



The National Popular Vote legislation would guarantee the Presidency of the United States to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The bill ensures that every vote, in every state, will be treated equally in every presidential election. The National Popular Vote is a compact between states to pledge their respective electoral votes to the Presidential candidate who receives the highest national vote. The National Popular Vote legislation improves the Electoral College to make the United States a more perfect union. National Popular Vote legislation preserves state control of elections.

National Popular Vote ensures that more Americans will vote in each Presidential election. National Popular Vote also ensures that the Presidential candidate who receives the highest national popular vote is guaranteed the 270 electoral votes necessary to win the White House. The premise is simple: the Presidential candidate with the most votes should win.

The National Popular Vote is a bi-partisan effort. For example, former Speaker of the U.S. House Newt Gingrich and Senator Bernie Sanders have publicly endorsed the National Popular Vote legislation. In Colorado, diverse, individuals from both sides of the aisle such as former Congressman Tom Tancredo and former Colorado Democratic Chairwoman Morgan Carroll, have endorsed National Popular Vote legislation.

Five times in our nation's history, the Presidential candidate who received the highest national popular vote lost the election. The elections included: Democratic-Republican Andrew Jackson lost to John Quincy Adams in 1824, Democratic Samuel Tilden lost to Rutherford B. Hayes in 1876, Democrat Grover Cleveland lost to Benjamin Harrison in 1888, Democrat Al Gore lost to George W. Bush in 2000, Democrat Hillary Clinton lost to Donald Trump in 2016.

Because of the winner-take-all system of assigning electors, the Presidential candidates only campaign in approximately 12 battleground states, such as Florida, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. If a voter lives in a state that is predominantly Republican, such as Louisiana, or predominantly Democratic, such as Massachusetts, Presidential campaigns ignore these voters. The status quo is not sustainable for a thriving democracy.

The National Popular Vote legislation has been enacted into law in 11 states and the District of Columbia totaling 172 electoral votes. National Popular Vote legislation just needs to pass in enough states so their total number of electors is 98 for the state compact to go into effect with 270 electoral votes. To date, National Popular Vote legislation has passed in small states (RI, VT, HI, DC), in medium-sized states (MD, MA, WA), and in large states (NJ, IL, NY, CA). These states have passed legislation with simple legislative majorities to join the compact and to

pledge their respective electoral votes to the Presidential candidate with the highest national popular vote.

Momentum is growing in state legislatures across the nation. For example, either the State House or in State Senate in twelve states (totaling 96 electoral votes) have passed National Popular Vote legislation. The bill was approved by a bipartisan 40-16 vote in the Arizona House, 28-18 in the Oklahoma Senate, and unanimously by legislative committees in Georgia and Missouri. Over 2,794 state legislators have endorsed it.

The U.S. Constitution (Article II, Section 1) gives states exclusive control over awarding their electoral votes: "Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors..." Winner-take-all was not debated at the Constitutional Convention or mentioned in the Federalist Papers. It was not used by a majority of the states until the 11th presidential election (1828). The United States Supreme Court has confirmed the states' rights to administer electoral votes.

The shortcomings of the current system stem from state winner-take-all laws (i.e., awarding all of a state's electoral votes to the candidate receiving the most popular votes in each separate state). Because of winner-take-all, presidential candidates have no reason to solicit votes in states where the statewide outcome is a foregone conclusion.

Learn more at www.NationalPopularVote.com