

....about the National Popular Vote Plan
Under America's current Electoral College system, swing states get all the attention. Most Americans' votes and issues are taken for granted, and the candidate with fewer votes can win. FairVote builds support for the innovative national popular vote plan to create national presidential elections where every voter matters and every vote counts equally.

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

VOTE



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NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE



....fair presidential elections for all



"The Way Democracy Will Be"

POPULAR

The United States Constitution grants states the power – and indeed 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. 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 states 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 American way of electing presidents is antiquated, impractical and dangerous.... The democratic solution is for legislatures to agree to use their electoral votes to support the winner nationally.”

E.J. Dionne, *Washington Post* Columnist

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE CURRENT SYSTEM?

Our state-by-state way of electing the president was established in its current form by the 1830's. Today it has a number of undemocratic, illogical results:

- Campaigns focus exclusively on a steadily shrinking number of swing states.
- The vast majority of the country, including nearly every small state and most big states, receives no attention in presidential campaigns: not one visit, not one ad, no policy consideration.
- Not every vote is equal. Most Americans are completely irrelevant in presidential elections.
- Candidates can win without receiving the most popular votes nationwide.
- Crises over narrow wins in swing states regularly occur even as the nationwide popular vote is rarely close.
- Young adults in swing states were 36% more likely to vote than youths in the rest of the nation in 2004.

A NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE ENSURES THAT...

- All states will be equally competitive and all votes equally important.
- The candidate with the most popular votes nationwide wins the presidency.
- Every vote is equal, whether cast in states that are large or small, red or blue.
- The public gets what it wants. An overwhelming majority of Americans support nationwide popular election of the President – over 70% in recent polls.

HOW FAIRVOTE HAS AN IMPACT:

Victory in Maryland | fairvote.org/npv/maryland

FairVote Action coordinated lobbyists, education and media for Maryland, which became the first state to adopt the NPV plan in April 2007.

North Carolina | fairvote.org/presidential/nc

The North Carolina state senate approved the NPV plan in May 2007. FairVote is conducting intensive and strategic public education and organizational outreach as the debate shifts to the state house.

Groundbreaking Report on Presidential Elections | fairvote.org/presidential

Our report *Presidential Elections Inequality* is the definitive document for detailing how our current system has become unrepresentative for a vast majority of Americans, including youths, communities of color and residents of non-battleground states. We steadily produce new reports about presidential elections.

National Media and Outreach

FairVote's Rob Richie co-authored *Every Vote Equal* with other core members of the National Popular Vote coalition. We work closely with the NPV coalition, publish commentaries in leading newspapers, regularly meet with editorial boards of papers like the *New York Times* and help to expand the NPV coalition

For more information, contact:

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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.