

SB

92

<target><bill>SB 92</bill><subject>SB
92</subject><comm>SFIN26</comm></target>

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: SB 92
 (S) Publish Date: 2/3/10

Identifier (file name): SB092-OOG-DOE-1-29-10 Dept. Affected: OOG
 Title: "An Act ratifying an interstate compact to elect the RDU Elections
President and Vice-President of the United States...." Component: Elections
 Sponsor: Senator Bettye Davis
 Requester: Senate State Affairs Committee Component Number: 21

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2011	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual			0.0					
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES								
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()								
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF			0.0					
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
TOTAL		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2010) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation has no financial impact on the division.

Prepared by: Gail Fenumiai, Director
 Division: Division of Elections
 Approved by: Linda Perez, Director
Division of Administrative Services

Phone 465-4611
 Date/Time 1/29/10, 3:59pm
 Date _____

Alaska State Legislature

Senate
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Services
Committee
Chair
•
Senate
Education Committee
Vice - Chair



Legislative Council
Vice - Chair
•
Senate
Transportation
Committee
•
Senate
Labor & Commerce
Committee

Senator Bettye Davis [Bettye Davis@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Bettye.Davis@legis.state.ak.us)
<http://www.aksenate.org>

Session: (Jan. - May)
State Capitol, Suite 30, Juneau, AK 99801-1182 Phone: (907) 465-3822 • Fax: (907) 465-3756 • Toll free: (800) 770-3822
Interim: (May - Dec.)
716 W. 4th Ave, Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99501 Phone: (907) 269-0144 • Fax: (907) 269-0148

SPONSOR STATEMENT: SB 92

Under the National Popular Vote interstate compact, electoral votes which are based on the number of U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators in each state, would be awarded to the national winner, not the state winner. The U.S. Constitution gives the states exclusive and plenary control over the manner of awarding their electoral votes. The winner-take-all rule is not in the Constitution. The fact that Maine and Nebraska award electoral votes by Congressional district, is a reminder that an amendment to the U.S. Constitution is not required to change the way the President is elected.

As of January 2010, this interstate compact has been joined by Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, and Washington. Their 61 electoral votes amount to 23% of the 270 votes needed for the compact to take effect. The bill has also passed in one or both houses in many states and has continued to gain support nationally.

Because of the current winner-take-all rule, a candidate can, and has won the Presidency Without winning the Most popular votes nationwide. This has occurred in 4 of the nation's 56 presidential elections (and 1 in 7 of the non-landslide elections). In 2004, A shift of fewer than 60,000 votes in Ohio would have defeated President Bush despite his nationwide lead of 3,500,000 votes.

Another shortcoming of the winner-take-all rule is that presidential candidates have no reason to poll, visit, advertise, or organize in states where they are comfortably ahead or hopelessly behind. In 2008, candidates concentrated over two-thirds of their campaign visits and ad money in just six closely divided "battleground" states. A total of 98% went to just 15 states. In other words, voters in two thirds of the states were essentially spectators to the election.

Under the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact bill, all the electoral votes from the enacting states would be awarded, as a bloc, to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states (and DC). The bill would take effect only when enacted by states possessing a majority of the electoral votes — that is, enough electoral votes to elect a President (270 of 538).

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

February 2, 2009

SUBJECT: Sectional summary of SB 92 (Work Order No. 26-LS0441/A)

TO: Senator Betty Davis
Attn: Thomas Obermeyer

FROM: Alpheus Bullard
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill.

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

Section 1. Ratifies an interstate compact to elect the President and Vice- President of the United States by national popular vote. Under the compact and the bill, the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia will win the presidency. Under the compact, all of the state's electoral votes would be awarded to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. This compact would take effect only when enacted by states possessing a majority of the electoral votes, that is, enough electoral votes to elect a President, which is 270 of 538 electoral votes.

Sections 2 -5. Conform statutes to the changes made by section one of the bill.

TLAB:ljw
09-055.ljw

12th Amendment

Amendment 12 - Choosing the President, Vice-President. Ratified 6/15/1804.

The Electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate;

Provided by the sponsor,

National Popular Election of the President
National Popular Vote!
www.NationalPopularVote.com

March 26, 2010

“Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote”
(SB 92)

The National Popular Vote bill guarantees that the presidential candidate with the most popular votes in all 50 states (and DC) will win the Presidency; every voter in every state will be politically relevant in every presidential election; and every vote will be equal.

The bill has passed 29 legislative chambers in 19 states (Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington).

The National Popular Vote bill has been enacted by states representing 61 electoral votes — 23% of the 270 necessary to activate the law (Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, and Washington).

The bill has sponsors in all 50 states and has been endorsed by 1,825 state legislators.

A survey of 800 Alaska voters conducted on January 27–28, 2010 showed 70% overall support for the idea that the President of the United States should be the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states. Voters were asked “How do you think we should elect the President? Should it be the candidate who gets the most votes in all 50 states, or the current electoral college system?” By political affiliation, support for a national popular vote was 66% among Republicans, 78% among Democrats, 70% among Nonpartisan voters, 82% among Alaska Independent Party voters, and 69% among others. By gender, support was 78% among women and 60% among men. By age, support was 68% among 18-29 year olds, 70% among 30-45 year olds, 70% among 46-65 year olds, and 70% for those older than 65. The survey was conducted by Public Policy Polling, and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 1/2%.

The shortcomings of the current system stem from the winner-take-all rule (i.e., awarding all of a state’s electoral votes to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in each state).

The major shortcoming of the winner-take-all rule is that presidential candidates have no reason to poll, visit, advertise, or organize in states where they are comfortably ahead or hopelessly behind. In 2008, candidates concentrated over two-thirds of their campaign visits and advertising money in just six closely divided “battleground” states. A total of 98% went to just 15 states. Voters in two thirds of the states were essentially spectators to the election.

Alaska is not ignored in presidential elections because it is small. New Hampshire, for example, received 12 of the candidates’ 300 post-convention visits in 2008. Meanwhile, the 6 predictably Republican small states (AK, ID, MT, WY, ND, SD) and the 6 predictably Democratic small states (VT, ME, RI, DE, DC, HI) were ignored.

Alaska (like two-thirds of the states) is ignored because the winner-take-all-rule gives presidential candidates no reason to campaign in Alaska (and, therefore, to pay attention to Alaska issues).

Under a national popular vote, every vote in Alaska would matter. In 2004, George W. Bush concentrated on winning the closely divided battleground state of Ohio (which he did, by 118,000 votes). However, Alaska generated a 79,864-vote margin for Bush — over half of Ohio's margin. A vote in Alaska would be as important as a vote in Ohio. Republican presidential candidates would have to pay attention to Alaska voters and issues because the 79,864-vote margin produced in Alaska would matter. Democratic presidential candidates would also have a reason to campaign in Alaska. Independent voters in Alaska would matter because both candidates would be trying to win their votes. A vote in Alaska would become as important as a vote in closely divided battleground states such as New Hampshire or Ohio.

Another shortcoming of the winner-take-all rule is that a candidate can win the Presidency without winning the most popular votes nationwide. This has occurred in 4 of the nation's 56 presidential elections (and 1 in 7 of the non-landslide elections). Moreover, a shift of a handful of votes in one or two states would have elected the second-place candidate in five of the last 12 presidential elections. A shift of fewer than 60,000 votes in Ohio in 2004 would have defeated President Bush despite his nationwide lead of 3,500,000 votes.

The U.S. Constitution gives the states exclusive and plenary control over the manner of awarding their electoral votes. Article II, Section 1, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution states:

“Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors....”

The winner-take-all rule is not in the Constitution. It was not the Founder's choice and was used by only 3 states in the nation's first presidential election in 1789. Maine and Nebraska currently award electoral votes by congressional district — a reminder that an amendment to the U.S. Constitution is not required to change the way the President is elected.

Under the National Popular Vote bill, all the electoral votes from the enacting states would be awarded, as a bloc, to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states (and DC). The bill would take effect only when enacted by states possessing a majority of the electoral votes — that is, sufficient electoral votes to elect a President (270 of 538).

The National Popular Vote bill would replace the current system based on which candidate happens to get the most popular votes in each separate state with a system that guarantees the Presidency to the candidate gets the most individual votes in all 50 states (and DC).

State polls show strong support for a national popular vote (AK-70%, AR-80%, CA-70%, CO-68%, CT-74%, DC-76%, DE-75%, ID-77%, IA-75%, KY-80%, ME-77%, MA-73%, MI-73%, MS-77%, MO-70%, NH-69%, NE-74%, NV-72%, NM-76%, NY-79%, NC-74%, OH-70%, OK-81%, PA-78%, RI-74%, SD-75%, UT-70%, VT-75%, VA-74%, WA-77%, WI-71%, and WV-81%). Support is strong in every partisan and demographic group.

The National Advisory Board of National Popular Vote includes former congressmen John Anderson (R-Illinois and later independent presidential candidate), John Buchanan (R-Alabama), Tom Campbell (R-California), and Tom Downey (D-New York) and former Senators Birch Bayh (D-Indiana), David Durenberger (R-Minnesota), and Jake Garn (R-Utah).

Additional information is available in our book *Every Vote Equal: A State-Based Plan for Electing the President by National Popular Vote* and at www.NationalPopularVote.com.

We're Doing It National Popular Vote!

