

Distinguished members of the Committee:

My name is Peggy Leech, and I live in Louisville. I'm the President of the League of Women Voters of Boulder County, and our local League supports the National Popular Vote Compact. I am testifying on my own behalf, in support of proposed Senate Bill 42.

I am an unaffiliated voter, and I believe this is a nonpartisan issue. In 2006, the first time this bill was introduced in our state, Colorado's Senate passed the legislation with bipartisan support.

I am hoping that legislators from both parties will support this year's bill as well.

The main reason I support this legislation is that I want my vote to count toward the TOTAL vote for U.S. President, not to Colorado's vote. I have lived in Colorado all my life, and while I love Colorado very much, I do NOT want to vote as a state. I want to vote as an individual.

Everyone's vote for President should count. Winner-take-all voting by the states, in my opinion, is a form of voter suppression, especially for the vast majority of voters who are not in battleground states. They have little incentive to vote for President.

The Constitution says nothing about the states having to allocate their Electoral votes in a block, but most of the states decided to do so before Colorado even became a state.

During the 2012 election season, I was registering a voter who lived part-time in Colorado and part-time in California. She decided to register in Colorado because she knew her vote would count more in our battleground state than in California, which usually votes Democratic.

I would like to address the concern about small states losing some of their influence. I myself grew up on the western slope, and I can sympathize with smaller states. However, on a national level, we have 3 elected entities: President, Senate, and House of Representatives. The Senate is already set up to protect the small states, and I don't see any reason for the small states to control 2 out of 3 of the federal elected bodies.

Thank you for your time and attention, and I ask you to vote yes on SB 42.