

CONSERVATIVES
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NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE

TESTIMONY OF THE HONORABLE RANDY RICHARDVILLE
BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON
ELECTIONS
ON MARCH 7, 2023

Madam Chairman, Mr. Vice Chairmen, and Members —

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to testify before the House Elections Committee on this important bipartisan legislation.

When I was the Republican majority leader of the other place, I had the opportunity to move the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. Unfortunately, I took a pass because I thought this was a partisan attempt by the other party. How was I wrong.

Today, I am honored to join two former Republican speakers of the House, three other former Republican Senate majority leaders, a former Republican lieutenant governor, a former Republican member of Congress, two former Republican Party chairs, and numerous former Republican representatives and senators in endorsing the compact.

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is bipartisan legislation to implement a nonpartisan election reform.

I want to take the opportunity to correct the record as some myths and outright falsehoods are circulating.

No, California and New York would not control an election for president under the popular vote.

In a presidential election under the compact, every voter in every state would be equal. A vote cast in a big city would not be more or less valuable than a vote anywhere else.

As Los Angeles does not control statewide elections in California, it's hardly in a position to control a nation-wide election for president.

I would point out that when Republicans competed in California, California elected Republicans Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan.

It's a simple fact that 82 percent of Americans don't live in New York and California.

I would also note that the population of the country's five-biggest cities — New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston and Philadelphia — represents about 6 percent of the entire population of the United States.

Unless you reject basic math, it's impossible for 6 percent to out-vote 94 percent or 18 percent to out-vote 82 percent.

The present method used by Michigan is not in the U.S. Constitution or even the Federalist Papers. It is not the method of the Founding Fathers.

The Electoral College that we have today with 48 states using what's called the state winner-take-all method was not designed, anticipated, or favored by the Founding Fathers.

Rather, it is the result of decades of change driven by the emergence of political parties, which the Founding Fathers also didn't expect, and the desire of each state's majority party not to give any of their electoral votes to the minority party.

In my campaigns for representative, senator, and county commissioner, I always campaigned to win the most votes.

That is, after all, how all of us were elected.

The one office in the entire United States that doesn't require the winning candidate to win the most votes is the president ... the one office that is supposed to represent the whole country.

The candidate who receives the most votes wins. This is a quintessential principle that every Michigander and every American, regardless of party or ideology believes.

For all of these reasons, Madam Chair, I support the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact and encourage my friends on both sides of the aisle to vote in support of this legislation.