Home Explanation Answering Myths Polls FAQ News States Electoral College About Take Action Write Legislator Donate
"The appointment, and mode of appointment, of electors belong exclusively to the states" - U.S. Supreme Court

Endorsed by 1,777 State Legislators

News on Reforming Electoral College to Reflect Nationwide Vote

Read the Book

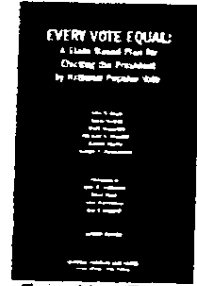


Massachusetts Rep. Charles A. Murphy

In addition to 829 state legislative sponsors (shown above), 948 other legislators have cast recorded votes in favor of the National Popular Vote bill.

- Delaware House Passes National Popular Vote Bill by a 23-12 Vote
- Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey and Washington Enact Bill
 - Washington Joins Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey
 - 23% (61) of the 270 Electoral Votes That Are Needed to Activate Law
- 29 State Legislative Chambers Pass National Popular Vote Bill
- Since 2008 election, 12 Houses have Passed National Popular Vote Bill
 - Delaware House, Nevada Assembly, New Mexico House, Michigan House, Colorado House, Vermont Senate, Rhode Island Senate, Arkansas House, Oregon House, Connecticut House, Washington House and Senate
- 1,777 State Legislators Endorse National Popular Vote Bill
- 8 Legislative Chambers in Small States Pass National Popular Vote Bill
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 - Delaware House and Maine Senate Passes Bill

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 - Anderson Herald Bulletin
 - Fayetteville Observer
 - Boston Globe
 - Hartford Courant
 - The Tennessean
 - Daily Astorian
 - Sarasota Herald Tribune
 - Miami Herald
 - Connecticut Post
- [more endorsements](#)

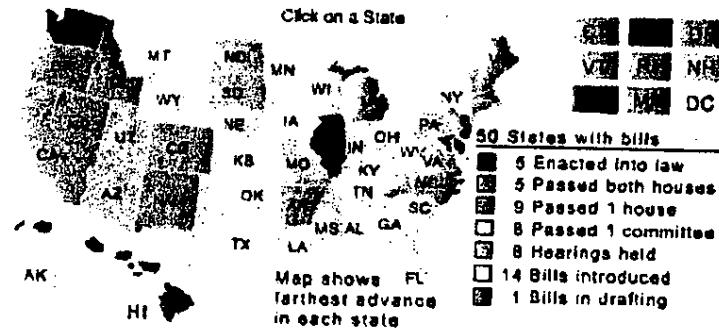
Short Explanation

The National Popular Vote bill would guarantee a majority of the Electoral College to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The bill would reform the Electoral College so that the electoral vote in the Electoral College reflects the choice of the nation's voters for President of the United States. [more](#)

5 Enactments

- Hawaii - 4 votes
- New Jersey - 15 votes
- Illinois - 20 votes
- Maryland - 10 votes

State Progress on Reforming Electoral College



Advisory Board

- John Anderson (R-IL)
- Birch Bayh (D-IN)
- John Buchanan (R-AL)
- Tom Campbell (R-CA)
- Tom Downey (D-NY)
- D. Durenberger (R-MN)
- Jake Garn (R-UT)

70% Public Support

- National - 72%
- Arkansas - 80%
- Arkansas - 74%
- California - 69%
- California - 70%
- Colorado - 68%
- Connecticut - 73%
- Connecticut - 74%
- Delaware - 75%
- Florida - 78%
- Kentucky - 80%
- Idaho - 77%
- Iowa - 76%
- Maine - 77%
- Maine - 71%
- Massachusetts - 73%
- Michigan - 70%
- Michigan - 73%
- Minnesota - 75%
- Mississippi - 77%
- Missouri - 66%
- Missouri - 70%
- Nebraska - 74%
- Nevada - 72%
- New Hampshire - 69%
- New Mexico - 76%
- New York - 79%
- North Carolina - 74%
- Ohio - 70%
- Oklahoma - 81%
- Oregon - 76%
- Pennsylvania - 78%
- Rhode Island - 74%
- South Dakota - 75%
- Utah - 70%
- Vermont - 75%
- Virginia - 74%
- Washington state - 77%

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Volunteer

email: GO

Sarasota Florida Herald Tribune Editorial

"The most compelling and practical alternative is promoted by a bipartisan group called National Popular Vote. The NPV proposal calls for legislatures to pass bills committing their state's electoral votes to the candidate who receives the most popular votes nationwide; the bill would take effect only when enacted by states that together have enough electoral votes to elect a president. [more](#)

Additional Topics

- Analysts Write-Off Three-Quarters of States in 2008 Election
 - Karl Rove Says 2008 Election Comes Down to 4 States
 - David Broder calls North Carolina "Unimportant" "Throwaway" State
- Congressional District Proposal Is Worse Than Current System
- Possibility of Tie in Electoral College in 2008



Organizations

Common Cause
FairVote
[more endorsements](#)

- Florida U.S. Senator Bill Nelson Supports Direct Election and NPV Bill
- Illinois Senator Kirk Dillard Interviewed about National Popular Vote
- **Southern Voters Support National Popular Vote**
 - Arkansas 80%, Mississippi 77%, North Carolina 74%, Virginia 74%
- **Battleground State Voters Support National Popular Vote**
 - Colorado 68%, Florida 78%, Iowa 75%, Michigan 73%, Missouri 70%, New Hampshire 69%, New Mexico 78%, Nevada 72%, North Carolina 74%, Pennsylvania 78%, Ohio 70%, Wisconsin 71%
- **Small State Voters Support National Popular Vote**
 - Delaware 75%, Idaho 77%, New Hampshire 69%, Maine 77%, Rhode Island 74%, South Dakota 75%, Vermont 75%
- **70%-79% Public Support National Popular Vote in Other States**
 - California 70%, Connecticut 73%, Kentucky 80%, Massachusetts 73%, Minnesota 75%, Nebraska 74%, New York 70%, Oklahoma 81%, Oregon 76%, Utah 70%, Washington 77%

Links to Candidate Travel Maps and Electoral College Polls

- *New York Times* Candidate Travel Map
- FiveThirtyEight.com polls and analysis
- *Washington Post* Electoral Vote Map
- Rasmussen Electoral College Polling Reports
- Prof. Darryl Holman State Polls
- PollingReport.com
- Electoral Vote Maps

Express Yourself on Recent Blogs about National Popular Vote

- Projo Politics - 74% Support in Rhode Island
- Lobotero's Weblog - A Better Way To Pick A President
- Angler's Rest - National Popular Vote
- Reformedville - Popular vote?

Washington state - 77%
Wisconsin - 71%

29 Houses Pass Bill

Arkansas House
California Senate
California Assembly
Colorado House
Colorado Senate
Connecticut House
Delaware House
Hawaii House
Hawaii Senate
Illinois House
Illinois Senate
Maine Senate
Maryland House
Maryland Senate
Massachusetts House
Massachusetts Senate
Michigan House
Nevada Assembly
New Jersey Assembly
New Jersey Senate
New Mexico House
North Carolina Senate
Oregon House
Rhode Island House
Rhode Island Senate
Vermont House
Vermont Senate
Washington House
Washington Senate

What Do You Think

How should we elect the President?

The candidate who gets the most votes in all 50 states.

The current Electoral College system.

[Add this poll to your web site](#)

Reform the Electoral College so that the electoral vote reflects the nationwide popular vote for President

We Believe National Popular Vote!



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North Carolina Rep. Becky Carney

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 - Wichita Falls Times
 - Anderson Herald Bulletin
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 - Boston Globe
 - Hartford Courant
 - The Tennessean
 - Daily Astorian
 - Sarasota Herald Tribune
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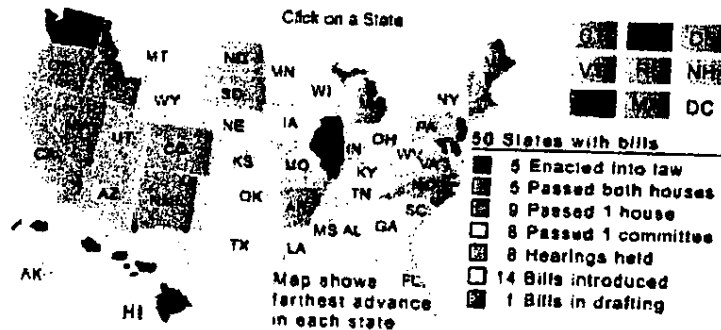
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- Massachusetts House
- Massachusetts Senate
- Michigan House
- Nevada Assembly
- New Jersey Assembly
- New Jersey Senate
- New Mexico House
- North Carolina Senate
- Oregon House
- Rhode Island House
- Rhode Island Senate
- Vermont House
- Vermont Senate
- Washington House
- Washington Senate

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National Popular Vote!

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Endorsed by 1,777 State Legislators

The Electoral College



South Carolina Rep. Cathy B. Harvin

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Editorial Support

- New York Times*
- Chicago Sun-Times*
- Minneapolis Star Tribune*
- Los Angeles Times*
- Sacramento Bee*
- The Columbian*
- Wichita Falls Times*
- Anderson Herald Bulletin*
- Fayetteville Observer*
- Boston Globe*
- Hartford Courant*
- The Tennessean*
- Daily Astorian*
- Sarasota Herald Tribune*
- Miami Herald*
- Connecticut Post*
- [more endorsements](#)

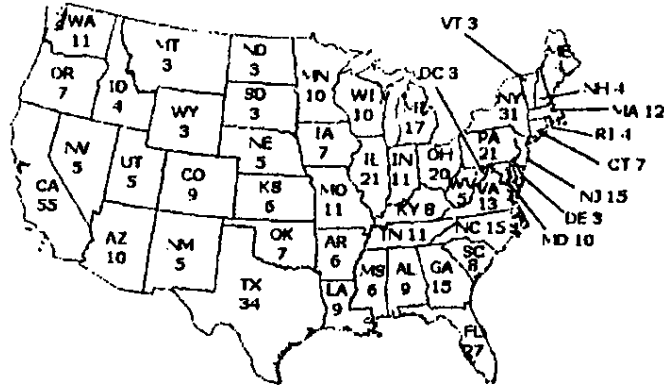
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5 Enactments

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The U.S. Constitution specifies that the President and Vice President of the United States are to be chosen every four years by a small group of people who are individually referred to as "presidential electors." The electors are collectively referred to as the "Electoral College."

