

**Testimony for SB19-042 National Popular Vote Compact
Ralph E Burns, P.E.**

Thank you Chair Senator Foote and Vice Chair Senator Court, and members of the Committee. I am here today in support of the National Popular Vote Agreement, because it harnesses the existing Electoral College to work better for voters.

I am Ralph Burns, live in unincorporated Boulder County, a 4th generation lifelong Coloradoan, a Colorado professional engineer and a rural firefighter - EMT. Given the current partisan political climate, I'll also add that although I've been both a registered Republican and Democrat at different times, I am currently a unaffiliated voter.

When considering Colorado's electoral vote rules, consider changes against the backdrop of the current status quo; the winner-take-all rules. A shortcoming of state winner-take-all rules is that presidential candidates cannot afford to pay attention to the concerns of voters in states where they are safely ahead or hopelessly behind. **Winner-take-all rules create battleground and fly-over states and the results are staggering:**

- In 2016, 94% of general campaign events were concentrated to 12 states, and 57% in just four of those states. ^[1]
- In 2012, 100% of general campaign events were concentrated to 12 states, rendering 3 out of 4 Americans and 3 out of 4 states politically irrelevant. ^[2]

Those numbers might seem great if you live in a battleground state, and Colorado indeed has enjoyed swing state attention. A question is will Colorado continue to enjoy that status when it has voted for the same party outcome during the last three presidential elections, and in 2018 voted the same outcome for State House, State Senate and Governor, and is no longer considered a swing state by political analysts like the Cook Political Report? **Colorado's political relevancy is poised to be marginalized.** ^[3]

What we see with winner-take-all rules is that the presidential campaign conversation ignores national issues in favor of swing state issues, while spectator states receive less federal grant money but still bear the tax burden. Today the United States is \$21 trillion in debt yet the conversation largely escapes attention during presidential elections. **The National Popular Vote will end incentive for pork barrel grants** such as these examples:

- In 2003, Medicare Part D drug coverage, the largest entitlement program since welfare, was passed by a President to ensure the senior vote in Florida.

^[1] nationalpopularvote.com/campaign-events-2016

^[2] nationalpopularvote.com/written-explanation

^[3] cookpolitical.com/sites/default/files/2019-01/EC.pdf

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD
DATE: 10/15/54
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

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- Steel tariffs were passed in 2002 to secure votes in Pennsylvania. The tariffs worked adversely for the country and were reversed.
- A 2005 corn ethanol fuel mandate exists largely to entice Iowa voters.
- In 2010 the President granted billions in railway grants to the swing states Florida and Ohio, where they were refused.
- 2001 No Child Left Behind targeted mothers in Ohio and was largely repealed by 2015.

Winner-take-all rules reduces down-ballet voter participation, and this is something that affects every state legislator running for office. Voters living in spectator states have a correct perspective that their vote doesn't "count" per se, and so naturally they vote in fewer numbers, and that of course means down-ballet elections get ignored too.^{[4][5]}

Under National Popular Vote, California's influence for one single candidate will be reduced by about 28% when compared to today's winner-take-all rules because, although it is the most populated state, naturally not all Californians cast their vote like-mindedly.^{[6][7][8]}

A beauty of the National Popular Vote agreement is that it is not cast in stone; the Colorado Legislature can enact a new statue if a better system comes along.

When considering the National Popular Vote, don't consider it in a vacuum but agree it is leaps and bounds better than the current winner-take-all rule. The winner-take-all method of awarding electoral votes was not a Founding Fathers' choice. It was used by only three states in the 1789 presidential election, and repealed by all three the next year. Winner-take-all was never debated at the **Constitutional Convention** or mentioned in the *Federalist Papers*.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

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^[4] electproject.org/2016g

^[5] pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/08/02/u-s-voter-turnout-trails-most-developed-countries/

^[6] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:State_population_per_electoral_vote.png

^[7] Longley, Lawrence D.; Peirce, Neal (1999). *Electoral College Primer 2000*. Yale University Press.

^[8] ballotpedia.org/Presidential_election_in_California,_2016

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that this is crucial for ensuring transparency and accountability in the organization's operations.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and tools used to collect and analyze data. It highlights the need for consistent and reliable data collection processes to support effective decision-making.

