

## “Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote”

April 14, 2026

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact will guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

It will apply the one-person-one-vote principle to presidential elections and make every vote equal.

### **Why a National Popular Vote for President Is Needed**

The shortcomings of the current system stem from state-level “winner-take-all” laws that award all of a state’s Electoral-College votes to the candidate receiving the most popular votes in that particular state.

Because of these state winner-take-all laws, five of our 47 Presidents have entered office without winning the most popular votes nationwide. The loser of the national popular vote would have become President but for about 119,000 votes in 2004, 43,000 in 2020, and 240,000 in 2024.

Because of winner-take-all, presidential candidates only pay attention to voters in closely divided battleground states. In 2024, 94% of the general-election campaign events took place in just *seven* states. That is, 43 states and 80% of U.S. voters were mere spectators to the presidential election.

The winner-take-all method of awarding electoral votes repeatedly generates controversies over real or imagined irregularities and incentivizes hair-splitting litigation. A mere 537 popular votes in one state decided the national outcome in 2000. An average of only about 280,000 popular votes spread over one, two, or three closely divided states decided the last seven presidential elections. In contrast, the first-place candidate’s lead in the national-popular-vote averaged 4,327,902 votes over the same period.

Currently, every vote is not equal throughout the United States—for reasons including the formula for allocating electoral votes to the states, intra-decade population changes, and turnout differences that increase or decrease the value of a voter’s vote. Voters in the closely divided battleground states have an average of 200 times the weight of voters elsewhere in deciding the outcome.

Voter participation is 11% higher in closely divided battleground states than elsewhere.

### **How the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact Works**

Winner-take-all is *not* in the U.S. Constitution. It was not mentioned at the Constitutional Convention.

Instead, the U.S. Constitution (Article II) gives the states exclusive control over the choice of method of awarding their electoral votes—thereby giving the states a built-in way to reform the system.

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact will take effect when enacted by states with a majority of the electoral votes (270 of 538). The candidate receiving the most popular votes in all 50 states and DC will get all the electoral votes from the enacting states. This guarantees that the candidate receiving the most popular votes nationwide will get enough Electoral College votes to become President.

Under the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, no voter will have their vote cancelled out at the state-level because their choice differed from plurality sentiment in their state. Instead, every voter’s vote will be added directly—without distortion—into the national count for the candidate of their choice. This will ensure that *every* voter, in *every* state, will be politically relevant in *every* presidential election.

National Popular Vote has been enacted into law by 19 jurisdictions, including 6 small states (DE, HI, ME, RI, VT, DC), 10 medium-sized states (CO, CT, MD, MA, MN, NJ, NM, OR, VA, WA), and 3 big states (CA, IL, NY). Together, they have 222 of the 270 electoral votes needed to activate the law.

It has also passed in legislative chambers in 6 additional states with 61 electoral votes (AR, AZ, MI, NC, NV, OK). Over 3,900 state legislators have sponsored or cast a recorded vote in favor of it.

### **More Information**

Our book *Every Vote Equal: A State-Based Plan for Electing the President by National Popular Vote* can be read or downloaded for free at [www.Every-Vote-Equal.com](http://www.Every-Vote-Equal.com). It contains answers to 175 myths about National Popular Vote. More information is available at [www.NationalPopularVote.com](http://www.NationalPopularVote.com).