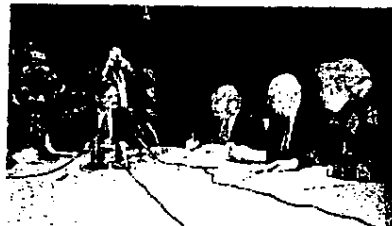


The Constitution specifies that each state is entitled to one member of the Electoral College for each

of its U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators. Today, there are a total of 538 electoral votes in the Electoral College. This total corresponds to the 435 U.S. Representatives from the 50 states plus the 100 U.S. Senators from the 50 states plus the three members of the Electoral College to which the District of Columbia became entitled under the 23rd Amendment (ratified in 1961). Every 10 years, the 435 U.S. Representatives are reapportioned among the states in accordance with the latest federal census, thereby automatically reapportioning the membership of the Electoral College among the states.

Members of the Electoral College are chosen by each state and the District of Columbia on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November in presidential election years. Each political party nominates its own candidates (typically long-standing party activists) for the position of presidential elector.

The 538 members of the Electoral College cast their votes for President and Vice President in meetings held in the 50 state capitals and the District of Columbia in mid-December of presidential election years. If all 538 electors are appointed, 270 electoral votes (i.e., a majority of 538 members of the Electoral College) are required to elect the President and the Vice President.



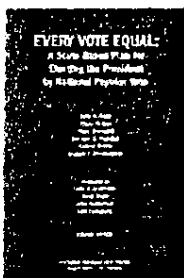
The three North Dakota members of the Electoral College met on December 15, 2000, in Bismarck to cast their votes for the Bush-Cheney ticket. Gov. John Hoeven (left) observes former Gov. Ed Schafer put his signature to ballot for Electoral College. The other two electors are former state Senator Bryce Streibel of Fressenden and former Lieutenant Governor Rosemarie Myrdal. [more](#)



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70% Public Support

- National - 72%
- Arkansas - 80%
- Arkansas - 74%
- California - 69%
- California - 70%
- Colorado - 68%
- Connecticut - 73%
- Connecticut - 74%
- Delaware - 75%
- Florida - 78%
- Kentucky - 80%
- Idaho - 77%
- Iowa - 75%
- Maine - 77%
- Maine - 71%
- Massachusetts - 73%
- Michigan - 70%
- Michigan - 73%
- Minnesota - 75%
- Mississippi - 77%
- Missouri - 66%
- Missouri - 70%
- Nebraska - 74%
- Nevada - 72%
- New Hampshire - 69%
- New Mexico - 76%



The three Wyoming members of the Electoral College met in December 1996 in Cheyenne to cast their votes for the Robert Dole for President and Jack Kemp for Vice President.

The table below shows the distribution of electoral votes among the 51 jurisdictions that appoint members of the Electoral College. Because each state has two Senators and at least one Representative, no state has fewer than three members of the Electoral College. The states with the most members of the Electoral College are California (55), Texas (34), and New York (31). There are 13 low-population states with three or four members of the Electoral College. The average number of members of the Electoral College per state is about 11.

Distribution of electoral votes

Jurisdiction	Representatives	Senators	Total Members of the Electoral College
Alabama	7	2	9
Alaska	1	2	3
Arizona	8	2	10
Arkansas	4	2	6
California	53	2	55
Colorado	7	2	9
Connecticut	5	2	7
Delaware	1	2	3
DC	0	0	3
Florida	25	2	27
Georgia	13	2	15
Hawaii	2	2	4
Idaho	2	2	4
Illinois	19	2	21
Indiana	9	2	11
Iowa	5	2	7
Kansas	4	2	6
Kentucky	6	2	8
Louisiana	7	2	9
Maine	2	2	4
Maryland	8	2	10
Massachusetts	10	2	12
Michigan	15	2	17
Minnesota	8	2	10
Mississippi	4	2	6
Missouri	9	2	11
Montana	1	2	3
Nebraska	3	2	5
Nevada	3	2	5
New Hampshire	2	2	4
New Jersey	13	2	15
New Mexico	3	2	5
New York	29	2	31
North Carolina	13	2	15
North Dakota	1	2	3
Ohio	18	2	20

New York - 79%
 North Carolina - 74%
 Ohio - 70%
 Oklahoma - 81%
 Oregon - 76%
 Pennsylvania - 78%
 Rhode Island - 74%
 South Dakota - 75%
 Utah - 70%
 Vermont - 75%
 Virginia - 74%
 Washington state - 77%
 Washington state - 77%
 Wisconsin - 71%

Oklahoma	5	2	7
Oregon	5	2	7
Pennsylvania	19	2	21
Rhode Island	2	2	4
South Carolina	6	2	8
South Dakota	1	2	3
Tennessee	9	2	11
Texas	32	2	34
Utah	3	2	5
Vermont	1	2	3
Virginia	11	2	13
Washington	9	2	11
West Virginia	3	2	5
Wisconsin	8	2	10
Wyoming	1	2	3
Total	435	100	538

29 Houses Pass Bill

Arkansas House
 California Senate
 California Assembly
 Colorado House
 Colorado Senate
 Connecticut House
 Delaware House
 Hawaii House
 Hawaii Senate
 Illinois House
 Illinois Senate
 Maine Senate
 Maryland House
 Maryland Senate
 Massachusetts House
 Massachusetts Senate
 Michigan House
 Nevada Assembly
 New Jersey Assembly
 New Jersey Senate
 New Mexico House
 North Carolina Senate
 Oregon House
 Rhode Island House
 Rhode Island Senate
 Vermont House
 Vermont Senate
 Washington House
 Washington Senate

The date for the meeting of the Electoral College is established by federal election law (United States Code, Title 3, chapter 1, section 7). In 2004, the designated day for the meeting of the Electoral College was Monday, December 13. This statute was enacted in 1934 after the 20th Amendment changed the date for the presidential inauguration from March 4 to January 20.

The people have the right, under the U.S. Constitution, to vote for U.S. Representatives. The 17th Amendment (ratified in 1913) gave the people the right to vote for U.S. Senators (who were elected by state legislatures under the original Constitution). The people, however, have no federal constitutional right to vote for President or Vice President or for their state's members of the Electoral College. Instead, the Constitution (Article II, section 1, clause 2) provides:

"Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress...."

As the U.S. Supreme Court observed in the 1892 case of *McPherson v. Blacker*:

"The constitution does not provide that the appointment of electors shall be by popular vote, nor that the electors shall be voted for upon a general ticket, nor that the majority of those who exercise the elective franchise can alone choose the electors." ...

"In short, the appointment and mode of appointment of electors belong exclusively to the states under the constitution of the United States."

In 2000, the U.S. Supreme Court in *Bush v. Gore* reiterated the principle that the people have no federal constitutional right to vote for President or Vice President or for their state's members of the Electoral College..

"The individual citizen has no federal constitutional right to vote for electors for the President of the United States unless and until the state legislature chooses a statewide election as the means to implement its power to appoint members of the Electoral College."

The Constitution's delegation of power to the states to choose the manner of selecting their members of the Electoral College is unusually unconstrained. It contrasts significantly with the limitations contained in the Constitution on state power over the manner of conducting congressional elections (Article II, section 4, clause 1).

"The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations...."

In a 1919 case involving a state statute entitled "An act granting to women the right to vote for presidential electors," the Maine Supreme Judicial Court wrote (*In re Opinion of the Justices*):

"[E]ach state is thereby clothed with the absolute power to appoint electors in such manner as it may see fit, without any interference or control on the part of the federal government, except, of course, in case of attempted discrimination as to race, color, or previous condition of servitude...."

What Do You Think

How should we elect the President?

- The candidate who gets the most votes in all 50 states.
- The current Electoral College system.

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Certificate of Ascertainment showing that Wyoming cast its three electoral votes for the Bush-Cheney ticket because that state received more popular votes in Wyoming than any other state.

Reform the Electoral College so that the electoral vote reflects the nationwide popular vote for President



Home Explanation Answering Myths Polls FAQ News States Electoral College About Take Action Write Legislator Donate

"Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors . . ." - U.S. Constitution

Endorsed by 1,777
State Legislators



Pennsylvania Rep.
Timothy J. Solobay

In addition to 829 state legislative sponsors (shown above), 948 other legislators have cast recorded votes in favor of the National Popular Vote bill.

Editorial Support

New York Times
Chicago Sun-Times
Minneapolis Star Tribune
Los Angeles Times
Sacramento Bee
The Columbian
Wichita Falls Times
Anderson Herald Bulletin
Fayetteville Observer
Boston Globe
Hartford Courant
The Tennessean
Daily Astorian
Sarasota Herald Tribune
Miami Herald
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Short Explanation

The National Popular Vote bill would guarantee a majority of the Electoral College to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The bill would reform the Electoral College so that the electoral vote in the Electoral College reflects the choice of the nation's voters for President of the United States. [more](#)

5 Enactments

Hawaii - 4 votes
New Jersey - 15 votes
Illinois - 20 votes
Maryland - 10 votes

2. Myths about Small States

CONTENTS

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2 Myths about Small States

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- 2.2 MYTH: The small states oppose a national popular vote.
- 2.3 MYTH: The National Popular Vote bill threatens the equal representation of the states in the U.S. Senate.
- 2.4 MYTH: A national popular vote would undermine a partisan advantage in favor of the Republican Party in the small states.

