



**State Representative David Leland**  
**Sponsor Testimony – House Bill 70**

---

Chairman Becker, Vice Chair Stoltzfus and Ranking Member Miller, this legislation, seeks to have the State of Ohio join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is a compact by which member states would pledge their entire Electoral College delegation to the winner of the national popular vote, rather than the winner of their individual state contest. This change will happen when states with 270 electoral votes join the compact. At that point, we will guarantee that the person has received the most popular votes will be elected President of the United States.

This is a change that is long overdue. Two-thirds of the Presidents elected in this Century have been chosen by the Electoral College without a corresponding majority of the electorate, for their first terms. Put simply, the person the people chose to be their President in their first term was ignored 66% of the time in this Century.

The Electoral College also rewards small states while punishing larger ones, such as Ohio. The population of Wyoming is 584,000 and they receive 3 Electors. This is roughly one Elector for every 194,000 people. Ohio's population of 11.59 million people only gets 18 Electors, or one for every 643,000 people.

The population of smaller states, whether Republican leaning like Wyoming, Alaska, and South Dakota, or Democratic leaning like Vermont, Delaware or the District of Columbia have a greater say in electing our President than Ohio does.

Ohio would not be the first state to enter this Compact. In fact, 12 states and the District of Columbia have signed on since 2007. Their total electoral votes are 172. This has also passed Colorado's General Assembly and New Mexico's Legislature and is sitting on their respective Governor's desks waiting for a signature. If both are signed into law, the new total will be 186 electoral votes. Ohio's 18 electoral votes would bring the total 204 electoral votes.

If we are going to have a true republic, with elections that can be viewed by all Americans as completely legitimate we should be a part of this National Popular Vote compact and finally ensure that the person with the most votes is the one that is elected President.