



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE

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TO: The Honorable Senator Garrett P. Mason  
The Honorable Representative Louis J. Luchini, Co-chairs  
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

DATE: February 15, 2017

RE: LD 156 An Act To Implement the National Popular Vote for President

Senator Mason, Representative Luchini, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, my name is Ann Luther. I am a resident of Trenton. I am here today as a volunteer member of the League of Women Voter's Advocacy Committee to testify in support of LD 156, An Act To Implement the National Popular Vote for President.

The League of Women Voters supports election of the President and Vice President by direct popular vote and abolition of the Electoral College. The League supports this and other measures (such as national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections) to ensure equity for all voters from all states in the election of the President and Vice President.

In the spirit of one person, one vote, we believe that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. This has been our position since 1970.

In 2010, we amended that longstanding position. Today, we also support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the President and Vice President until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished.

Since 1789 there have fifty-eight presidential elections. Of those, only three have yielded a split outcome with one candidate winning the Electoral College and the other winning the popular vote. Two of those instances occurred in the last five presidential elections; therefore, it is the League's opinion that this issue is increasing in urgency and should be addressed in a manner that ensures one person one vote.

So far, eleven states have enacted a law that awards their Electoral College votes to the winner of the national popular vote, representing a total of 165 Electoral College votes of the 270 required to put the compact into effect. In addition, twenty other states, including Maine, are considering legislation identical to LD 156.

Once again, Mainers are in a position to show leadership on a national issue. We urge you to support this bill and join the other states that have joined the National Popular Vote compact.