2.1 MYTH: The small states would be disadvantaged by a national popular vote.

The small states are the most disadvantaged group of states under the current system.

Although the small states theoretically benefit from receiving two extra electoral votes corresponding to their U.S. Senators, this "bonus" does not, in practice, translate into political power. Political power in presidential elections comes from being a closely divided battleground state—not from the two-vote bonus conferred on the small states in the Electoral College.

Under the winner-take-all rule (i.e., awarding all of a state's electoral votes to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in each state), candidates have no reason to poll, visit, advertise, organize, or pay attention to the concerns of states where they are comfortably ahead or hopelessly behind. Instead, candidates concentrate their attention on a small handful of battleground states. This means that voters in the vast majority of the states are ignored in presidential elections. In 2004, candidates concentrated over two-thirds of their money and campaign visits in five states; over 80% in nine states; and over 99% of their money in 16 states. In 2008, candidates concentrated over two-thirds of their campaign events and ad money in just states, and 98% in just 15 states.²⁰

The reason that the small states are the most disadvantaged group of states under the current system is that almost all of them are one-party states in terms of presidential elections. In the last six presidential elections (1988 through 2008), six of the 13 least populous states (i.e., those with three or four electoral votes) have regularly gone Republican (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, and South Dakota). Six others (Hawaii, Vermont, Maine, Rhode Island, Delaware, and the District of Columbia) have regularly gone Democratic.²¹ New Hampshire has been the only battleground state among the 13 smallest states.

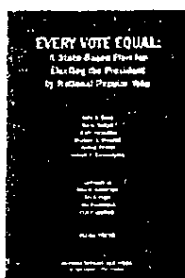
The 12 smallest non-competitive states have a combined population of 11.4 million. Because of the bonus of two electoral votes that every state receives, these 12 small states have 40 electoral votes. Coincidentally, Ohio has 11.4 million people. Ohio has 20 electoral votes. That is, the 11 million people in Ohio have "only" 20 electoral votes, whereas the 11 million people in the 12 smallest non-competitive states have 40 electoral votes. However, political power does not arise from the number of electoral votes that a state possesses, but, instead, from whether the state is a closely divided battleground state. The battleground state of Ohio (with "only" 20 electoral votes) received 62 visits in the 2008 presidential election. However, the 12 non-battleground small states (with their 40 electoral votes) were politically irrelevant. In 2008, the 12 small non-competitive states received no visits, advertising, polling, or policy consideration by presidential candidates because the outcome of the presidential race in those states is generally a foregone conclusion. The winner-take-all rule makes the 11 million people in the closely divided battleground state of Ohio crucial in presidential races, while rendering the 11 million



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Jake Garn (R-UT)

70% Public Support

National - 72%
Arkansas - 80%
Arkansas - 74%
California - 89%
California - 70%
Colorado - 88%
Connecticut - 73%
Connecticut - 74%
Delaware - 75%
Florida - 78%
Kentucky - 80%
Idaho - 77%
Iowa - 75%
Maine - 77%
Maine - 71%
Massachusetts - 73%
Michigan - 70%
Michigan - 73%
Minnesota - 75%
Mississippi - 77%
Missouri - 66%
Missouri - 70%
Nebraska - 74%
Nevada - 72%
New Hampshire - 69%
New Mexico - 76%

people in the nation's smallest states irrelevant. This is a situation in which 20 is much more than 40. A national popular vote would make every vote equal throughout the United States. A national popular vote would make a vote cast in a small state as important as a vote cast in Ohio.

Most of the states with five or six electoral votes are similarly non-competitive in presidential elections (and therefore similarly disadvantaged). In fact, of the 22 least populous states (i.e. those with between three and six electoral votes), only New Hampshire (four electoral votes), New Mexico (five electoral votes), and Nevada (five electoral votes) have been battleground states in recent elections.

The fact that the small states are disadvantaged by the current system has been recognized by prominent officials from smaller states. In a 1979 Senate speech, Senator Henry Bellmon (R-Oklahoma) described how his views on the Electoral College had changed as a result of serving as National Campaign Director for Richard Nixon and a member of the American Bar Association's commission studying electoral reform.

"While the consideration of the electoral college began—and I am a little embarrassed to admit this—I was convinced, as are many residents of smaller States, that the present system is a considerable advantage to less populous States such as Oklahoma. ... As the deliberations of the American Bar Association Commission proceeded and as more facts became known, I came to the realization that the present electoral system does not give an advantage to the voters from the less populous States. Rather, it works to the disadvantage of small State voters who are largely ignored in the general election for President."²² [Emphasis added]

Senator Robert E. Dole of Kansas, the Republican nominee for President in 1996 and Republican nominee for Vice President in 1976, stated:

"Many persons have the impression that the electoral college benefits those persons living in small states. I feel that this is somewhat of a misconception. Through my experience with the Republican National Committee and as a Vice Presidential candidate in 1976, it became very clear that the populous states with their large blocks of electoral votes were the crucial states. It was in these states that we focused our efforts.

"Were we to switch to a system of direct election, I think we would see a resulting change in the nature of campaigning. While urban areas will still be important campaigning centers, there will be a new emphasis given to smaller states. Candidates will soon realize that all votes are important, and votes from small states carry the same import as votes from large states. That to me is one of the major attractions of direct election. Each vote carries equal importance.

"Direct election would give candidates incentive to campaign in States that are perceived to be single party states."²³ [Emphasis added]

Because so few of the least populous states are battleground states in presidential elections, the current system actually shifts power from voters in the small and medium-sized states to voters in a handful of big states. As early as the spring of 2008, both major political parties acknowledged that there would be at most 14 battleground states (involving only 166 of the 538 electoral votes) in the 2008 presidential election.²⁴ In other words, two-thirds of the states were regarded as irrelevant under the current system. Among this group of 14 battleground states, Michigan (17 electoral votes), Ohio (20), Pennsylvania (21), and Florida (27) contain over half (85) of the 166 electoral votes. Among the 22 least populous states, only three (i.e., New Hampshire, New Mexico, and Nevada) were among this group of 14 battleground states. These three states contain only 14 of the 166 electoral votes. The net result is that the current system shifts power from voters in the least populous states to voters in a handful of closely divided battleground states (almost all of which are big states).

2.2 MYTH: The small states oppose a national popular vote.

New York - 79%
 North Carolina - 74%
 Ohio - 70%
 Oklahoma - 81%
 Oregon - 76%
 Pennsylvania - 78%
 Rhode Island - 74%
 South Dakota - 76%
 Utah - 70%
 Vermont - 75%
 Virginia - 74%
 Washington state - 77%
 Washington state - 77%
 Wisconsin - 71%

29 Houses Pass Bill

Arkansas House
 California Senate
 California Assembly
 Colorado House
 Colorado Senate
 Connecticut House
 Delaware House
 Hawaii House
 Hawaii Senate
 Illinois House
 Illinois Senate
 Maine Senate
 Maryland House
 Maryland Senate
 Massachusetts House
 Massachusetts Senate
 Michigan House
 Nevada Assembly
 New Jersey Assembly
 New Jersey Senate
 New Mexico House
 North Carolina Senate
 Oregon House
 Rhode Island House
 Rhode Island Senate
 Vermont House
 Vermont Senate
 Washington House
 Washington Senate

What Do You Think

How should we elect the President?

The candidate who gets the most votes in all 50 states.

The current Electoral College system.

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The facts speak for themselves. Hawaii was the fourth state to enact the National Popular Vote bill. As of 2008, the bill has been approved by a total of seven state legislative chambers in small states, including one house in Maine and both houses in Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

The concept of a national popular vote for President is far from being politically "radioactive" in small states. Indeed, the concept of a national popular vote for President is popular in small states. Polls in 2008 showed a high level of support for a nationwide election for President in small states such as Vermont (75%), Maine (71%), New Hampshire (69%), and Rhode Island (74%).²⁵ These results are consistent with the fact that more than 70% of the American people have favored a nationwide election for President since the Gallup poll started asking this question in 1944. The *Washington Post*, Kaiser Family Foundation, and Harvard University poll in 2007 showed 72% support for direct nationwide election of the President. This recent national result is similar to recent statewide polls in Arkansas (74%), California (70%), Connecticut (73%), Massachusetts (73%), Michigan (73%), Missouri (70%), and Washington (77%). In short, there is very little difference in the level of political support for a national popular vote in small, medium-sized, and large states.

The small states are the most disadvantaged group of states under the current system (as discussed in section 10.2.1 of this book). The fact that the bonus of two electoral votes is an illusory benefit to the small states is not a new revelation. This fact has been widely recognized by the small states for some time. In 1966, Delaware led a group of 12 predominantly low-population states (including North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Utah, Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Iowa) in suing New York in the U.S. Supreme Court. These states argued that New York's use of the winner-take-all rule effectively disenfranchised voters in their states.²⁶ The Court declined to hear the case (presumably because of the well-established constitutional provision that the manner of awarding electoral votes is exclusively a state decision). Ironically, the defendant (New York) is no longer an influential battleground state (as it was in the 1960s). Today, New York suffers the very same disenfranchisement as most of the less populous states because it too has become politically non-competitive. Today, a vote in New York is equal to a vote in Wyoming—votes in both are equally irrelevant in presidential elections.

