

2025 SENATE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

SCR 4013

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

State and Local Government Committee Room JW216, State Capitol

SCR 4013
2/21/2025

To support the electoral collage, denounce the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, and to invite interested states to form the Electoral College Interstate Compact.

9:00 a.m. Chair Roers called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Roers; Vice Chair Castaneda; Senators: Barta, Braunberger, Lee and Walen.

Discussion Topics:

- Nullify the Electoral College
- Interstate compact
- Protect our state rights

9:00 a.m. Senator Sickler, District 17, introduced the concurrent resolution and submitted testimony #38295.

9:09 a.m. Senator Lee moved Do Pass.

9:09 a.m. Senator Barta seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Jose L. Castaneda	Y
Senator Jeff Barta	Y
Senator Ryan Braunberger	Y
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Chuck Walen	Y

Motion Passed 6-0-0

Senator will Barta carry the bill.

Additional written testimony:

Carol Sawicki, Board Member League of Women Voters of ND, submitted testimony in opposition #37945.

Ritika Gerdes, citizen, submitted testimony in opposition #37957.

Barbara Dunn, citizen, submitted testimony in opposition #38089.

Corinne Edgerton, citizen, submitted testimony in opposition #38212.

Linda Axtman, citizen, submitted testimony in opposition #38243.

Vicki Voldal Rosenau, citizen, testimony in opposition #38279.

9:11 a.m. Chair Roers closed the hearing.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SCR 4013 ([25.3065.03000](#))

State and Local Government Committee (Sen. Roers, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4013 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This resolution does not affect workforce development.



**Testimony in Opposition to SCR 4013
Senate State and Local Government Committee
February 21, 2025**

Chair Roers and Members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee, my name is Carol Sawicki, and I am a board member and representative of the League of Women Voters of North Dakota.

SCR 4013 is a resolution that supports the electoral college, denounces the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, and invites interested states to form the Electoral College Interstate Compact. **The League of Women Voters of North Dakota opposes SCR 4013 for the following reasons:**

- In the Electoral College system, the president and vice president of the United States are not elected based on the people's majority vote but rather on a convoluted system of electors. The Electoral College allows someone to become president by having the right combination of states, even without a majority of the popular vote.
- The Electoral College distorts the democratic promise of "one person, one vote" by awarding electoral votes from each state in support of a candidate instead of simply counting the total number of votes nationwide. The League of Women Voters does not support the Electoral College system and launched its [One Person One Vote campaign](#) in 2024 to abolish the Electoral College.
- Voters in some states may be disinclined to cast their vote for president since they feel that their vote will not matter under the Electoral College system. The League of Women Voters supports policies that encourage all citizens to participate as voters, not policies that tend to discourage voting.
- The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact would ensure that every vote cast in a presidential election holds equal weight, no matter the state in which it is cast. The League of Women voters supports the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, since it would create a more representative democracy.
- The League of Women Voters of North Dakota cannot support an "Electoral College Interstate Compact" which would be in direct opposition to the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

The League of Women Voters supports the direct popular vote of the US President, and we urge the State and Local Government Committee to **give SCR 4013 a Do Not Pass recommendation**. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Carol Sawicki
LWVND Board Member
nodaklwv@gmail.com

My name is Ritika Gerdes from West Fargo, ND. I stand in opposition to SCR 4013, a resolution that supports the Electoral College, denounces the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, and proposes the creation of an Electoral College Interstate Compact.

The Electoral College undermines the principle of “one person, one vote” by allowing a candidate to win the presidency without securing the majority of the popular vote. This system discourages voter participation, as many feel their votes do not matter in states where the outcome is perceived as predetermined. In contrast, the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact ensures every vote carries equal weight, creating a more representative and inclusive democracy.

SCR 4013’s proposal for an Electoral College Interstate Compact would further entrench an outdated system that distorts the will of the people and makes it more corrupt than it already is.

I urge the committee to issue a Do Not Pass recommendation for this resolution. Thank you for your time and consideration.

