

The subject and idea promulgated under the initiative called the National Popular Vote (NPV) has been around for many years dating back to 2006 or earlier.

The subject of a State Compact awarding electoral votes as part of the electoral college system of electing a President and Vice President of our United States of America has an alluring aura about it.

Central to the NPV argument is that those states which have very large populations and accordingly large electoral college delegates yield too much power or leverage in our national general elections to the detriment of the other less populated states. Further additional arguments include lack of campaign dollars and candidate effort to campaign in lesser populated states catering to the most populous states.

Federalism in this country recognizes that the people are the ultimate sovereign and that the people are “endowed by their Creator, with certain unalienable rights” and further, the people as the ultimate sovereign have delegated certain powers to both the Federal and State governments only with the “consent of the governed.” This was a principle never before embodied in any government of the time.

Unfortunately over time, the balance of Federalism as originally established has become out of balance. The people, as sovereigns and stewards of this nation and its government, have unknowingly permitted the Federal government to usurp its limited and enumerated powers by growing bigger and more powerful by ignoring the constitution and growing abuse by both the executive and judicial branches of government ignoring the “separation of powers” clause of the constitution.

A fundamental goal and ideal embodied into the structure of our government upon its creation was that it be not a democracy, but instead be a constitutional republic. In being a republic, the ideal was to protect *individual liberty* against the often sporadic and ill contrived tyranny of the majority. Central to this idea was that the individual (or minority) cannot ever be protected from mob rule under a democratic form of government. A constitutional republic was the Founder’s resolve.

National Popular Vote abandons our constitutional republic. NPV’s proposal is for the majority popular vote of a Compact (of states) in a national election, the Electoral College votes would be awarded as determined by the majority of popular votes within the member Compact. Obviously of concern would be what policies, laws, and regulations would candidates be motivated to propose to the compact in order to win the favor of a majority of votes of the Compact. These proposals could very well be in opposition to the will of Oregon voters, but perhaps not matter in the case of Oregon being dragged along as a member of a Compact. Oregon should not surrender its sovereignty to the will of other states and the will of other states’ voters.

Although the idea is at least interesting to contemplate, it matters less really who occupies the executive branch (president) if the Federal Congress would abide by their limited constitutionally granted powers. The 10th amendment to our constitution served to further clarify the limited and enumerated powers granted to it.

Lastly, it was the states that not only proposed and created the Federal government but only granted limited and enumerated powers to the federal government at the constitutional convention of 1787.

If Congress were properly executing their responsibilities, the dissatisfaction at present might not exist. The unexercised collective power of the states is their sovereign right and Congress's continued failure to exercise their limited and enumerated responsibilities according to the limitations of our U.S. Constitution may give rise to the states choosing to exercise their sovereign rights under certain provisions of the U.S. Constitution in order to deal with an unresponsive Congress.

The National Popular Vote violates Article I, Section. 10, prohibiting compacts between the states and also believe that NPV serves only to advance the tyranny of the majority and a Socialist ideology. Please consider my explanation of federalism, our founders' intentions, and our individual sovereignty as my reasons for **NOT supporting the National Popular Vote. I urge you to do the same. If you do support the NPVIC then I urge you to vote NO and instead place this question on a state ballot and let the citizens of Oregon decide.**

Respectfully,

Linford Stillson DO