



North Carolina and the National Popular Vote Bill

North Carolina voters can play a pivotal role in future Presidential elections by supporting the National Popular Vote bill. This bill would guarantee the presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Period.

The bill (SB 954) has already passed the N.C. Senate and will be considered by the N.C. House during this year's legislative session. A poll conducted in April 2008 shows that 62 percent of North Carolina voters support the National Popular Vote bill.

HOW IT WORKS: The National Popular Vote bill creates an agreement among states to award their electoral votes to the Presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The bill would take effect only when enacted, in identical form, by states possessing a majority of the electoral votes (270 or more).

WHY CHANGE THE CURRENT SYSTEM: Under the current "winner take all" system, candidates have no reason to campaign in those states where they are safely ahead or hopeless behind. Candidates concentrate their attention on a small handful of closely divided "battleground" states. This means that voters in two thirds of the states are ignored in presidential elections. In 2004, candidates concentrated more than two-thirds of their money and campaign visits in just five states and spent more than 99% of their money in just 16 states.

Another shortcoming is that a candidate can win the presidency even if he receives fewer votes than his or her opponent. For example, a shift of 60,000 votes would have elected John Kerry in 2004, even though President Bush was ahead by 3,500,000 votes nationwide.

A NATIONWIDE MOVEMENT: Four states — Hawaii, Maryland, New Jersey, and Illinois—already have signed the National Popular Vote bill into law. These states represent 50 electoral votes, or one-sixth of the electoral votes necessary to enact the law. The National Popular Vote bill has been passed by an additional 11 legislative chambers, including the N.C. Senate, and has been endorsed by more than 1,000 state legislators.

WIDESPREAD PUBLIC SUPPORT: The concept of electing the President by popular vote is supported by 62 percent of North Carolina voters and has received similar support from voters nationwide. In addition, the National Popular Vote bill has been endorsed by the *New York Times*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Boston Globe* and *Sacramento Bee*.

Common Cause and Fair Vote are among the national grassroots organizations that support the National Popular Vote bill.

WHAT THE CONSTITUTION SAYS: The U.S. Constitution allows states to award their electoral votes in whatever manner they deem appropriate. While most states currently follow a "winner takes all" approach, only three states used that method in the first Presidential election. Today, there are two states (Maine and Nebraska) that award electoral votes by Congressional district—a reminder that a constitutional amendment is not required to change the way the President is elected.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Visit www.nationalpopularvote.com.