I am writing to express my opposition to SCR 4013. First of all, the Electoral College was useful when we were still a much simpler, smaller country of only 13 states all with substantial rural populations. We now cover much of an entire continent with 50 states, including noncontiguous Alaska and Hawaii, and we are a much more complex, integrated, and denser populated nation. In some cases, more than half the population of a state can be found in its cities. This means that the 2nd "Whereas" of the Resolution is incorrect. The Electoral College now is causing an extreme representation imbalance between urban and rural areas. I would argue that the first "Whereas" is also incorrect: The Electoral College does not just "respect states as the essential units in our federal republic" but it actually has been seen to place the states' power above that of the federal republic. This is destructive not just to individuals' civil rights which are supposed to be guaranteed by portions of the Bill of Rights and other Amendments but also to the financial and social integration of the United States of America. Degrading or eliminating the concept of Interstate Commerce is not a step forward in my opinion. As to the other major subject of the SCR that opposes the National Popular Vote Compact, I disagree with the assertion that it "opens the door to greater federal control of elections." In fact, it is based on two clear powers given to the states under the Constitution: the power under Article 2 Section 1 to choose how to allocate its presidential electors, and the power under Article 1 Section 10 to enter into interstate compacts. Therefore, it supports rather than degrades states' powers. Because of all of this, I hope you will also oppose SCR 4013. Thank you.

Chairman Kristin Roers
Senate State and Local Government Committee
Regarding SCR 4013
February 20, 2025

Dear Chairman Roers, Vice Chairman Castaneda, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Corinne Edgerton and I am a Fargo resident. I am writing to express my strong opposition to SCR 4013. I urge you to issue a **Do Not Pass** recommendation for the following reasons:

- The Electoral College nullifies the popular vote.
- It shrouds electors in secrecy.
- It gives swing states an unfair advantage.

Overall, the Electoral College undermines the principle of “one person, one vote” by giving disproportionate influence to smaller states and swing states allowing a candidate to potentially win the presidency without securing the popular vote. This outdated system fails to reflect the will of the people in a modern democracy, creating inequities in representation. Therefore, I urge you to give SCR 4013 a **Do Not Pass** recommendation.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Corinne Edgerton

Corinne Edgerton

I am opposed to SCR 4013.

We in North Dakota have three electoral votes to choose a president.

I in North Dakota have one vote to choose a president.

I will continue to vote for the presidential candidate I see as ethical and working for solutions after consideration of all viewpoints.

I will continue to vote for North Dakota legislators who I see as ethical and working for solutions after consideration of all viewpoints.

You, as legislators, each have a vote on issues important to you and your constituents.

Each of your votes counts.

I want the same. I want my vote to count. Let's join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

Let's make each of our North Dakota votes count in the presidential election- -thereby increasing voter turnout, encouraging candidates to seek votes in all states, and most importantly, allowing our individual voices to be heard.

Thank you for your consideration.

Linda L Axtman

SCR 4013
Senate State and Local Government Committee -- Kristin Roers, Chair
February 21, 2025
Testimony in Opposition to SCR 4013

Chair Roers and Members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee, I am Vicki Voldal Rosenau, a lifelong resident of Valley City, ND. Thank you for this opportunity to offer my testimony in opposition to Senate Concurrent Resolution 4013.

Having studied and revered our representative-democracy form of government for more than half a century, I am appalled by the existence of this proposal.

The antiquated, undemocratic Electoral College system for electing the President of the United States of America needs to be abandoned -- assuredly not endorsed -- and replaced by a direct vote of The People.

Please take a moment to recognize the ignoble origin of the Electoral College scheme: It was concocted primarily in order to give an advantage to slave-holding states in determining Presidential elections! While racism still haunts our society, the issue of actually retaining slavery as a legal institution does seem to be settled, so even the original purpose has been erased for this un-representative stratagem devised centuries ago by pro-slavery partisans.

Furthermore, this fatally-flawed system completely disenfranchised me (along with millions of other Americans) last November. I did not vote for the candidate who ultimately gathered 270 Electoral College votes, so my vote for US President did NOT count for anything at all! The Presidential Election of 2024 was the most important election of my life, but I could just as well have gone fishing instead of trudging off to my polling place.

