



**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

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**CT General Assembly Democratic leadership endorses National Popular Vote;
Former U.S. Senator Russ Feingold to speak at citizens' group press conference**

HARTFORD, CT – National Popular Vote CT (NPVct), the statewide citizens' movement lobbying the CT legislature to join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, is pleased that the leadership of the CT General Assembly Democratic caucus announced that the Compact is one of its 2018 legislative priorities. This is a substantial boost to the grassroots campaign by NPVct to make everyone's vote for president matter—regardless of whether they live in blue, red or battleground states—and to make the winner the candidate who receives the most votes, just the way members to the CT General Assembly are elected.

Both Senate President Martin Looney and House Speaker Joe Aresimowicz called attention to the National Popular Vote in their remarks, and acknowledged the presence of NPVct State Coordinators Paula Bacolini and Steve Winter who attended the press conference.

In its [Democratic Values Agenda](#), CT Democrats "reject the notion that the citizens of the United States, in the year 2018, cannot be trusted to directly elect their president," and instead "believe in the direct election of the president by popular vote—that the winner of the presidency should be the candidate who gets the most votes in the election." The Democratic caucus has committed to introduce legislation in the 2018 session to have Connecticut join 10 other states and the District of Columbia that are already in the Compact.

Today's announcement comes on recent decisions by Senator Paul Doyle and Representative William Tong to support a National Popular Vote bill, after careful consideration of the Compact's constitutionality and impact on Connecticut voters. Last year H.B. 5434, the Compact bill, attracted 68 co-sponsors, more than anytime since the bill was first introduced to the General Assembly in 2009. NPVct is hopeful that members of the Republican caucus will also support the legislation, since in the past it has received bipartisan support in the General Administration and Elections Committee, has passed other state legislatures with bipartisan votes and has been endorsed by Republicans such as Newt Gingrich. President Trump has on several occasions [expressed support](#) for a national popular vote.

To build on this momentum, National Popular Vote CT has scheduled a press conference for Friday, February 16 at 12:30pm in Room 1B of the Legislative Office Building. **Russ Feingold**, former U.S. Senator from Wisconsin and founder of the good government advocacy group **LegitAction**, will be speaking, along with NPV champions **Senator Mae Flexer** and **Representative Matt Lesser**. Representing the **Women's March CT** will be newly-elected **Westport Selectwoman Melissa Kane**. **Steve Karp**, Executive Director of the CT chapter of the **National Association of Social Workers**, will explain how the national popular vote will help engage marginalized voters.

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***National Popular Vote CT (NPVct)** is a grassroots citizen's movement whose objective is to get the Connecticut General Assembly to join the National Popular Vote Interstate. More than 2,000 citizens have joined the effort to make every vote for president matter.*