

25 March 2025

Dear Chairman Shanley and Honorable Members of the House State Government and Elections Committee,

I write to express my strong opposition to H5519, which would remove Rhode Island from the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

It would be difficult to imagine a small-d democratic principle more fundamental than the belief that the candidate who receives the most votes should win. This is important in all elections, but especially when it comes to electing our president, the most powerful person in the world.

Some opponents of a national popular vote believe that it's a scheme by the Democratic Party to ensure permanent control. The data disagree. Since 1932, out of nearly two billion votes cast for major-party presidential candidates, the two parties have been separated by just 13.4 million — roughly two-thirds of one percentage point. Lest this statistic be dismissed as a relic of a more evenly divided past, I believe it's worth mentioning that the sitting president is a Republican who won the popular vote!

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to vote not to advance H5519. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Garman  
22 Burnside Avenue, Newport