The Electoral College is not the bulwark of influence for the small states in the U.S. Constitution. The 13 smallest states (with 3% of the nation's population) have 25% of the votes in the U.S. Senate—a very significant source of political clout. However, the 13 smallest states (i.e., those with three or four electoral votes) have only 26 extra votes in the Electoral College by virtue of the two-vote bonus—not a large number in relation to the total of 538 electoral votes. Although the 13 smallest states cast 3% of the nation's popular vote while possessing 6% of the electoral votes, the extra 3% is a minor numerical factor in the context of a presidential election. More significantly, this small theoretical advantage is eradicated by the fact that the small states are equally divided between the two major political parties and because the one-party character of the small states makes 12 out of 13 of them irrelevant in presidential elections. In fact, the bulwark of influence for the small states is the equal representation of the states in the U.S. Senate—not the small number of additional electoral votes that they have in the Electoral College.

2.3 MYTH: The National Popular Vote bill threatens the equal representation of the states in the U.S. Senate.

Equal representation of the states in the U.S. Senate is explicitly established in the U.S. Constitution. This feature of the U.S. Constitution cannot be changed by state law. In fact, it may not even be amended by an ordinary federal constitutional amendment. Instead, this feature of the U.S. Constitution may only be changed by unanimous consent of all 50 states.²⁷ In contrast, the U.S. Constitution explicitly assigns the power to choose the manner of electing the President to the state legislatures. The adoption by a state legislature of the National Popular Vote bill is an exercise of a legislature's existing powers under the U.S. Constitution. Such action has no impact or bearing on the constitutional provisions concerning representation in the U.S. Senate.

2.4 MYTH: A national popular vote would undermine a partisan advantage in favor of the Republican Party in the small states.

The small state issue sometimes serves as a surrogate for the unstated political concern (and misconception) that the small states confer a partisan advantage in favor of the Republican Party. However, this belief does not reflect current political reality. In the last six presidential elections (1988 through 2008), six of the 13 least populous states have regularly gone

Republican (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, and South Dakota), while six others (Hawaii, Vermont, Maine, Rhode Island, Delaware, and the District of Columbia) have regularly gone Democratic.²⁸ New Hampshire has been, in recent years, the one closely divided battleground state among the 13 smallest states (having supported the Democrat in 1992 and 1996, the Republican in 2000, and the Democrat in 2004 and 2008).

Interestingly, the 12 smallest non-competitive states actually confer a slight political advantage on the Democratic presidential candidate. For example, in 2004, John Kerry won 21 electoral votes from his 444,115-vote lead in the six non-competitive Democratic small states, whereas George W. Bush won only 19 electoral votes from his 650,421-vote lead in the six non-competitive Republican small states. The reason that the Democrats enjoy a partisan advantage in presidential elections in the smallest states is that the six regularly Republican small states are very heavily Republican (Alaska 64%, Idaho 69%, Montana 61%, Wyoming 70%, North Dakota 64%, and South Dakota 61%). In contrast, the Democrats carried three of their six small states (Delaware, Hawaii, and Maine) with only 54% of the vote. A 54% margin is generally viewed as placing a state safely out of reach for the opposition during a typical presidential campaign;²⁹ however, 54% is considerably less than the Republican Party's margin in their six small states. In two additional states (Vermont and Rhode Island), the Democrats won with 60% of the vote (again a smaller margin than the Republican Party's margin in their six small states). If the boundaries of the small states had been recently drawn, there would be accusations that the boundaries were a Democratic gerrymander.

²⁰ <http://fairvote.org/tracker/?page=27&pressmode=showspecific&showartide=230>.

²¹ Among the six regularly Republican-leaning small states Clinton carried Montana in 1992 (presumably due to Perot's presence on the ballot). Among the six Democratic-leaning small states, George H. W. Bush carried Delaware, Maine, and Vermont in 1988.

²² *Congressional Record*, July 10, 1979. Page 17748.

²³ *Congressional Record*, January 14, 1979. Page 309.

²⁴ "Already, Obama and McCain Map Fall Strategies." *New York Times*, May 11, 2008.

²⁵ These polls (and many others) are available on National Popular Vote's web site at <http://www.nationalpopularvote.com/pages/polls.php#2007WPKHU>.

²⁶ Information about *State of Delaware v. State of New York* (and links to the pleadings) may be found at http://www.nationalpopularvote.com/pages/misc/de_lawsuit.php.

²⁷ Article V of the U.S. Constitution provides: "No State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate."

²⁸ Among the six regularly Republican-leaning small states, Clinton carried Montana in 1992 (presumably due to Perot's presence on the ballot). Among the six Democratic-leaning small states, George H. W. Bush carried Delaware, Maine, and Vermont in 1988.

²⁹ Although there is no universally accepted definition of a battleground state, battleground states are, more or less, those in which the spread between the top two candidates is less than 8%.

Reform the Electoral College so that the electoral vote reflects the nationwide popular vote for President

Hartford Courant.

For National Popular Vote

Hartford Courant editorial
March 2, 2008

Connecticut, to everyone's surprise, was in play during the Super Tuesday primaries. Three major candidates visited the state.

But that may not happen in the run-up to the November general election (minus a quick fundraising visit or two to Fairfield County). If, say, the state is considered safe for the Democrats, neither candidate will feel the need to campaign here. The same thing is likely to happen in two-thirds of the other states.

Our system of electing the president and vice president is flawed and archaic. There is a way to change it without amending the U.S. Constitution. The states can simply agree to give their electoral votes — regardless of who wins each state's popular vote — to the winner of the national popular vote. There is a serious proposal to adopt the "National Popular Vote" plan here and across the country. It's worth supporting.

Connecticut Often Ignored

The problem with the present system is the winner-take-all rule used in 48 states. In all states except Maine and Nebraska, the candidate who wins the state's popular vote gets all of the state's electoral votes.

So if a candidate is assured of winning, say, 55 percent of the popular vote, the campaign is over. He or she will get all the electoral votes, and there's no point in trying to get more votes, nor is there any point in the losing candidate losing by fewer votes. Although it's possible that the losing candidate could try to reverse the numbers, what almost always happens is that both candidates put their money and time into battleground states.

According to the FairVote organization, 99 percent of the campaign advertising money in the 2004 presidential election was spent in just 17 states, and 92 percent of the campaign visits were in only 16 states. Issues in those states are thrust to the fore, at the expense of whatever Connecticut and other less-noticed states are concerned about. Federal grants tend to find their way to contested states, especially as elections near.

The way we elect presidents now thwarts the democratic principle of majority rule. Four times in our nation's history, most recently in 2000, a president has won the office while losing the popular vote. It almost happened in a number of other elections. A shift of only 60,000 votes in Ohio would have given the 2004 election to John Kerry, despite President George W. Bush's 3.5 million-vote lead in the popular tally.

Also, the lack of a meaningful campaign depresses voter turnout, which in turn makes things worse for the minority party.

Reformers have been trying to scuttle the Electoral College system for at least 50 years. Twice in the 1970s, a proposed constitutional amendment passed one house of Congress, only to be blocked by beneficiaries of the current system. It is difficult, as it should be, to amend the U.S. Constitution. But because states have the power to allocate their electoral votes, some clever folks have come up with another way around the block.

Change How States Use Votes

The National Popular Vote creates a compact. All of the states that join agree to give their electoral votes to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The compact only kicks in when enacted by states possessing a majority of the electoral votes — 270 of 538, enough to elect a president.

The bill has passed in two states, Maryland and New Jersey, and is in the pipeline in more than 40 other states, including Connecticut. The bill, which failed to pass last year, has been introduced again, and backers say it has a better chance of passage this year.

Support is not universal. Critics such as Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who vetoed the bill after it passed both houses in the California legislature, object to the possibility that a state could give its electoral votes to a candidate it didn't support.

Others in favor of the devil-we-got say the new method could increase the cost of elections and focus campaigning on population centers at the expense of rural areas.

Those points are well-taken, but the positives of National Popular Vote outweigh the negatives. There are no other indirect elections left in government; they are a relic of the past. The Electoral College was supposed to help small-population states (and Southern states where slaves couldn't vote), but most small population states aren't in play on Election Day. That the 2000 election was hanging on hanging chads was absurd.

If a million votes in Connecticut count as much as a million votes in Ohio, we'll see the candidates again. National Popular Vote is worth a try.

The New York Times

Maryland Takes the Lead

New York Times Editorial

April 14, 2007

As the nation braces for a long and numbing presidential election, the State of Maryland has done voters a favor by rejecting the Electoral College as a fossil in need of a democratic makeover. Gov. Martin O'Malley and the Annapolis legislature made the state the first in the nation to decide that its Electoral College members should someday be required to vote for the presidential candidate chosen by a plurality of the nation's voters, not according to the state's parochial tally.

The change would not take effect until it won final acceptance by enough states to amount to a 270-vote majority in the college. (Maryland has 10 votes.) But it is something all Americans would benefit from, particularly the masses of voters routinely ignored when candidates focus on a few battleground states — just 16 in 2004 — that increasingly settle modern campaigns.

The need to scrap the creaky college machinery was made clear in the angst of the 2000 election. George W. Bush lost the popular election by almost 544,000 votes, yet won in a Supreme Court showdown over Florida's electors that hinged on far fewer disputed state ballots. Four years later, it was Mr. Bush's turn to sweat as he handily won the national vote yet came close to losing Ohio — and the White House — in the college's arcane state-by-state fragmentation of the popular majority.

The reform movement, driven by a bipartisan coalition called National Popular Vote, has a long way to go. But Hawaii is close to approval, and hundreds of legislators are sponsoring the change in more than 40 other states. It is an ingenious way around the fact that the alternative strategy of trying to amend the Constitution would require the approval of three-fourths of the states, leaving veto power in the hands of smaller states over-represented in the college.

