

National Popular Vote: the issue, the League's work, *your* role

Jill Fermanich, our rep to the LWVWI NPVIC committee

National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC): What is it?

The National Popular Vote bill will guarantee the presidency to the candidate who wins the *popular vote in the entire nation*. It is an interstate compact – an agreement between two or more states – and it works like this: Each state that votes to join the compact agrees to pass state laws instructing that state's electors to vote for the presidential candidate who wins the popular vote in the entire nation rather than the one who wins the popular vote in that particular state.

NPVIC will become effective when states representing 270 electoral votes pass the legislation. Recall that 270 is the number of electoral votes that a presidential candidate needs to win in order to secure the presidency. At this time, NPVIC has been enacted in seventeen states and the District of Columbia. These jurisdictions represent 209 out of those 270 electoral votes - just 61 more are needed for NPVIC to go into effect. When passed in Wisconsin, we will add 10 electoral votes to the total.

When NPVIC goes into effect, each state will continue to conduct its elections and report election results, just as they do today. The states that have passed NPVIC legislation will cast their cumulative 270 (or more) electoral votes for the national popular vote winner, who will then become president. **NPVIC ensures that the winner of the national popular vote and the winner of the Electoral College vote will be the same.**

What is the League doing to advocate for NPVIC?

The goal of LWV Wisconsin's National Popular Vote Committee is to get the NPVIC legislation passed in Wisconsin. The committee is designing an integrated campaign to achieve this goal.

Strategies are to:

- 1) Increase public awareness and understanding of NPVIC, helping constituents drive the demand for legislators to support NPVIC legislation
- 2) Mobilize and engage a grassroots *coalition* of LWV chapters and other stakeholders to build pressure on legislators to pass NPVIC legislation
- 3) Secure commitments from legislators to sponsor and support NPVIC legislation in the Wisconsin State Legislature

A formal letter authored by LWV Wisconsin's National Popular Vote Committee was sent to all state legislators in January. The letter urges representatives to sponsor and support a bill to pass the NPVIC in Wisconsin and to herald it through to a public hearing and passage.

How can you get involved in advocating for NPVIC?

Join the LWV Wisconsin National Popular Vote Committee. Our next meeting is February 19 at noon via Zoom. Email: NPVWisconsin@lwwwi.org. For more information locally, [you can email Jill here](#).

Together, we can pass the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact in Wisconsin.