



March 9, 2023

Dear Senator Tobin, Giessel, Kaufman, Kiehl and Claman,

The League of Women Voters of Alaska is writing in support of SB 61: US President Election Popular Vote Compact. In the history of presidential elections 5 of our 45 Presidents have been elected without winning the popular vote. This happens because of in winner-take-all states in which the winner of the majority of the votes receives all the electoral votes. Forty-eight states have adopted this method of awarding electoral college votes. Two states, Maine and Nebraska are the only states where it is not winner take all for electoral votes.

(<https://electoralvotemap.com/which-states-split-their-electoral-votes/>)

Since 2000, we have had 2 out of the 6 races for President go to the candidate with the least number of votes. This takes away one of the main principles of democracy, which is one person one vote. Every election for every representative in the United States, except for presidential is determined by popular vote. The Electoral college is antiquated; we have evolved and now everyone can vote if they want to. When the electoral college was devised, only white men with property could vote. We now have a more representative republic than we used to have. Supporting the National Compact, means that a Present should be elected based on the number of votes they receive, not on the number of states that support a particular candidate.

Use of both the Electoral College vote and the winner-take-all approach creates so-called battleground states. Candidates hold the vast majority of their election rallies in battleground states while ignoring the rest of the states. According to NationalPopularVote.com, in the 2016 election 94% of the campaign events were in 12 states, while the remaining 38 states were ignored. How great would it be for our state to have all the presidential candidates during their campaigns?

The use of the Electoral College vote to elect the President is also open to foreign intervention and can become a national security issue. Foreign governments unfriendly to democracy find it easy to use social media to target a dozen states rather than all fifty states. There is evidence from the 2016 election that this very thing happened. To quote *The Mueller Report*, “The Russian government interfered in the 2016 Presidential election in sweeping and systematic fashion” (38). Use of the national popular vote would make it more difficult for such interference.

The League supports this bill because it brings our national election process in line with the notion of all votes being counted in a meaningful way. We urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to discuss this bill and vote to send it on to the Senate State Affairs Committee.

Sincerely,

Judy Andree, Sue Sherif and Alex Koplin
Past President and current Co-Presidents
League of Women Voters of Alaska

Email: lwvak@lwvalaska.org