

The debate about the National Popular Vote Compact (NPVC) was rekindled after President Trump was elected in an electoral college landslide despite losing the popular vote. In Oregon, the NPVC has been introduced for the 2019 session yet again after multiple failed attempts over the last ten years. The NPVC is an agreement between participating States to elect the President by National Popular Vote. The Compact is a binding agreement to designate the States electors to the Electoral College based on the winner of the National Popular Vote rather than the winner of the statewide vote.

Proponents of this legislation wrongly suggest that Oregonians would be better off if the Presidential election occurred as a nationwide vote. They somehow conclude that if the vote were a National Popular Vote then Oregon's votes would be "more equally" counted. However, all votes are already counted equally, just in a statewide election. Our Electoral College is designed to ensure smaller states would still have a voice to their votes. The Electoral College has 538 electors which are distributed amongst the States in the same fashion as Congressman. 2 to each State like the US Senate and 438 to the states based on population like the House of Representatives. This ensures that all states have a voice while giving the largest voice to states with larger populations. Anyone who would oppose this would be hypocritical to not also call to reform Congress.

Supporters claim that currently only battleground states have a voice and that NPVC will fix this, but they fail to say how. As a less densely populated state, no candidates will spend valuable resources seeking votes in Oregon when they would get much more value in densely populated states and large metropolitan areas. For example the 6 counties making up the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area have 5 times the population of the State of Oregon. If you were running for President under a national popular vote where would you rather campaign. With the Electoral College there is only one way to get Oregon's electoral votes and that is by making the case to Oregonians. With NPVC, candidates can get Oregon's votes by making the case thousands of miles away. Why would any legislator in Oregon disenfranchise their constituents in such a corrupt manner?

The Compact is not activated until enough votes are in place to ensure POTUS election by NPV. The question we should ask is why? Supporters claim that the Constitution allows for the state to choose any method they want for elector designation ... and they are right. The Founders presumed that the state would choose a method that was in the state's best interest such as via Legislature vote, a statewide popular vote or even a district by district vote. Never did they expect states to choose random methods such as coin flip, rock/paper/scissors or NPV. Even the supporters of NPV do not believe this is beneficial to the state itself. If they did, they would propose NPV legislation without the Compact thusly just making the change to a popular vote because it is what's best for Oregon. The truth is what they want is a fundamental change to our election system on a National level ... to change how we elect our President. The idea that this is in the purview of a minority of States is ludicrous. As few as 21 States could activate the Compact, literally without consent from the majority of states. This is not how our Republic was intended to function.

Protect Your Vote USA strongly opposes the NPVC, yet we do recognize that there is much debate on the issue. As Constitutionalists, we believe that if the issue requires further debate it must happen as a proposed Constitutional Amendment. Legislation was submitted in the current US Congress by Steve Cohen (D-TN) to abolish the electoral college. This is the proper forum for this debate. This way all 50 States would be able to deliberate on the issue and make a fair decision ... as intended by our Founding Fathers.

RJ Jaffe, Co-Founder Protect Your Vote USA