



State Representative David Leland
Sponsor Testimony – House Bill 25

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Reinke and Ranking Member Clyde, this piece of legislation, which Representative Ramos and I introduced in February of 2017, seeks to adopt an agreement to elect the President of the United States by popular vote instead of by the current Electoral College system.

With this bill, Representative Ramos and I are proposing that 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 would only occur after enough states joined the compact such that their numbers would equal 270 Electors, the amount necessary to elect the President of the United States. This is a way to allow for a national popular vote for President, without the need to amend the United States Constitution.

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 was ignored 66% of the time this Century.

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

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, by population.

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, which would raise to 190, should Ohio join.

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