

....North Carolina's National Popular
Vote Plan

The national popular vote plan (SB 954) seeks to create national presidential elections, where North Carolina's votes count as much as those of voters in Florida, Ohio, New Hampshire and other swing states.

Grounded in the U.S. Constitution, SB 954 would allow North Carolina to work with other states to replace the current Electoral College system, where a handful of swing states get all the attention and North Carolina is taken for granted.

"The Way Democracy Will Be"
www.fairvote.org

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FairVote
6930 Carroll Avenue
Suite 610
Takoma Park, MD 20912

NORTH
CAROLINA
NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE



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....the national popular vote plan

The United States Constitution grants states the power – and indeed the responsibility – to choose the best method of awarding electoral votes for president. It also grants states the power to enter into binding interstate agreements.

The national popular vote (NPV) plan is grounded in states using their power to serve the interests of their people and the nation. Under the plan, states enter into an interstate compact designed to guarantee election of the candidate who gets the most individual votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

After entering the NPV agreement, all of a state's electoral votes would be awarded to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The plan would take effect only when enacted by states possessing a majority of the electoral votes—that is, enough electoral votes to elect a President (270 of 538). The policy choice for North Carolina is simple: to keep an increasingly broken system exactly as it is, or to join with other states to guarantee election of the national popular vote winner.



“The last time presidential candidates actively campaigned in North Carolina was 1992. Like most Americans we have become mere spectators, with no chance of influencing the outcome of the election.”

Clyde Frazier,
Meredith College Political Science Professor,
Raleigh News and Observer on June 3, 2007

WHY THE CURRENT SYSTEM IS BAD FOR NORTH CAROLINA

The current state-by-state way of electing the president dates back to the 1830s. Today, it means candidates focus exclusively on a shrinking number of swing states. **FACT: George Bush and John Kerry visited Florida and Ohio a combined 52 times in the peak season of the 2004 campaign, but they did not visit North Carolina even once.**

The vast majority of the country receives no attention from presidential campaigns. No visits, no ads, no policy consideration. **FACT: Presidential campaigns spent more than \$64,000,000 on ads in Florida in 2004, but only a paltry \$431,000 in North Carolina.**

Almost every small state is a spectator state. So are most large states. The share of America's population in swing states is less than half of what it was a generation ago. In 1976, three in four African Americans lived in swing states; now one in six do. **FACT: George Bush's re-election campaign in 2004 was the richest in history, but it didn't poll a single person who didn't live in one of 18 potential swing states in 2002-2004.**

We now have a two-tier democracy, where voters in a few states matter and everyone else does not. **FACT: In 2004, adults under 30 were 36% more likely to vote in the 10 closest states than in the rest of the nation.**

Four times in our nation's history, the presidential candidate who received the most national popular votes did not win the presidency. **FACT: Numerous elections would have elected a different winner with a small swing of votes in one or two states that could have led to defeats of national popular vote winners like Woodrow Wilson in 1916, Harry Truman in 1948 and Jimmy Carter in 1976.**

A NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE ENSURES THAT...

All states will be equally competitive and all votes equally important, so North Carolinians get an equal say in electing the president.

The candidate with the most popular votes nationwide wins the Presidency. The winner is more likely to have won with a decisive result than in the Electoral College system where changing a few votes in one swing state can shift the entire election.

Whether a state is large or small, red or blue, every vote is equal.

The public gets what it wants. An overwhelming majority of Americans support nationwide popular election of the President – over 70% in recent polls.

FAIRVOTE'S WORK IN NORTH CAROLINA

- Assisting with advocacy for the state's National Popular Vote legislation
- Media outreach to journalists and editorial boards on the problems with our current systems and the merits of the NPV solution
- Educational workshops in communities around the state about the NPV plan
- Coalition-building with North Carolina organizations to connect NPV to other pro-democracy issues
- Campus organizing to educate and empower youths to advance democracy in North Carolina

For more information, contact:

**FAIRVOTE NORTH CAROLINA
FairVote**

6930 Carroll Ave., Suite 610
Takoma Park, MD 20912

**Phone: (301) 270-4616
Fax: (301) 270-4133
E-mail: fairvotenc@fairvote.org**

Based in Takoma Park, MD, FairVote is a leading national non-partisan, non-profit pro-democracy organization. We pursue an innovative, solution-oriented agenda that focuses on systemic change and increasing political participation.