

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

August 27, 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. In addition, the loser of the national popular vote would have become President except 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 seven states. That is, 43 states and 80% of U.S. voters were mere spectators to the presidential election. An election system in which every voter matters would give candidates a reason to campaign throughout the country.

Voter participation is 11% higher in closely divided battleground states than elsewhere, because more people vote when they know that their vote matters.

An average of only 279,628 popular votes spread over an average of three closely divided states has decided the last seven presidential elections. This incentivizes voter suppression and manipulation in the closely divided states. Razor-thin margins in those states repeatedly generate post-election controversies and hair-splitting litigation over real, imagined, or manufactured irregularities. In contrast, the first-place candidate’s lead in the national-popular-vote has averaged 4,327,902 votes.

Finally, every vote is not equal throughout the country under the current system.

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 or in the *Federalist Papers*. Its first use in every state was in 1880—long after the Founders were alive.

The U.S. Constitution (Article II) gives the states exclusive control over the choice of method of awarding their electoral votes—thereby giving 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 votes in the Electoral College 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 six 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. It contains answers to 175 myths about National Popular Vote. More information is available at www.NationalPopularVote.com.