The objection that reform would mean that rural interests would be ignored is a canard. The change would require candidates to present positions that galvanized all Americans. This is the truer and more certain path of democracy.

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

suntimes.com

We vote for a fairer way to decide national elections

Chicago Sun-Times editorial

March 1, 2006

Calls to reform or abolish the Electoral College hit a fever pitch after the 2000 presidential election, when Al Gore won the popular tally but didn't have enough votes in the right states to carry the electoral vote. That call quieted somewhat after the 2004 election, when President Bush won the popular vote but still could have lost the election if John Kerry had won Ohio. Despite interest in reform, nothing has happened, mostly due to the difficulty in amending the Constitution.

Now a bipartisan commission, whose members include former Rep. John Anderson (R-Ill.) and former Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.), has proposed an idea to retain the Electoral College while still ensuring it reflects the will of the majority of voters. The Sun-Times News Group backs the concept and applauds the National Popular Vote group for thinking outside the box.

The group's plan is to get enough states to agree to give all their electoral votes to the national vote winner, regardless of the results in their individual states. Under the proposal, each state would pass laws to change the way their electoral votes are awarded, a process the Constitution leaves for the states to set. They would also enter an interstate compact with other states that make the same change, agreeing that the new system won't take effect until states representing 270 electoral votes -- the number needed to carry the Electoral College -- have joined.

In Illinois, the plan is backed by a group that includes state Senators Jacqueline Collins, a Chicago Democrat, and Kirk Dillard, a Hinsdale Republican and chairman of the DuPage County Republican Party.

Using such a system in the last election would have meant Bush won all of Illinois' electoral votes, even though Kerry easily carried the state. If that sounds strange, it's no stranger than Illinois and other populous states being virtually ignored by both parties during the last campaign, since one candidate or the other had them locked so early. That likely hurt the turnout in those noncompetitive states, affecting elections further down the ticket.

What of awarding electoral votes by the top vote-getter in each congressional district, as is currently done in Nebraska and Maine? That would simply set up a situation where candidates concentrate on a small number of battleground districts, because, thanks to gerrymandering, most districts are noncompetitive.

Republicans may be hardest to persuade to support this plan, over fears that large urban centers that tend to vote Democratic will dominate elections. But that wasn't an impediment to Bush's re-election. And polls show most Americans want the president to be elected by the popular vote. It's time to make the change with this innovative plan.

This editorial represents the view of the Sun-Times News Group of 100 newspapers in the Chicago metro area.

States join forces against electoral college

A piecemeal approach may be the only way to kill the anachronistic institution

Los Angeles Times Editorial

June 5, 2006

A PROPOSED EXPERIMENT with majority rule has generated plenty of naysayers who apparently think that some nations are simply too immature to let people directly choose their own leaders. But we say the United States is ready for real democracy.

The experiment is the National Popular Vote campaign, which intends to undermine the Constitution's anachronistic Electoral College. If the campaign succeeds, future presidents will take office only if they win the popular vote nationwide.

The ingenious scheme was developed by John R. Koza, a Stanford professor who also invented the scratch-off lottery ticket. It calls on state legislatures to pass a measure dictating that all the electoral votes from that state go to the winner of the national popular vote. It goes into effect only if enough states approve it to represent a majority of the electoral votes. In other words, if states that represent at least 270 of the 538 electoral votes all approve the measure, the winner of the popular vote nationwide would automatically win the presidency. It thus renders the Electoral College moot without eliminating it.

This kind of end run is necessary because the only way to get rid of the Electoral College entirely is via a constitutional amendment, which would be nearly impossible to pass. Enough small states benefit from the current system to block an amendment. The beauty of this approach is that each state is constitutionally allowed to allot its electoral votes as it sees fit. The measure was approved by California's Assembly on Tuesday and is pending in four other states; backers hope to get it before all 50 states by January.

Anyone wondering why he should care about the Electoral College need look no further than the 2000 election, when George W. Bush won the presidency despite getting about half a million fewer votes than Al Gore. If that makes conservatives think they should be thankful that the majority doesn't always rule in the United States, they should think again. The same thing nearly happened in reverse in 2004. If John Kerry had picked up a mere 60,000 more votes in Ohio, he would have won — even though Bush took in 3 million more votes overall.

The Electoral College doesn't skew just election results; it skews elections. Candidates know they don't have to campaign in states that either clearly favor them or clearly don't; they have to focus only on swing states. In the 2004 campaign, Bush and Kerry spent a great deal of time brushing up on agricultural policy and other issues of vital concern in Iowa, while ignoring matters important to people in states such as California, Texas and New York.

Opponents argue that the current system ensures that smaller states continue to have a say in setting national policy. But the U.S. Senate already gives Delaware every bit as much clout as California. Any method besides majority vote empowers some citizens at the expense of others and makes the president beholden to minority interests.

At its inception, the United States was, well, a union of states. But it is now one nation, and our president should be elected by the citizens of that nation, not by its constituent states. To argue otherwise is to say that some Americans should have more power to elect a president than others simply because of where they live. Remember, all men are created equal. Including Californians and New Yorkers.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/opinion/la-ed-college05jun05.1.6822980.story>

StarTribune.com

Minneapolis - St. Paul, Minnesota

How to drop out of the Electoral College:

There's a way to ensure top vote-getter becomes president

Editorial—Minneapolis Star Tribune

March 27, 2006

This country could form a more perfect union by accepting a novel idea: that the president of the United States should be elected by the people of the United States.

That's not the way it's done, of course, and, given the Constitution's enshrinement of the Electoral College, things aren't likely to change. To quit the college would take approval of two-thirds of both houses of Congress and three-quarters of state legislatures, so fuggedaboutit.

But now comes a gaggle of bipartisan reformers with a cheeky idea worth considering. What if legislatures, one by one, entered their states into an interstate compact under which members would agree to award their electoral votes to the winner of the national popular vote? The compact would kick in only when enough states had joined it to elect a president—that is, when a majority of the 538 electoral votes were assembled. As few as 11 states could ensure that the candidate with the most popular votes nationally would win the presidency. As a result, the Constitution and the Electoral College would stay intact, but the college's fangs would be removed.

That approach would be more democratic than current practice. Recall that Al Gore lost the 2000 election to George W. Bush despite getting a half-million more popular votes, and that Bush nearly lost the 2004 election despite getting 3 million more popular votes (a shift of only 60,000 votes in Ohio would have thrown the election to John Kerry). So, both parties have reason to fear the college's distortions.

That the Electoral College has "worked" in all but one election since 1888 isn't a good enough reason to stay with the status quo. The college has a perverse impact on campaigns. With no incentive to compete in states that are predictably red or blue, candidates concentrate on the battleground states—only 13 of them in 2004, down from 24 in 1960. That's not the national campaign voters deserve. In the last election, 92 percent of campaign events took place in just 13 states, which also absorbed 97 percent of advertising during the campaign's final month. Three dozen red and blue states as large as California, New York and Texas and as small as Delaware, Utah and Wyoming were mere spectators.

Now that Minnesota is a battleground getting lots of attention, it's a lot to ask the Legislature to do the right thing and endorse the new compact. But it really should. So should other states—both red and blue—join, for the sake of a better democracy.

The Sacramento Bee

Editorial: Rx for U.S. elections

States can assure the popular vote rules

Saturday, June 3, 2006

The election of the U.S. president should reflect the directly expressed will of the American people. But it doesn't.

The current Electoral College system can produce perverse results: A candidate can lose the popular vote and win the Electoral College vote and, thus, the presidency. That has happened several times in American history, most recently in 2000. With the nation so closely divided politically, this is likely to be an ongoing problem, undermining the legitimacy of our presidential elections.

It doesn't have to be that way.

Polls for the last 30 years have shown that Americans overwhelmingly support direct election of the president, but Congress hasn't budged on a constitutional amendment.

A new campaign, "National Popular Vote," spearheaded by several former members of Congress, including California's Tom Campbell (most recently Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's finance director), has a creative way to get the same result.

The campaign uses an old mechanism -- an interstate compact -- to achieve the direct election of the president. The idea is modeled on existing interstate compacts, such as the Colorado River Compact, which divides water among seven Western states. The compact depends on states changing their own rules for dividing up their electoral votes.

We'd prefer a constitutional amendment simply abolishing the Electoral College, but this state-by-state reform is an achievable second-best solution to a defective product that even the Founding Fathers regarded wearily and warily.

The strongest arguments at the 1787 Constitutional Convention favored direct election of the president by the people. Proponents wanted the president to be the "guardian of the people" and as independent as possible of Congress and the states. But the delegates were hopelessly divided between direct election by the people and election by Congress.

The Electoral College was a last-minute compromise, reached under what James Madison called the "hurrying influence produced by fatigue and impatience." The Electoral College has been patched many times since.

The interstate compact proposal wouldn't abolish the Electoral College, but at least it would ensure that it reflects the national popular vote.

Election officials in the compact states would award all of their electoral votes to the candidate receiving the greatest number of votes nationally.

Clearly, one state could not do this on its own. So each of the states has the same 888-word bill entering into a binding interstate compact (you can find the text at www.nationalpopularvote.com). States would join the agreement one by one. The compact would take effect only after enough states joined to represent a majority of Americans and electoral votes -- 270 of the 538 electoral votes.

So far, the bill has been introduced in five legislatures -- California, Illinois, Colorado, Missouri and Louisiana. The campaign's goal is 10 states by the end of 2006 and enough states by the end of 2007 to make direct election the governing rule for the 2008 presidential election.

In California, the Assembly approved the bill Tuesday. Because California has such strong influence nationally, the governor and senators can get this process rolling in other states by acting this session. Otherwise, in presidential elections, unhappy Americans are bound to continue paying for the Founding Fathers' fatigue.

