

**Argument Against Referral of NPVIC**  
**Response to SB 1512**  
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Money has corrupted our electoral system and it will corrupt this referral.

You've heard all of the arguments for the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC), so I won't dwell on them, other than to point out how undemocratic it is that one person's vote can have more than 3 times the power of another's, depending on where a person lives. This is anything but one person one vote.

NPVIC is a bi-partisan issue. Either party can achieve a popular vote victory while losing the electoral vote. Coupled with "winner takes all," the electoral college essentially makes half of the votes cast in a state worthless. Once a candidate receives a simple majority plus one vote, all other votes become meaningless. A vote cast by a Republican in a blue state never sees the light of day, and vice-versa. With NPV, though, all votes count equally at the national level and are not wasted.

Primarily, though I want to focus on the status quo, why NPV is so important and why referral is the wrong way to go.

A consequence of the Electoral College is the emergence of "swing states," which effectively determine the winner of a presidential election. With a flood of unlimited money from the likes of the Koch brothers and SuperPACs, a few people can spend large sums in a few counties of a few states and essentially determine who will be president. They have a huge vested interest in keeping the electoral college as-is. With the EC, they don't have to spread their money across the entire country. The payoff in 2016 was a tax "reform" that will net the Koch's and their ilk billions of dollars—quite a return on investment!

With a referral of NPVIC to voters, vast sums will pour into Oregon from these moneyed interests to disseminate misinformation and distortions to defeat the bill. Think Measure 97. The pro-NPV side cannot match this onslaught of dark money, nor should they have to.

The Oregon Legislature should pass NPVIC without referral—it's the right thing to do.

Respectfully submitted by:

Will Hobbs