

Joe Hayes

From: Jason Ellwinger [mailto:jellwinger@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 29, 2023 3:43 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: AK SB61 testimony

I am a resident Alaska since December 2022 residing at Eielson AFB, and represented by Senator Kawasaki, District P, Fairbanks. Although I am enlisted active duty military, the following is my personal view ONLY and NOT those of the Department of Defense.

Distinguished Senators of the State of Alaska,

I am distressed by the recent presentation by Senator Wielechowski, his staffer Mr David Dunsmore, and testimony from John Koza, PhD, Chair of the National Popular Vote organization.

My concern is that they use erroneous logic in their allegation that Alaska's current "winner-take-all" system is unfair, and that it results in candidates dismissing Alaska as not worth campaigning for its meager 3 electoral votes.

The logical error these intelligent men make is that SB 61 will "force" candidates to campaign in AK. Why? Presidential and VP candidates would not be motivated at all to visit Alaska, because SB 61 will defer Alaska's electoral college votes to match the National "winner takes all" system. That is decidedly less fair than the current ranked choice voting system currently in place in that gives a fair voice and vote to every resident proportional to the population across the great state of Alaska.

Entering Alaska into this interstate compact or policy agreement proposed by SB 61 will legally obligate electorates to disregard the views of ALL Alaskan voters. Deferring authority of our State's election system to match the outcome of the National "simple math" popular vote, will have the opposite effect as stated in the presentation from Sen Wielechowski, et al.

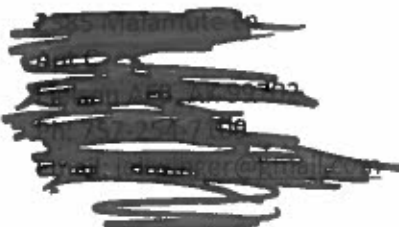
Passing SB 61 will result in the Presidential and VP candidates to CONTINUE TO IGNORE ALASKA, focusing on only the largest cities & highest-populated electoral districts across America. SB 61 will in fact have NO IMPACT to change the alleged unfairness (that candidates will not campaign in Alaska), and Alaska along with many other low-population states who enter into this Federalizing compact will CONTINUED TO BE IGNORED.

My concern is that supporters of SB 61 are either ignorant or lying. They know this National Popular Vote system will garner more votes in the national election that will heavily favor a partisan outcome in favor of the Democratic Party, continuing the practice of prioritizing campaigns in the most populated States, rendering the votes of American Citizens in smaller states completely irrelevant — including the great state of Alaska.

PLEASE VOTE NO TO ALASKA STATE BILL SB 61!!! Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jason Ellwinger

A large area of the document is redacted with thick black horizontal lines, obscuring the signature and any contact information that might have been present.

Joe Hayes

From: Scott Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 29, 2023 11:25 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB61

I am writing today in support of SB61.

The interstate compact to elect The President and Vice President is an easy-to-implement, practical, common-sense approach to making sure the people elected President and Vice President have the support of the MAJORITY of voters. Isn't that what democracy is supposed to ensure? That the person who gets the most votes wins?

Too many Presidents have taken office after losing the popular vote. For example, Mr. Trump lost the popular vote by almost 2.9 million votes, yet he became President.

The electoral college is an antiquated system born of a time when communication was slow and only white, male property owners could vote.

It is time for real democracy in America. Please support SB61.

Thank you.

Scott Miller

Homer, Alaska
[REDACTED]

Joe Hayes

From: Penny Goodstein <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, April 29, 2023 8:07 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: PLEASE vote YES on the National Popular Vote Compact - Senate Bill 61.

I was out of the country on Tuesday, April 25 when you held your hearing on Senate Bill 61.

I am writing now and I hope I am not too late to comment.

I am STRONGLY in favor of one person, one vote. Twice in my lifetime the elected POTUS did NOT win the popular vote, losing in the 2016 Presidential election by several million. This country is a representative government- people choose leaders; they are not chosen by backroom deals and autocratic "influencers."

As you know SB 61 would add Alaska's 3 electoral votes to a growing number of states supporting the National Popular Vote Compact. The compact will go into effect when passed by states with 270 electoral votes, 16 states with 195 electoral votes have signed on to date.

PLEASE ADD ALASKA TO THIS LIST.

Thank you
Penny Goodstein
(Upper Hillside resident)

Joe Hayes

From: Therese Lewandowski <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 10:53 AM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: SB 61, National Popular Vote

Senate State Affairs Committee,

I just listened to the hearing held yesterday, April 25, on SB 61, The National Popular Vote.

I am for the NPV because it is a *national* election therefore the electorate should represent the *national* popular vote not the *state* popular vote. Gosh that makes so much sense!

The Hearing testimonies are always the most interesting as the citizen's understanding of a bill is eye-opening if not rather alarming at times. I admire your patience in listening to it all.

I believe those opposing this bill do not understand it. I was confused for a time as well so did some research. It seems those opposing it believe this would do away completely (that's another battle) with the electorate vote for the president/vice president election.

I read in Wegman's book "*Let the People Pick the President*" that both Nixon and Carter supported the national popular vote. In the late 1960's an amendment establishing it passed the House but was filibustered on the Senate floor. Wegman states at that time "80% of the American public supported switching to the popular vote."

