

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Is National Popular Vote constitutional?**

**A: Yes, National Popular Vote is Constitutional**

- Article II, Sec 1. of the U.S. Constitution gives the states the “exclusive” and “plenary” power to choose the method of awarding their electors.
- Amending the U.S. Constitution is not required in order to achieve a national popular vote.

**Q: How close is this to being a reality?**

**A: With enough work, this will be in place ahead of the 2028 presidential election.**

- 15 states + DC have signed onto the compact, these states have 195 of the necessary 270 electoral votes for the bill to go into effect, meaning just 75 more are needed.

**Q: Will this hurt small states?**

**A: No, it will actually help them because small states are disadvantaged under the current system because none of them are battleground states.**

- The small states (the 14 states with only three or four electoral votes) are the most disadvantaged and ignored group of states under the current state-by-state winner-take-all method of awarding electoral votes. Political power in presidential elections comes from being a closely divided battleground state which none of the small states are.

**Q: What’s wrong with the current system?**

**A: The current system routinely elects presidents who are second place in the popular vote, every vote is not equal, three out of four states are ignored in the general-election campaign for president, and leads to distrust of the electoral system.**

**Q: Will candidates just campaign in big cities and big states under a National Popular Vote?**

**A: No. With National Popular Vote candidates will be incentivized to campaign in all 50 states and DC.**

- The 100 largest cities make up 19.6% of the US population, rural America is home to 20% of the US population. You could not just campaign to the people in cities any more than you could just campaign to people in rural areas and expect to win. You need to talk to both groups and to the 60% of people who live in the suburbs, which are evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans.
- Similarly candidates would be foolish to just campaign in big states because people are *everywhere* and every vote will be equal.

**Q: Is this a partisan reaction to Donald Trump’s election?**

**A: No, The National Popular Vote organization was founded in 2006 and Maryland became the first state to join the compact in 2007.**

**Q: Does this require congressional consent?**

*National Popular Election of the President*  
**National Popular Vote!**  
[www.NationalPopularVote.com](http://www.NationalPopularVote.com)

**A: No, not based on current supreme court precedent.**

- The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that congressional consent is only necessary for interstate compacts that “encroach upon or interfere with the just supremacy of the United States.” Because the choice of method of appointing presidential electors is an “exclusive” and “plenary” state power, there is no encroachment on federal authority.
- If the Supreme Court decides this bill needs congressional consent then advocates will go and seek it at that time.

**Q: Does National Popular Vote make our elections more secure?**

**A: Yes.**

- Under the current system there are huge incentives for voter suppression and interference because a small number of people in a battleground state can affect enough popular votes to swing all of that state’s electoral votes. A national popular vote dilutes the efforts of bad actors.

**Q: Can states withdraw from the compact?**

**A: Yes, but only at certain times.**

- The National Popular Vote compact permits a state to withdraw; however, it delays the effective date of a withdrawal until after the inauguration of the new President if the withdrawal occurs during the six-month period between July 20 of a presidential election year and Inauguration Day.
- Any attempt to appoint presidential electors after the people vote in November would be unconstitutional, the Constitution gives Congress the power to establish the day for appointing presidential electors and existing federal law requires that presidential electors be appointed on a *single* specific day in each four-year election cycle.

**Q: Does the LWV Michigan support this? Does LWV US?**

**A: Yes, LWV US and LWV Michigan support this bill.**

- The LWV US also has a position in support of abolishing the electoral college however is presently focused on passing the National Popular Vote bill in Michigan this legislative session.

**Q: What is happening in Michigan?**

**A: The National Popular Vote bill will be / was introduced in February.**

- The LWV Michigan joins with ACLU, Common Cause, NAACP, Michigan Democratic Party, Voters Not Politicians, People for the American Way, Stand Up America, Public Citizen and many more groups in supporting this bill.
- Help make 2023 the year Michigan finally passes National Popular Vote & contact your legislators today!