill!!!

The electoral college robs individuals of their vote. Make every vote count!

Thank you
Debbie

Gail Boerwinkle . Long time AK... I support HB175...Great solution.

Representative Fansler,

I want to let you know that I DO support HB 175 that would require our electoral votes to go to the popular winner of the presidential election in the future.

Regards,

Donna Madison

4135 Raspberry Rd

Anchorage, Alaska 99502

It is imperative to support the National Popular Vote Bill. It is overwhelmingly clear that elections can be bought and sold, and that candidates will cater to swing states, leaving states like Alaska in the cold. This must stop if America will continue to be considered a democracy.

A divided country may be brought together if the Electoral College in Alaska votes with the country's majority. Without question, what happened November 2016 must not be repeated.

Thank you,

Marlene Wagner

Petersburg, Alaska

Please vote in favor of HB 175 to award our Electoral College votes based on the winner of the national popular vote.

Thank you.

Barbara Farris

Anchorage, Alaska

I support each of our votes counting. After the lessons of past elections at many levels of government, there is an obvious need for reform. HB 175 is a good start. We are longtime Alaskans.

Thank you,

Gretchen Murphy

Fairbanks, AK