3. The third part of the document focuses on the role of technology in data management and analysis. It discusses how modern software solutions can streamline data collection, storage, and reporting, thereby improving efficiency and accuracy.

4. The fourth part of the document addresses the challenges associated with data management, such as data quality, security, and privacy. It provides strategies to mitigate these risks and ensure that data is used responsibly and ethically.

5. The fifth part of the document concludes by summarizing the key findings and recommendations. It stresses the importance of ongoing monitoring and evaluation to ensure that data management practices remain effective and aligned with the organization's goals.

6. The sixth part of the document provides a detailed overview of the data collection process, including the identification of data sources, the design of data collection instruments, and the implementation of data collection procedures.

7. The seventh part of the document discusses the various methods used for data analysis, such as descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, and qualitative analysis. It explains how these methods are used to interpret the data and draw meaningful conclusions.

8. The eighth part of the document focuses on the presentation of data, including the use of tables, charts, and graphs. It provides guidelines for creating clear and concise reports that effectively communicate the results of the data analysis.

9. The ninth part of the document discusses the importance of data security and privacy. It outlines the measures that should be taken to protect sensitive data from unauthorized access, loss, or disclosure.

10. The tenth part of the document provides a final summary and concludes the report. It reiterates the key findings and offers final recommendations for improving data management practices in the future.

11. The eleventh part of the document includes a list of references and a bibliography. It provides a comprehensive list of the sources used in the research and analysis, ensuring that the information is properly cited and credited.

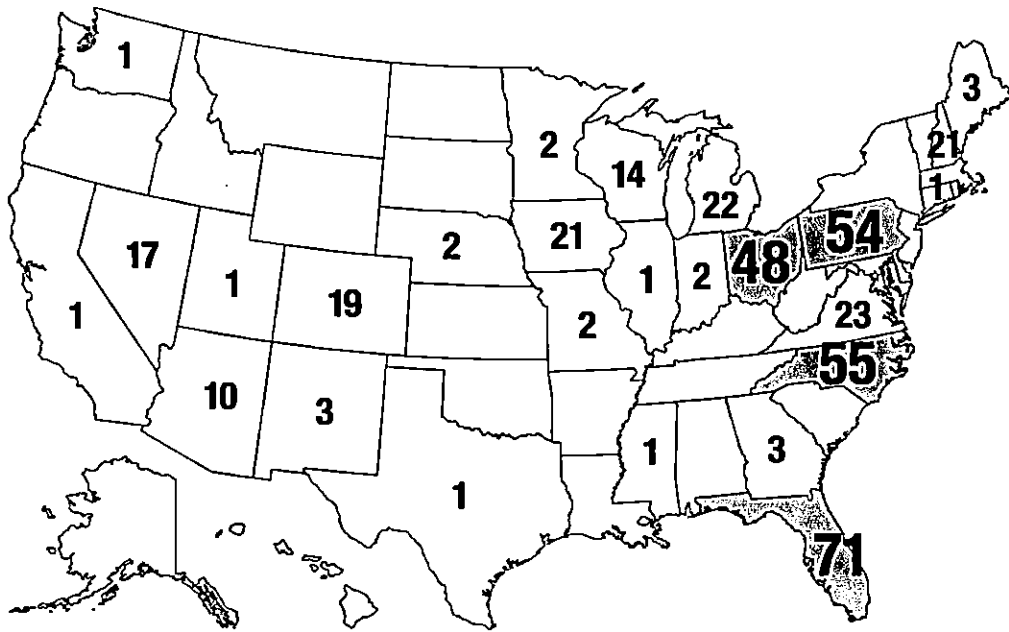
12. The twelfth part of the document contains an appendix with additional data and information. This section provides supplementary details that support the main findings of the report but are not essential for understanding the overall conclusions.

13. The thirteenth part of the document includes a glossary of key terms and definitions. This section helps to clarify the meaning of various terms used throughout the report, ensuring that all readers have a common understanding of the terminology.

14. The fourteenth part of the document provides a list of contact information for the authors and the organization. This section allows readers to reach out for further information or to provide feedback on the report.

15. The fifteenth part of the document includes a final statement of acknowledgment. It expresses gratitude to the individuals and organizations that supported the research and analysis, recognizing their contributions to the success of the project.

2016 General presidential campaign event activity:



2012 General presidential campaign event activity:

