

NPVIC Testimony
2.12.18 SB19-042
House State Veterans and Military Affairs Committee Hearing
1:30 pm

Rep Sirota and Arndt, Chairman Kennedy, Rep Jaquez Lewis, members of the Committee, my name is Virginia Gebhart. I live in Lafayette. I'm a member of LWV Boulder County, but I'm speaking on my own behalf today. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of SB19-042.

The more I learn about the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, the more I like it, for many reasons. One reason is that it seems to me it would encourage greater voter participation in elections.

I firmly believe that if everyone who could vote, would vote, we'd be living in a different world. That's why, over the years, I've done a lot of knocking on doors for GOTV efforts. However, I do run across people who say they don't vote because their vote doesn't count. I think passing the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact would encourage these people to vote. Every voter in every state would know that their vote would count equally toward deciding the outcome of the election. They would know that the insider game of going after voters only in Swing states would be far less effective. They would know that presidential candidates would need to campaign and listen to voters' concerns in urban areas and rural areas in more than just the just the dozen or so Swing States. They would need to campaign all across the United States.

I think these non-voters would also see that the reasoning which suggests that urban voters will overwhelm rural voters is flawed reasoning. It might be correct reasoning if the urban areas voted as a solid block one way and rural areas voted as a solid block the other way. But that's not the case. The vote is always split in urban areas and rural areas. We may not fully realize it now because we are constantly shown maps of red states and blue states, and a few purple states. It's as if there is no acknowledgement that the vote is split in every urban area, rural area, and every state. Even in a large urban area like LA with 5.1 Million voters, the voter registration is 52% D, 19% R, 25% no party, and 3% Third Party. The 48% who are not registered Dem add up to 2.4 Million voters who could be expected to vote for a Rep or third-party candidate. Those votes may be ignored under the winner take all electoral college vote that we have now. If we had the NPVIC, those votes would count toward deciding the national popular vote winner and the presidency. The split among parties will be different for every election in every urban area, in every rural area, and in every state. This difference should be measured by counting every vote equally all across the United States, no matter where you live.

In closing, I'll say that we do not live in the Swing States of America. We live in the United States of America. We ought to shift to an electoral college voting process that allows us to cast votes equally all across America to elect the President of the United States of America.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of this important bill.