

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Interim:

**600 East Railroad Avenue
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
Phone (907) 373-1842
Fax: (907) 373-4729**

**Session:**

**State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-2186
Fax: (907) 465-3818**

REPRESENTATIVE WES KELLER DISTRICT 14

House Resolution 10 Sponsor Statement

“Supporting the Electoral College and opposing the Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote interstate compact.”

One of the most vexing issues facing the delegates during the 1787 Constitutional Convention was how to elect the President of the United States in a manner consistent with the fledgling nation’s republican and federalist principles.

Cognizant of the illiberal tendencies of prior democracies, the Framers chose to elect the President of the United States based on the combined will of each of the individual states. Protecting small states from being run roughshod by larger states and ensuring minority voices are able to influence the election process, the Electoral College reinforces the U.S. Constitution’s carefully struck balance between the will of the nation as a whole and the concerns of the individual states.

Yet once again, America’s finely crafted constitutional balance is being challenged by the effort to elect the President by a direct popular vote. Supporters of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact claim that a democratically elected president will help ensure Alaska becomes an active and seriously considered player in presidential politics.

Alaskans should take pause and carefully consider the numerous practical and constitutional hurdles National Popular Vote (NPV) must overcome before committing to the compact. Whether skirting the Article V constitutional amendment process, diminishing the voice of small states and minority interests, or increasing the likelihood of Florida-like recounts, NPV strikes at the heart of America’s federalist and republican foundations: the consequences of which will mean a diminished electoral role for Alaska.

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact looks, feels, and sounds good. However, the practical realities are far different. House Resolution 10 reaffirms the Alaska House of

Representatives' commitment to the Electoral College as the prudent and proper means for electing the President of the United States.

DRAFT