The Fayetteville Observer

Our View: Electoral vote change would be good for the state and its people

The Fayette Observer Editorial

May 16, 2007

Four times since the framers met in Philadelphia in 1787, the presidency has gone to the candidate on the losing end of the popular vote. The republic still stands.

That's hardly a compelling argument for leaving things as they are. The Electoral College less than perfectly reflects the will of the people, and the threat of the "faithless elector" who tips an election the way his partisan bias dictates is real, if remote. Both threats would vanish if the election automatically went to the candidate for whom most registered voters pulled the lever.

This is the point at which the conversation normally would turn to amending the federal Constitution to abolish the Electoral College. But the state Senate has just passed a bill that would achieve a comparable effect by simple statute.

The bill provides that, if enough states join in to command a majority in the Electoral College, all of North Carolina's electoral votes will be awarded to the winner of the popular vote — not the statewide winner, but the one who wins nationwide. More than 40 states are already looking at substantially the same bill.

If it works as planned, the problem goes away, with no violence done to the Constitution.

Something else happens, too. North Carolina will less often find itself in political obscurity when the nation chooses its top leader.

During the 2000 election, one analyst noted that the candidates were focusing most of their time and effort on 11 swing states. Ironically, only three of those had more electoral votes than North Carolina, which was not one of the 11. If candidates understand that they have a real shot at our 15 electoral votes right up until the polls close on that fateful Tuesday in November, we are unlikely to be shrugged off or taken for granted again.

The arguments against it are no stronger than those for retaining the Electoral College in all its supreme majesty: (1) it's different; and (2) it means that North Carolina could end up giving its 15 votes to someone not favored by the majority of Tar Heel voters. The first argument lacks heft. The second would make perfect sense, but only if one could ignore the fact that presidential elections are held to enable individual Americans to put someone in the White House, not merely to express each state's collective pique or pleasure.

This is worth a try — for the sake of simplicity and fairness, and in the interest of raising our state's political profile.

Drop Out of the College

New York Times editorial

March 14, 2006

The Electoral College is an antidemocratic relic. Everyone who remembers 2000 knows that it can lead to the election of the candidate who loses the popular vote as president. But the Electoral College's other serious flaws are perhaps even more debilitating for a democracy. It focuses presidential elections on just a handful of battleground states, and pushes the rest of the nation's voters to the sidelines.

There is an innovative new proposal for states to take the lead in undoing the Electoral College. Legislatures across the country should get behind it.

Both parties should have reason to fear the college's perverse effects. In 2000, the Democrats lost out. But in 2004, a shift of 60,000 votes in Ohio would have elected John Kerry, even though he lost the national popular vote decisively.

Just as serious is the way the Electoral College distorts presidential campaigns. Candidates have no incentive to campaign in, or address the concerns of, states that reliably vote for a particular party. In recent years, the battleground in presidential elections has shrunk drastically. In 1960, 24 states, with 327 electoral votes, were battleground states, according to estimates by National Popular Vote, the bipartisan coalition making the new proposal. In 2004, only 13 states, with 159 electoral votes, were. As a result, campaigns and national priorities are stacked in favor of a few strategic states. Ethanol fuel, a pet issue of Iowa farmers, is discussed a lot. But issues of equal concern to states like Alabama, California, New York and Indiana are not.

The Electoral College discourages turnout because voters in two-thirds of the nation know well before Election Day who will win their states. It also discriminates among voters by weighing presidential votes unequally. A Wyoming voter has about four times as much impact on selecting that state's electors as a California voter does on selecting that state's.

The answer to all of these problems is direct election of the president. Past attempts to abolish the Electoral College by amending the Constitution have run into difficulty. But National Popular Vote, which includes several former members of Congress, is offering an ingenious solution that would not require a constitutional amendment. It proposes that states commit to casting their electoral votes for the winner of the national popular vote. These promises would become binding only when states representing a majority of the Electoral College signed on. Then any candidate who won the popular vote would be sure to win the White House.

The coalition is starting out by trying to have laws passed in Illinois and a few other states. Americans are rightly cautious about tinkering with mechanisms established by the Constitution. But throughout the nation's history, there have been a series of reforms affecting how elections are conducted, like the ones that gave blacks and women the vote and provided for the direct election of United States senators. Sidestepping the Electoral

Sen. Bettye Davis

From: Joyce Hilyard [alaskajoyce2003@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2010 7:56 PM
To: Senator_Joe_Paskavan@legis.state.ak.us
Cc: "Senator_Linda_Menard"@legis.state.ak.us; "Senator_Kevin_Meyer"@legis.state.ak.us;
"Senator_Hollis_French"@legis.state.ak.us; Sen. Albert Kookesh; Sen. Bettye Davis
Subject: Fw:

> To the Senate State Affairs
> Committee
> I would like to lend my support to SB 92, US Presidential Election
> Compact.
>
> Currently, the modern machinations of political campaigning, many
> states are essentially "left out" and their results of little concern
> to campaigns, their pollsters, or the news media. How disheartening
> is it for Alaskans to discover the election has already been called
> even before all our votes are cast?
>
> Alaska deserves better.
> Respectfully,
> Joyce G. Hilyard
>
>
>
>

Sen. Bettye Davis

From: lori@motznik.com on behalf of Lori Davey [lori@trentandlori.com]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 5:49 PM
To: Sen. Linda Menard
Cc: Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Albert Kookesh; Sen. Joe Paskvan; Sen. Bettye Davis
Subject: SB 92 Pular Vote

Sen. Linda Menard, Chair
Members of the State Affairs Committee

I strongly support SB 92, a bill to enter into an interstate compact for a popular vote for Presidential elections.

After looking at a number of sources on this important issue, I have concluded three basic advantages of this type of election; those being:

Nationwide popular election of the President is the only system that:

- (1) makes all states competitive in presidential elections,
- (2) guarantees that the candidate with the most popular votes nationwide wins the Presidency, and most importantly
- (3) makes every vote equal.

I have been following the issue and am very excited to see that Alaska will now have an opportunity to comment in the form of this proposed legislation. This bill will give Alaska an opportunity to gain parity in Presidential elections.

Sincerely,

Lori Davey
17420 Mountainside Village Dr
Anchorage, AK 99516

RECEIVED
FEB 02 2010

Sen. Bettye Davis

From: james gilles [bigchief46@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 4:27 PM
To: Sen. Linda Menard; Sen. Kevin Meyer; senator_hollis_french@legis.state.ak.su; Sen. Albert Kookesh; Sen. Joe Paskvan; Sen. Bettye Davis
Subject: popular vote

Dear Senator Linda Menard, Chair
& Members of the State Affairs Committee:

Please consider supporting SB 92, in reference to a popular vote for Presidential elections. The current electoral system needs updating, a direct election of the president is just plain common sense as that is the system that's in place for all other elective officials.....

Thank you,

Jim Gilles

HC 52

P.O. Box 8505

Bird Creek, Alaska

99540

907-223-0324

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Senator [Bettye Davis@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Bettye.Davis@legis.state.ak.us)
<http://www.aksenate.org>

Session: (Jan. - May)
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Interim: (May - Dec.)
716 W. 4th Ave, Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99501 Phone: (907) 269-0144 • Fax: (907) 269-0148

SB 92 BY SECTION

Section 1. Adding new sections to enact the Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote

ARTICLE I—MEMBERSHIP

I-1 Any State of the United States and the District of Columbia may become a member of this agreement by enacting this agreement

ARTICLE II—RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE IN MEMBER STATES TO VOTE FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

II-1 Each member state shall conduct a statewide popular election for President and Vice President of the United States.

ARTICLE III—MANNER OF APPOINTING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS IN MEMBER STATES

III-1 Prior to the time set by law for the meeting and voting by the presidential electors, the chief election official of each member state shall determine the number of votes for each presidential slate in each State of the United States and in the District of Columbia in which votes have been cast in a statewide popular election and shall add such votes together to produce a "national popular vote total" for each presidential slate.

III-2 The chief election official of each member state shall designate the presidential slate with the largest national popular vote total as the "national popular vote winner."

III-3 The presidential elector certifying official of each member state shall certify the

appointment in that official's own state of the elector slate nominated in that state in association with the national popular vote winner.

III-4 At least six days before the day fixed by law for the meeting and voting by the presidential electors, each member state shall make a final determination of the number of popular votes cast in the state for each presidential slate and shall communicate an official statement of such determination within 24 hours to the chief election official of each other member state.

III-5 The chief election official of each member state shall treat as conclusive an official statement containing the number of popular votes in a state for each presidential slate made by the day established by federal law for making a state's final determination conclusive as to the counting of electoral votes by Congress.

III-6 In event of a tie for the national popular vote winner, the presidential elector certifying official of each member state shall certify the appointment of the elector slate nominated in association with the presidential slate receiving the largest number of popular votes within that official's own state.

III-7 If, for any reason, the number of presidential electors nominated in a member state in association with the national popular vote winner is less than or greater than that state's number of electoral votes, the presidential candidate on the presidential slate that has been designated as the national popular vote winner shall have the power to nominate the presidential electors for that state and that state's presidential elector certifying official shall certify the appointment of such nominees.

III-8 The chief election official of each member state shall immediately release to the public all vote counts or statements of votes as they are determined or obtained.

III-9 This article shall govern the appointment of presidential electors in each member state in any year in which this agreement is, on July 20, in effect in states cumulatively possessing a majority of the electoral votes.

ARTICLE IV—OTHER PROVISIONS

IV-1 This agreement shall take effect when states cumulatively possessing a majority of the electoral votes have enacted this agreement in substantially the same form and the enactments by such states have taken effect in each state.