Of more concern is how the electorates will cast their vote. It seems that is what is open to misconduct and manipulation as this is something constitutionally left up to the states.

For now, please pass this to a floor vote and let's see what we get. I would love to stop hearing about "battleground" states.

I encourage you to consult with the elections office on where a non-resident's president/VP vote goes if they cast their vote here, which is allowed. Does that vote get counted in our state popular vote or does it go to their state to be counted?

Respectfully,

Therese Lewandowski

Joe Hayes

From: Judy Andree [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 12:05 PM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Jesse Kiehl
Subject: SB 61: National Popular Vote Compact

April 25, 2023

Dear Members of the Senate State Affairs Committee:

I am Judy Andree, a 57-year resident of Alaska, with 13 years experience working on elections, primarily at an early voting station. I strongly support SB 61.

I have several reasons for supporting the use of the popular vote to select the President. The first is a need to have all votes for President counted rather than the Electoral College method which leaves a great number of votes at the state line. It should be the people electing the President and not the States.

Under the Electoral College and the winner-takes-all that most states follow, the battleground states become the center of campaign activity with many other states never seeing the Presidential candidates during the campaign season. Those same battleground states were targeted by foreign agents with disinformation and propaganda to try to sway the 2016 election, according to the Mueller report, and many of those actors are still busy today on social media. The Electoral College has become a national security issue, a situation made possible by modern technology that the Founding Fathers could not have predicted.

Our Constitution is meant to be a living document and, in fact, was amended soon after the initial document was finalized. If we are to keep our democracy, we must adhere to the basic tenets of democracy while being flexible enough to recognize and correct problems that weaken that democracy. The electoral college may have suited landowners in 1784, but our purpose should be to build a more perfect union by keeping the notion of that perfection as a guiding star.

**Thank you.
Judy Andree
Juneau, Alaska**

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Judy Andree
[REDACTED]
Juneau, Alaska 99801
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Joe Hayes

From: Steven Fritsche [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 5:24 PM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Jesse Bjorkman
Subject: Testimony for SB61

I am pretty shocked that this bill is even being considered by the Alaska legislature. The electoral college is designed to give small populations in America a voice. The college was designed with the understanding that populations tend to concentrate like in California and New York. This bill would give away the vote of small populations.

The "expert," John Koza, testified that this bill would make candidates for president campaign in every state. He is wrong. In fact, the candidates would campaign in California and New York. Those regions are so completely overwhelming in population that winning those regions easily gives the candidate the popular vote.

I do not want California and New York picking our president forever.

Please oppose this bill.

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Regards,
Steve Fritsche
Resident of Nikiski, AK
[REDACTED]

April 25th, 2023

Senator Scott Kawasaki
120 4th Street, Room 119
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Kawasaki,

Hello my name is Alex Koplín. I live in Homer and I am a 35-year resident of our great state. I am speaking for myself, in favor of SB 61 The National Popular Vote Act.

Not everything comes easy to me-lots of ways to explain things and the easier for me the better. What I like about SB 61 is that when I cast my vote for President it goes to that candidate.

Now when I vote, my vote only counts if my candidate wins the election here in Alaska. If the candidate I voted for does not win, my vote no longer matters as the popular vote is not being used. All three electoral votes go to the winner of the state-regardless of the popular vote-thus the states have more power than the individual voters in the matter of picking a President. You might wonder why people are disgruntled with elections, when their vote doesn't seem to matter when voting for President.

SB 61 if passed would send the winner of the popular vote all 3 of our electoral votes-this would be a change that makes sense. Why not have all the voters decide who is President? It would be silly for voters around the US to vote for our governor- they don't live here- they are not residents of our state- but I don't get it- when I am also a citizen of the United States and when I go vote for President it only counts if that candidate is the winner of our state.

The problem is why do we not allow each vote to count? The history of the electoral college was set up on discriminatory practices. The states wanted their own power and not allow for all the people to be included in this decision. Basically, the college is saying, we don't trust the people to select the President, but we trust the states legislators to do this. Most Democracies around the world use popular vote to elect their leaders.

Finally, when using the electoral college to decide who is president, it makes the candidates focus on states that are undecided on who will be their President. Candidates should visit every state. There might be a propensity to campaign in states with bigger populations, but elections are close and every voter is going to matter-not every state. Candidates should talk to everybody. How are we going to feel united with a system in place that divides us even more? Let the people decide who should be the President not the states. If we are going to be united, we must hear from everyone. SB 61 is a great start to building a healthier democracy.

Sincerely,

Alex Koplín

Joe Hayes

From: Alex Koplin [mailto:akoplin@alaska.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 8:50 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 61 letter in support
Attachments: SB 61 letter to Senator Kawasaki.docx

April 25th, 2023

Senator Scott Kawasaki
120 4th Street, Room 119
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Kawasaki,

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Sincerely,

Alex Koplin

Joe Hayes

From: Francesca A [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 2:47 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Public testimony SB61. No!

Senate State Affairs,

I do not support SB61. Alaskans will completely lose their votes. Every Alaskan will be disenfranchised. Our population is so small compared to every other state. An electoral college is in place for this exact reason, so states get representation. I do not want California, New York or any other states populous taking over representation of Americans as a whole.

I do not support SB 61.

Francesca Allegrizza
Anchorage, AK

Sent from my iPhone