National Popular Election of the President
National Popular Vote!
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"Agreement among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote"

April 2, 2019

The National Popular Vote bill would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The bill would make every person's vote equal throughout the U.S. It would ensure that *every* vote, in *every* state, will matter in *every* presidential election. The bill is a constitutionally conservative, state-based approach that preserves the Electoral College, state control of elections, and the power of the states to control how the President is elected.

Since 2006, the bill has been enacted into law in 14 jurisdictions possessing 184 electoral votes, including 5 small jurisdictions (DC, DE, HI, RI, VT), 5 medium-sized states (CO, CT, MD, MA, WA), and 4 big states (CA, IL, NJ, NY). The bill will take effect when enacted by states with 86 more electoral votes.

The bill is currently on the governor's desk in New Mexico (5 electoral votes). The bill has previously passed one legislative chamber in 8 additional states with 72 more electoral votes (AR, AZ, ME, MI, NC, NV, OK, OR), including the Arizona House and Oklahoma Senate, and has received unanimous committee votes in Georgia and Missouri. A total of 3,272 state legislators have endorsed it.

The U.S. Constitution (Article II) 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…."
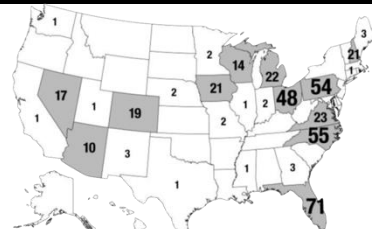
The shortcomings of the current system of electing the President stem from *state* "winner-take-all" laws that award *all* of a state's electoral votes to the candidate receiving the most popular votes in each state.

Because of these state winner-take-all laws, presidential candidates ignore voters in states where they are safely ahead or hopelessly behind. In 2012, *all* of the general-election campaign events and virtually all expenditures were concentrated in the 12 states where Romney's support was between 45% and 51%. Thirty-eight states were ignored, including 12 of the 13 smallest states and almost all rural, agricultural, Western, Southern, and New England states. Similarly, in 2016, virtually all campaign events (94%) were in the 12 states where Trump's support was between 43% and 51%. Two-thirds of the events (273 of 399) were in just 6 states (OH, FL, VA, NC, PA, MI).

Concentration of Campaign Events in 2012   **Concentration of Campaign Events in 2016**

State winner-take-all laws have enabled five of our 45 Presidents to come into office without winning the most popular votes nationwide. The national popular vote winner also would have been defeated by a shift of 59,393 popular votes in Ohio in 2004 (despite President Bush's nationwide lead of 3 million votes); 9,246 votes in 1976; 77,726 in 1968; 9,212 in 1960; 20,360 in 1948; and 1,711 votes in 1916.

The current state-by-state winner-take-all method of awarding electoral votes is *not* in the U.S. Constitution. It was not debated at the 1787 Constitutional Convention or in the *Federalist Papers*. It was used by only three states in the first presidential election in 1789 (and all three repealed it by 1800).

The National Popular Vote interstate compact will go into effect when enacted by states possessing a majority of the electoral votes—that is, enough to elect a President (270 of 538). At that time, every voter in the country will acquire a direct vote for a group of at least 270 presidential electors supporting their choice for President. All of this group of 270+ presidential electors will be supporters of the candidate who received the most popular votes in all 50 states and DC—thus making that candidate President.

In contrast, under the current system, a voter has a direct voice in electing only the small number of presidential electors to which their state is entitled. Under NPV, every voter directly elects 270+ electors.

For additional information, see our book *Every Vote Equal: A State-Based Plan for Electing the President by National Popular Vote* (downloadable for free at www.NationalPopularVote.com).