IV-2 Any member state may withdraw from this agreement, except that a withdrawal occurring six months or less before the end of a President's term shall not become effective until a President or Vice President shall have been qualified to serve the next term.

IV-3 The chief executive of each member state shall promptly notify the chief executive of all other states of when this agreement has been enacted and has taken effect in that official's state, when the state has withdrawn from this agreement, and when this agreement takes effect generally.

IV-4 This agreement shall terminate if the electoral college is abolished.

IV-5 If any provision of this agreement is held invalid, the remaining provisions shall not be affected.

ARTICLE V—DEFINITIONS

V-1 For purposes of this agreement, "chief executive" shall mean the Governor of a State of the United States or the Mayor of the District of Columbia;

V-2 "elector slate" shall mean a slate of candidates who have been nominated in a state for the position of presidential elector in association with a presidential slate;

V-3 "chief election official" shall mean the state official or body that is authorized to certify the total number of popular votes for each presidential slate;

V-4 "presidential elector" shall mean an elector for President and Vice President of the United States;

V-5 "presidential elector certifying official" shall mean the state official or body that is authorized to certify the appointment of the state's presidential electors;

V-6 "presidential slate" shall mean a slate of two persons, the first of whom has been nominated as a candidate for President of the United States and the second of whom has been nominated as a candidate for Vice President of the United States, or any legal successors to such persons, regardless of whether both names appear on the ballot presented to the voter in a particular state;

V-7 "state" shall mean a State of the United States and the District of Columbia;
And

V-8 "statewide popular election" shall mean a general election in which votes are cast for presidential slates by individual voters and counted on a statewide basis.

Sections 2 and 3.

Notification of Electors. Amends AS 15.30.060 and adds a new subsection. These sections together allow the Director of the Division of Elections to send a certificate of election to each elector in accordance with the national popular vote totals.

Section 4.

Amends AS 15.30.090 by adding conforming language that allows the electors to vote in accordance with the national popular vote totals.

Section 5.

Adds a new subsection to AS 15.30.090 that dictates that electors follow the results of the national popular vote when the compact is in effect, and requires that any required administrative or legal services be provided to the electors.



Alaska Survey Results

Q1 How do you think we should elect the President: should it be the candidate who gets the most votes in all 50 states, or the current electoral college system? If you think it should be the candidate who gets the most votes in all 50 states, press 1. If you think it should be the current electoral college system, press 2.

<i>Candidate who gets the most votes in all 50 states</i>	<i>Current electoral college system</i>
70%	30%

Q2 If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>
54%	46%

Q3 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If nonpartisan, press 3. If Alaskan Independent Party, press 4. If Republican Moderate Party, press 5. If Green Party, press 6. If other, press 7.

<i>Democrat</i>	18%
<i>Republican</i>	33%
<i>Nonpartisan</i>	44%
<i>Alaskan Independent Party</i>	1%
<i>Other</i>	4%

Q4 If you are white, press 1. If black, press 2. If Alaska native, press 3. If Asian, press 4. If other, press 5.

<i>White</i>	80%	<i>Asian</i>	1%
<i>Black</i>	4%	<i>Other</i>	10%
<i>Alaska Native</i>	5%		

Q5 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older than 65, press 4.

<i>18-29</i>	9%	<i>46-65</i>	41%
<i>30-45</i>	34%	<i>Older than 65</i>	15%

Q6 Are you or is someone in your household a member of a labor union? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2.

<i>Yes</i>	28%
<i>No</i>	72%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
Change System			
Candidate who gets the most votes in all 50 states	70%	78%	60%
Current electoral college system	30%	22%	40%

	Base	Party				
		Democrat	Republican	Nonpartisan	Alaskan Independent Party	Other
Change System						
Candidate who gets the most votes in all 50 states	70%	78%	66%	70%	82%	69%
Current electoral college system	30%	22%	34%	30%	18%	31%

	Base	Race				
		White	Black	Alaska Native	Asian	Other
Change System						
Candidate who gets the most votes in all 50 states	70%	72%	53%	59%	63%	69%
Current electoral college system	30%	28%	47%	41%	38%	31%



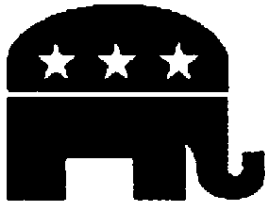


Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older than 65
Change System					
Candidate who gets the most votes in all 50 states	70%	68%	70%	70%	70%
Current electoral college system	30%	32%	30%	30%	30%

	Base	Union Household	
		Yes	No
Change System			
Candidate who gets the most votes in all 50 states	70%	65%	72%
Current electoral college system	30%	35%	28%





March 22, 2010

The Honorable Senator Bert Stedman
Alaska Senate
State Capitol
Room 516
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Stedman:

I support the National Popular Vote bill, which would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states—and I'm asking you to seriously consider this proposal.

As the former Chairman of the Michigan Republican Party, I am asking you to consider a bipartisan, truly representative and fairer process to elect the President of the United States -- Our President.

Currently, the Alaska Senate is considering SB 92.

The National Popular Vote does not abolish the Electoral College. Instead, it uses the state's existing authority to change how the Electoral College is chosen, namely from the current state-by-state count to the popular vote of the people in all 50 states.

This would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states.

The shortcomings of the current system stem from the winner-take-all rule (i.e., awarding all of a state's electoral votes to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in each state).

Because of the winner-take-all rule, a candidate can win the Presidency without winning the most popular votes nationwide. This has occurred in 4 of the nation's 56 presidential elections. As an example of a near miss, a shift of fewer than 60,000 votes in Ohio in 2004 would have defeated President Bush, despite his nationwide lead of 3,500,000 votes.

This is a state rights issue. We the people—in every state—have the right to decide how and who is elected President.

The U.S. Constitution gives the states exclusive and plenary control over the manner of awarding their electoral votes. The winner-take-all rule is not in the Constitution. It was not the Founder's choice and was used by only three states in the nation's first presidential election in 1789.

Under the National Popular Vote, all the electoral votes from the enacting states would be awarded to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states. The bill would take effect only when enacted by states possessing a majority of the electoral votes—that is, enough electoral votes to elect a President (270 of 538). The bill would replace the current state-by-state system of awarding electoral votes with a system guaranteeing the Presidency to the candidate who wins the most popular votes in all 50 states.

As of today, 29 Legislative Chambers in 19 States have passed the National Popular Vote Bill. A 2007 national poll showed **72% support nationwide** for a national popular vote for the President. A recent poll of Alaskan voters in January of this year, found that 70% of your citizens supported the National Popular Vote concept.

The National Popular Vote bill has passed in states having almost a quarter (23%) of the electoral votes necessary to bring this into effect. Those states include Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey and Washington.

This proposal would guarantee that every vote matters, every state is relevant, every town and community would have the same value to each candidate for President in every presidential election.

More importantly, this bill would insure that every Alaskan vote matters, that every effort is relevant and that Alaska and issues important to Alaska stay in the forefront. Candidates would battle for every vote in Alaska!

During the 2008 Presidential campaign, John McCain determined that Michigan's 17 Electoral votes were out of reach. Senator McCain's staff announced to the world that campaign activities would cease in Michigan, so resources could be targeted to the battleground states of Ohio, Florida, Pennsylvania and Missouri. Candidate McCain abandoned conservatives in Michigan and made it difficult to win seats for U.S. Congress and the Michigan Legislature. With National Popular Vote, the McCain campaign would have fought for every Republican vote in Michigan right up until Election Day. Republicans—up and down our ticket—would have benefited from National Popular Vote in 2008, just as they would in 2012.

As a conservative and a Republican, there are several other political aspects that I think are important to consider.

I believe we are a 'center-right' nation. A national vote system would give our center-right coalition a greater voice in electing the President. Rather than having to campaign in 'battleground' states only, every one of our coalition's members would matter. Nationwide turnout, regardless of the impact on individual states, would matter. Our voices and issues move and affect voters nationally and candidates would have to take them into greater consideration.

Moving away from the current system also helps reduce the incentive and value of voter fraud. Today, small changes in a particular state could have determinative effects on the Electoral College vote. By moving away from the state-by-state system, we diminish the role any one group, city or 'machine' could play to swing a state's Electoral College votes. We insure that the will of the people is heard.

In The Federalist Papers No. 68, Alexander Hamilton, in arguing for an Electoral College that reflected a 'national perspective, said: "Talents for low intrigue, and the little arts of popularity, may alone suffice to elevate a man to the first honors in a single State; but it will require other talents, and a different kind of merit, to establish him in the esteem and confidence of the whole Union, or of so considerable a portion of it as would be necessary to make him a successful candidate for the distinguished office of President of the United States."

Today, conservatives in many states have little voice. Presidential campaigns concentrate their efforts in the 12-18 'battleground' states, depending on the year. Under a National Popular Vote, conservative turnout in California, New York and small states like Vermont would matter. This would provide for a great incentive to organize our 'natural' and often times 'silent' majority in EVERY state.

Obviously, the left has a similar scenario and perspective about the national electorate. They believe that they have a better organizational base, a broader appeal and would/should be the majority party and movement in America. I am confident that the conservatives across this country are under-represented and under-counted election after election.

The bottom line is that the National Popular Vote bill would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states. I believe that is both right and fair.

For more information go to:

<http://nationalpopularvote.com/>

Or e-mail me at:

sanuzis@gmail.com

Thank you for your time and consideration. Keep the faith!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Saul Anuzis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Saul Anuzis
Former Chairman
Michigan Republican Party and
Chairman of the Technology Committee
Republican National Committee