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4/2/2019

ATTN: Senate Committee on Rules

Chair Burdick and members of the committee,

My name is Sal Peralta. I am offering this testimony on behalf of the Independent Party of Oregon.

The Independent Party of Oregon supports SB 870. IPO has supported National Popular Vote since 2009 based on three basic criteria:

- **The party supports the application of "one person, one vote" as a primary ethical consideration when evaluating elections systems and apportionment.**

Our federal system of government has tended to give (and currently gives) disproportionate political power to smaller states and those living in rural districts at most levels of government: Individual voters in Wyoming (pop: 584,000) have approximately 66 x the voting power in the US Senate when compared with those living in California (pop 38,800,000). Congressional apportionment tends to reduce the voting power of voters in cities. For most of Oregon's history, nearly 2/3rds of Oregon's population living in the state's seven largest counties held just 1/5th of the political power in the state, since state legislative apportionment was based on county, .

President is the one national office that is elected to serve all of the American people. The method of selection for that office should not be rigged to benefit anyone. It should be based on "One Person, One Vote".

- **The current system of Presidential elections is too easily manipulated or rigged by a single county clerk or partisan Secretary of State.**

On at least two occasions in the last 60 years (Cook County (1960), Dade County (2000)), controversial decisions by county clerks have determined the outcome of the national election. National Popular Vote greatly reduces the risk that a single state or county can throw the national election.

Note: IPO would support a friendly amendment to this legislation to address concerns raised about what happens if a "bad actor" state signs on to the compact (but supports the bill with or without amendment).

- **The current Presidential election system is heavily weighted to give influence to a handful of so-called "swing states", leaving the concerns of voters in most of the country un-addressed.**

In 2016, 94 percent of all Presidential campaigning happened in just 12 states. Half of all states, including Oregon, received zero visits from either Presidential candidates during the general election.

Debunking claims about “anti-federalism”

There are several pieces of written testimony by critics claiming that the National Popular Vote proposal somehow circumvents or threatens our federalist system of government.

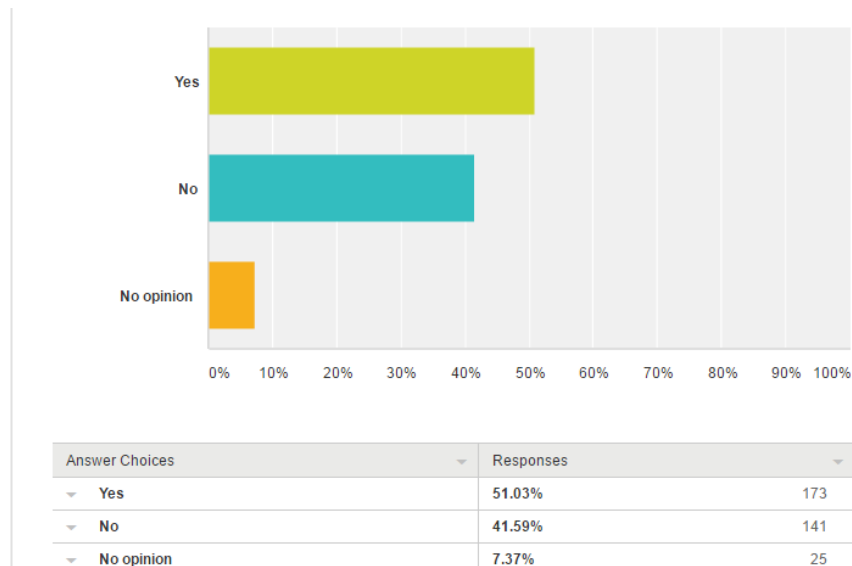
Not true. Article II, Section 2, clause 2 of the US Constitution clearly grants states the sole authority for choosing their method of selecting delegates to the Electoral College.

Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.

National Popular Vote is an interstate agreement between states as to how they will exercise their obligation under the XIIth Amendment and Article II.

Independents have consistently supported National Popular Vote

In 2017, we conducted a new survey of IPO members to determine whether they continue to support the NPV policy. Members continued to support the policy by roughly 10 percentage points.



Additionally, more than 500 people have signed the attached IPO change.org petition urging the Oregon legislature to sign on to the National Popular Vote compact. Please see the progressive party testimony for technical concerns about language of this bill.

We urge the committee to move the bill with a “Do Pass” recommendation.