



**Washington, DC NAACP Branch**  
1000 U Street, NW Ste. 100  
Washington, DC 20001

May 18, 2010

Honorable Mary Cheh  
Governmental Operations and the Environment Chair  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Councilperson Cheh,

The DC NAACP Branch supports your local efforts to institute a National Popular Vote. The National Popular Vote interstate compact would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. To date, it has passed in 29 state legislative chambers in 19 states and has been enacted by 5 states (Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey and Washington) representing 23% of the 270 Electoral College votes necessary to activate the compact.

The District of Columbia may become a member of this interstate compact by passing Legislation in the City Council in the same manner as it has joined other interstate compacts since the 1973 Home Rule Act.

On October 17, 2008 at its annual convention, the NAACP endorsed the National Popular Vote bill in a resolution that made several points, including the following:

- The Electoral College was instituted, in part, as a mechanism for protecting white male property holders' political advantage in the South by permitting slave states to increase their Electoral College votes based on a slave population while denying enslaved people the right to vote.
- The Electoral College and the accompanying "winner take all" method of casting their electoral votes, which is now used in 48 states and the District of Columbia, disregards the votes cast for other candidates other than the popular vote winner in each of these political jurisdictions.
- As a result, Presidential candidates concentrate their campaigns and financial resources on only 15-16 "competitive states" and ignore the other 34 or 35 states and the District of Columbia. Less than 20 % of African Americans live in states where their voting population (at least 5% of the electorate) can determine the outcome of that state's election of the President.

- Consequently, the interests of most African American voters are discounted by the platforms of the two major political parties.

THE NAACP SUPPORTS THE IDEAL OF ONE PERSON, ONE VOTE, AS MANDATED BY THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.

The National Popular Vote interstate compact would take effect when enacted by states and the District of Columbia possessing enough electoral votes to elect the president (270 of 538). The compact would replace the current state-by-state system of awarding electoral votes with a system that would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who wins the most popular votes in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Therefore, the Washington D.C. chapter of the NAACP urges the District of Columbia Council to join with Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, Washington and other states in passing legislation so that we can become part of the National Popular Vote interstate compact and elect the Presidential candidate who wins the most popular votes in the election.

In continued solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eugene D. Kinlow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "K".

Eugene D. Kinlow  
DC NAACP Political Action Chair