



**National Popular Vote** Interstate Compact – Guarantees the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states (and D.C.) State legislatures replace current state-level tally, winner-take-all laws with a law that elects as President the candidate who is the national popular vote winner.

Five out of 46 Presidents have come into office *without* having won the most popular votes. Five times the second-place candidate won!

The U.S. Constitution established the Electoral College to elect the President of the United States. U.S. The Constitution gives state legislatures the power to choose the method of picking electors.

Presidents are elected by the number of *electoral* votes they receive.

- The candidate who wins the popular vote in a state gets to have *all* their electors certified. This is “winner take all.” (Maine and Nebraska work differently.)
- Nationwide, there are 538 electors. 435 in House + 100 in Senate + 3 for DC = 538 electoral votes total U.S. territories such as Puerto Rico, Guam, etc. get none.
- A candidate must receive the majority – 270 electoral votes or more - to win.
- According to the Constitution, if no candidate gets 270 votes, the House of Representatives meets to decide the winner.

Electors represent a different number of people in each state.

Wyoming - 3 electors; 581,075 population..... 1 elector : 193,692 people

Missouri - 10 electors; 6.17 million population..... 1 elector : 617,000 people

California - 54 electors; 39.61 million population..... 1 elector : 734,000 people

Florida - 30 electors; 21.55 million population..... 1 elector : 718,000 people

An elector represents a different number of people in each state and this is unfair and undemocratic. The current state-level tally, “winner-take-all” electoral college system violates the “one-person, one vote” ideal for a representative democracy.

### Problems with current system

- **The second-place candidate can become President.** A candidate can win without getting the most popular votes in all 50 states.
- **Voters think their vote does not matter.** Voters choose not to participate in the election because they think their vote will not matter.
- **Most states are IGNORED in campaigning.** Voter issues in non-competitive states may not be addressed. And after the election, sitting Presidents may make numerous policy decisions in favor of the battleground states.

Example from 2012:

- 100% general election campaign events were in only 12 states (because races were close, 45%-51%)
- 2/3 of events were concentrated in only 4 states
- 38 states ignored because one candidate was safely ahead
- In battleground states, candidates campaign in all parts of the state.

In 2008, 98% of all campaign \$ were spent in just 15 battleground states. And 2/3 of money and time was spent in just 6 states. Similar strategies were used in 2016.



The LWV believes that direct election of the President is essential for a representative democratic government.

Direct election of the President could be accomplished a couple of ways:

- Change the U.S. Constitution to a direct election for the President including provisions for a national runoff election in the event no candidate received 40% of the vote.  
- Very hard to do and *not flexible* as the nation changes.
- Or, **the states** could pass laws that would recognize the winner of the election is the candidate who receives the most votes in all 50 states (and D.C).

## The National Popular Vote

- State legislatures enact a law pledging all their state's electoral votes to the candidate who gets the **most popular votes of ALL 50 States and D.C. combined**, not just the votes in the participating states.
- 270-vote trigger. The bill would take effect **ONLY** when enacted by enough states to reach a majority of electoral votes - 270 of the 538.
- This bill guarantees the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most votes in **ALL 50 states and D.C.**
- This bill must be passed by the legislatures of the enacting states because the U.S. Constitution says that the state legislature appoints and directs the electors.

## Status of National Popular Vote in the US

- 15 states and the District of Columbia have passed NPV = 195 electoral votes. Those states include:  
CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, HI, IL, MA, MD, NJ, NM, NY, OR, RI, VT, and WA
- Only 75 more electoral votes needed! Then the compact can go into effect.

**Approximately 65%-75% of voters nationwide support electing the President by a direct vote.**

**Missouri Voter support:** 2015 Missouri Voter Survey showed **75% overall support** for the idea that the President should be the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states.

## **History of National Popular Vote Legislation in Missouri**

- 2021 – NPV bill introduced by 7 Reps(D) and 1 Senator(D)
- 2018, 2017 - NPV bill introduced by Rep. John Carpenter(D)
- 2016 - NPV bills introduced by Dave Schatz (R), Tony Dugger(R), Jeremy LaFaver(D), and supported by 58 legislators

## **National Popular Vote Summary**

- NPV guarantees the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states (and D.C.).
- Every voter in every state will be relevant in every presidential campaign.
- Every vote will be equally meaningful in every election.
- Voting power for all citizens is fair.
- Campaigns would no longer ignore 2/3 of the states. More voter's interests would be addressed.
- NPV encourages a culture of higher voter turnout when every voter feels important.