

# **NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE PRESS CONFERENCE**

**WEDNESDAY 3-30-11 – 10:00 PM – ROOM 1190**

Thank you very much for coming.

- I'm very happy to be here this morning to announce a bi-partisan effort to make California relevant in presidential elections.
- I'm joined by my good friend and Chairman of the Assembly Republican Caucus Assemblyman Brian Nestande to introduce the National Popular Vote bill in the California legislature.
- Also joining us is Barry Fadem – President of National Popular Vote.
- California is ignored in the general election of presidential campaigns. It can't be stated any more directly and plainly than that.
- Candidates do not come to California to campaign. Candidates do not run television advertisements in California. They do not send direct mail, make phone calls or conduct field operations here.
- The truth is, our 13.5 million voters are irrelevant to electing the President of the United States.
- Assembly Bill 459, the national popular vote bill, will change all that.
- AB 459 will guarantee that the presidential candidate receiving the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia will be elected President.
- A national popular vote for President means that every vote, in every state, in every election will be equal. Every vote will matter.
- A national popular vote for President means that candidates will have to campaign in all 50 states. We will truly have a national election for President.

- The problem with the current system is that it encourages candidates to ignore more than two-thirds of the country.
- Voters in “safe” Democratic states like California or “safe” Republican states like Texas or Montana are completely overlooked by presidential campaigns as they focus exclusively on the so-called battleground states.
- In the 2008 general election, Obama and McCain made 300 campaign stops. 99% of those stops occurred in just 16 states.
- There was not a single non-fundraising visit to California in the general election from either candidate.
- If the candidates don’t come to California, they don’t have to discuss our issues.
- Presidential campaigns can ignore California, and two-thirds of the country, because of the winner-take-all rule.
- The winner-take-all rule says that whoever gets the most votes in California gets all 55 of our electoral votes.
- However, because California has been a reliably Democratic state, the winner-take-all rule eliminates any incentive for either side to campaign here.
- It was the California Legislature that decades ago adopted the winner-take-all rule and it is the California Legislature that can change it today. It is state law, not federal law.
- AB 459 and the national popular vote proposal will award all of California’s electoral votes to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes **IN ALL 50 STATES.** AB 459 only takes effect when it is enacted by states possessing a majority of the electoral votes.
- Once enacted by a sufficient number of states, the electoral votes of those states are awarded – as a block – to the candidate receiving the most votes in all 50 states. In other words, the candidate receiving the most popular votes in all 50 states will receive a majority of the

electoral votes and be elected President.

- Under AB 459, candidates will no longer be able to look past California.
- Under AB 459 and a national popular vote, swing states will be a thing of the past. Candidates will actually focus on getting votes from people everywhere and not about winning or losing a particular state.
- AB 459 will give voice to all California voters and insure that their votes will matter in every election.
- I am very happy to be joined in this bi-partisan effort by Assemblyman Brian Nestande.