

This is What Democracy Should Look Like

The National Popular Vote (NVP) would allow the President of the United States to be elected by popular vote under the current Electoral College System. The Presidential election is the only race in the nation where the candidate with the most votes can lose. It has happened five times in our country's history and twice in my adult lifetime. That is a failure rate of about 1 in 12. This is un-American.

The National Popular Vote concept is easy: one person equals one vote, just like every other elected position across the country. The NVP does not get rid of the Electoral College. It enhances it, ensuring that states determine that their electoral college votes will go to the person who wins the popular vote.

Multiple polls indicate that a significant majority of Coloradans and Americans from both parties are in favor of the NPV. It has already passed in both Colorado's House and Senate in different years. It's already been adopted in eleven states and the District of Columbia totaling 172 electoral votes. We only need to pass NPV in about 10 more states totaling 98 electoral votes to reach the majority number of 270 electoral votes and then the state compact goes into effect. It doesn't matter which states. National Popular Vote has bi-partisan support across the country.

Momentum is building. Currently, NPV is being debated in front of many legislatures across the country. The NVP is supported by numerous non-partisan groups and used to be supported by the current President, until he won the election, losing by three million votes. Over three million votes didn't count – an astonishing statistic that produces voter apathy! The United States has a voter apathy problem. The National Popular Vote (NVP) can help correct this problem.

When our great country was created, the Founders' intent was also to ensure that demagogues and persons entwined with foreign powers could be eliminated from the Presidency by delegates, who, at the time, were more informed than the general public. Back then an African American male was only counted as a percentage of a person, women didn't have a right to vote and there were only a handful of states. The current system is not suited for modern times. Our public is now well-informed and diverse. People want their vote to count equally. Information is readily available on the phone in your pocket, and we are afforded the opportunity to vote easily via mail.

Currently, the power to vote for President is given to electors to choose the President. This produces low voter turnout compared to other democracies. People are tired of inequitable elections under the current system. Because of the recent imbalanced outcome of this electoral college process, we are seeing massive demonstrations, resistance and unrest across the country.

The current system only encourages Presidential candidates to campaign in approximately a dozen battleground states while the rest of the country is ignored. For example, Republican votes in California and Democratic votes in Wyoming don't count under the current electoral college system. In a trickle-down result, other programs, like grant money, and legislative pork tend to be distributed unevenly to battleground states. This is also clearly inequitable.

If this is what democracy looks like, it's no wonder voter apathy is rampant. Let's start by fixing this basic problem by supporting the National Popular Vote: Every vote counts and the candidate with the most votes should always win.

Not only is voter apathy rampant, a friend from Parliament recently opined, "The United States is the only country in the civilized world that tries to keep its population from voting." ...something else to think about.

Wouldn't it be delightful if elections were fair, everyone could vote and every vote counted, gerrymandering was eliminated, dark money was transparent or removed, and campaign finance laws were enacted to stop the enormous flow of citizen's money into the coffers of media networks? Maybe people would have more faith in the system and engage in their civil responsibility to vote. Maybe trust in the system and politicians would begin to be restored. The National Popular Vote is one step in the right direction.

Colorado is a leader among states on many contemporary issues. Let's show that we continue to be forward thinking by helping to enact the National Popular Vote.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Petrie Bunch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Linda Petrie Bunch
155 Gaylord St
Denver, CO 80206

“Chairman Foote, Vice Chair Court and distinguished members of the Committee; My name is Linda Petrie Bunch and I live in Denver. I’m am the owner of the MFG television studio. I am testifying in support of proposed Senate Bill 19-042, the *National Popular Vote*.”

The Presidential election is the only race in the nation where the candidate with the most votes can lose. It has happened five times in our country’s history and twice in my adult lifetime and I find that very disturbing. That is why I’m here to talk with you today.

The National Popular Vote is a bi-partisan solution and Nationwide Election of the President Has Long Had Bi-Partisan Support
for example:

Presidents Nixon, Carter, and Ford endorsed the concept of nationwide popular election of the President, as did President George H. W. Bush and former Senator Bob Dole.

There has been at least one sponsor in the U.S. House or Senate for nationwide popular election of the President from all 50 states.

The bill has been endorsed by 3,125 state legislators from all 50 states — either as sponsors or legislators who have cast recorded votes in favor of the bill on the floor or in committee.

The National Popular Vote has been endorsed by the Conservative Party of New York.

Here are examples of **bipartisan votes for the National Popular Vote**:

21–14 vote in the Connecticut Senate
40–16 vote in the Arizona House
28–18 vote in the Oklahoma Senate
57–4 vote in the New York Senate, and the
30–4 vote in the Rhode Island Senate

National Popular Vote's Advisory Board has included:

former Senators Birch Bayh (D–Indiana),
David Durenberger (R–Minnesota),
Jake Garn (R–Utah),
and the late John Anderson (R–Illinois) and

former congressmen
John Buchanan (R–Alabama),
Tom Campbell (R– California), and
Tom Downey (D–New York).

Other supporters include

former House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R–GA),
former Governors Jim Edgar (R–IL) and Howard Dean (D–VT),
the late Senator Fred Thompson (R–TN),
former RNC Chair Michael Steele
And our own former Congressman Tom Tancredo (R-CO).

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This concept has clearly been established as having bipartisan support.

A National Popular vote bill has already passed both houses of the legislature in Colorado, but in different years.

Please vote yes on SB 19-042. Thank you.