And, in fact, five times in the history of our country, the Presidential candidate who won the most popular votes did not take office, because an opponent with fewer citizens' votes managed to win a majority in the roundabout Electoral College. Is that the American Dream? Is that what North Dakota stands for?

Instead of selecting our President via a cynically-motivated, abstruse procedure, we should simply, and transparently, elect the candidate who wins the most votes.

Members of the Committee, I earnestly urge you to recommend "Do Not Pass" on SCR 4013.

Thank you for your consideration,
Vicki Voldal Rosenau, Valley City



North Dakota Senate

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Senator Jonathan Sickler

District 17
152 Christian Drive
Grand Forks, ND 58201-9304
jsickler@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:

Appropriations
Appropriations - Government Operations Division

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 4013 Senate State and Local Government Committee February 21, 2025

SCR 4013 invites other states to join North Dakota in forming an interstate compact to oppose the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC). The NPVIC is an attempt to nullify the Electoral College via an indirect method instead of using the required amendment procedures laid out in the Constitution.

As stated in the resolution North Dakota proposes an interstate compact wherein the member states agree to challenge the NPVIC should it ever become active. The NPVIC would become active when the NPVIC member states encompass 270 Electoral College votes. The NPVIC currently has 209 Electoral College votes among the member states.

This resolution specifies that the proposed opposition compact would become active when four other states join North Dakota and agree to pursue a legal claim challenging the constitutionality of the NPVIC.¹ If the NPVIC never goes active there would be no legal challenge, and no action would be required by the member states of this opposition compact.

The purpose of this opposition compact would, in part, be to deter any additional states from joining the NPVIC knowing that multiple states have taken action to oppose them in a legal action that the NPVIC compact is likely to lose. It might also cause current member states to withdraw from the NPVIC, which is an option available to them under the terms of their compact.

The Electoral College is an important institution that ensures successful presidential candidates gain support from numerous geographic regions of the United States rather than focusing solely on the most heavily populated cities and coastal areas. As a result, the Electoral College tends to encourage more moderate candidates with broader voter appeal while simultaneously amplifying popular vote totals to produce a clear winner.

As Alexander Hamilton wrote of the Electoral College in Federalist 68, "If the manner of it be not perfect, it is at least excellent."

¹ For a detailed analysis and arguments as to why the NPVIC is unconstitutional, please see *Why the National Popular Vote Compact is Unconstitutional* by Norman R. Williams, *BYU Law Review*, Volume 2012, Issue 5 (<https://digitalcommons.law.byu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2686&context=lawreview>)

2025 HOUSE FINANCE AND TAXATION

SCR 4013

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Finance and Taxation Committee Room JW327E, State Capitol

SCR 4013
3/17/2025

A concurrent resolution to support the electoral college, denounce the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, and invite interested states to form the Electoral College Interstate Compact.

9:00 a.m. Chairman Headland opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Headland, Vice Chairman Hagert, Representatives D. Anderson, Dockter, Dressler, Foss, Ista, Motschenbacher, Nehring, J. Olson, Porter, Steiner, Toman

Members Absent: Representative Grueneich

Discussion Topics:

- Number of votes
- State popular vote

9:00 a.m. Senator Jonathan Sickler, District 17, introduced the bill and submitted testimony #41760.

9:12 a.m. Vicky Voldal Rosenau, Resident of Valley City, ND, submitted testimony in opposition #41894.

9:18 a.m. Chairman Headland closed the hearing.

9:18 a.m. Representative J. Olson moved Do Pass.

9:18 a.m. Representative Motschenbacher seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Craig Headland	Y
Representative Jared Hagert	Y
Representative Dick Anderson	Y
Representative Jason Dockter	Y
Representative Ty Dressler	Y
Representative Jim Grueneich	AB
Representative Mike Motschenbacher	Y
Representative Dennis Nehring	Y
Representative Jeremy Olson	Y
Representative Todd Porter	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	Y
Representative Nathan Toman	Y

Representative Austin Foss	N
Representative Zachary Ista	N

9:19 a.m. Motion passed 11-2-1.

9:19 a.m. Representative J. Olson will carry the bill.

Additional written testimony:

Linda Axtman, submitted testimony in opposition #41538.

Carol Sawicki, Board Member, League of Women Voters of ND, submitted testimony in opposition #41966.

9:19 a.m. Chairman Headland closed the meeting.

Janae Pinks, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SCR 4013 ([25.3065.03000](#))

Finance and Taxation Committee (Rep. Headland, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (11 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4013 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

I am opposed to SCR 4013.

We in North Dakota have three electoral votes to choose a president.

I in North Dakota have one vote to choose a president.

I will continue to vote for the presidential candidate I see as ethical and working for solutions after consideration of all viewpoints.

I will continue to vote for North Dakota legislators who I see as ethical and working for solutions after consideration of all viewpoints.

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Let's make each of our North Dakota votes count in the presidential election- -thereby increasing voter turnout, encouraging candidates to seek votes in all states, and most importantly, allowing our individual voices to be heard.

Thank you for your consideration.

Linda L Axtman



North Dakota Senate

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
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Senator Jonathan Sickler

District 17
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COMMITTEES:

Appropriations
Appropriations - Government Operations Division

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 4013

House Finance & Taxation Committee

March 17, 2025

SCR 4013 invites other states to join North Dakota in forming an interstate compact to oppose the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC). The NPVIC is an attempt to nullify the Electoral College via an indirect method instead of using the required amendment procedures laid out in the Constitution.

As stated in the resolution North Dakota proposes an interstate compact wherein the member states agree to challenge the NPVIC should it ever become active. The NPVIC would become active when the NPVIC member states encompass 270 Electoral College votes. The NPVIC currently has 209 Electoral College votes among the member states.

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SCR 4013
House Finance and Taxation Committee – Craig Headland, Chair
March 17, 2025
Testimony in Opposition to SCR 4013

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The antiquated, undemocratic Electoral College system for electing the President of the United States of America needs to be abandoned -- assuredly not endorsed -- and replaced by a direct vote of The People.

Please take a moment to recognize the ignoble origin of the Electoral College scheme: It was concocted primarily in order to give an advantage to slave-holding states in determining Presidential elections! While racism still haunts our society, the issue of actually retaining slavery as a legal institution does seem to be settled, so even the original purpose has been erased for this un-representative stratagem devised centuries ago by pro-slavery partisans.

Furthermore, this fatally-flawed system completely disenfranchised me (along with millions of other Americans) last November. I did not vote for the candidate who ultimately gathered 270 Electoral College votes, so my vote for US President did NOT count for anything at all! The Presidential Election of 2024 was the most important election of my life, but I could just as well have gone fishing instead of trudging off to my polling place.

And, in fact, five times in the history of our country, the Presidential candidate who won the most popular votes did not take office, because an opponent with fewer citizens' votes managed to win a majority in the roundabout Electoral College. Is that the American Dream? Is that what North Dakota stands for?

Instead of selecting our President via a cynically-motivated, abstruse procedure, we should simply, and transparently, elect the candidate who wins the most votes.

Members of the Committee, I earnestly urge you to recommend "Do Not Pass" on SCR 4013.

Thank you for your consideration,
Vicki Voldal Rosenau, Valley City



Testimony in Opposition to SCR 4013
House Finance and Taxation Committee
March 17, 2025

Chair Headland and Members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee: My name is Carol Sawicki, and I am a board member and representative of the League of Women Voters of North Dakota.

SCR 4013 is a resolution that supports the electoral college, denounces the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, and invites interested states to form the Electoral College Interstate Compact. **The League of Women Voters of North Dakota opposes SCR 4013 for the following reasons:**

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- The League of Women Voters of North Dakota cannot support an "Electoral College Interstate Compact" which would be in direct opposition to the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

The League of Women Voters supports the direct popular vote of the US President, and we urge the House Finance and Taxation Committee to **give SCR 4013 a Do Not Pass recommendation**. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Carol Sawicki
LWVND Board Member
nodaklwv@gmail.com