

The Electoral College ensures that the winning candidate has support from multiple regions of the country and that each state's electoral votes are awarded based on how the state's citizens vote

Lets look at the 2024 election:

Harris got 435,652 votes in Maine, and Trump got 377,977 – a solid win for Harris giving her 3 of the 4 Electoral College votes.

Now, let's look at what would have happened under NPV:

Because Trump won the popular vote, he would have received all 4 of Maine's Electoral College votes, effectively disenfranchising all 435,652 of the people that voted for Harris. As you may recall, there was a major effort to keep Trump off the ballot – if that had succeeded, he STILL would have gotten all 4 of Maine's Electoral college votes.

As a matter of fact, if NPV was in place in 2024, Trump would have won every electoral college vote EXCEPT for NH (4), Virginia (13), and Nebraska (1 out of 4), for a total of 520 for Trump and only 18 for Harris. If we look at the actual numbers, Trump got 49.81% of the popular vote, and Harris got 48.34% - a difference of only 1.47%. so, with a very small popular vote majority, Trump would have won the election by an electoral college landslide of 520 to 18.

Lets dig a bit deeper in NPV.

Under NPV, 10 states would control the vote: California, Texas, Florida, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Georgia, and North Carolina. (2022 data – most recent available)

6 cities (*LA, San Francisco, Chicago, NY, Boston, and Philly*) outweigh 14 states – including Maine and NH. (*Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, N Dakota, S Dakota, Nebraska, Maine, W Virginia, Arkansas, Vermont, Alaska, NH, Delaware, Hawaii*). (2010 census). NY City alone has a bigger population than 39 individual states.

NPV requires a plurality, not a majority – Currently, a candidate must win 50%+1 of the Electoral College votes. Under NPV, a candidate can win with only a small percentage of the votes. . If there are only 2 candidates, whoever gets more than 50% of the votes wins. However, there has never been a presidential election without at least a few third party candidates on the ballot somewhere. , but if there are 3 candidates – anywhere in the country – under NPV, 33% +1 vote could win. If there are 4, only 25% +1.

Remember – under NPV, EVERY candidate on the ballot anywhere in the country counts. In 2024, there were 24 candidates (according to FEC), so a candidate could have won with only 4.1% of the vote! (while this is unlikely, it shows how flawed the national popular vote is.)

So what do we do if there is a close election? We all know state recounts are regular thing in close elections. NPV has no allowance for recounts The National Popular vote could be won by one vote, but still wouldn't be enough to have a recount – because recounts happen at the STATE, and there is no mechanism for a national recount.

Speaking of votes – the question of who actually gets to vote becomes a big issue with NPV. Some states allow illegals to vote. Some allow felons in jail to vote. The states with the weakest election laws would have even more power, encouraging election fraud and weak voter regulation.

Finally, there is the question of constitutionality. There are many constitutional problems with NPV, but I'll only mention one, because it's fairly easy to understand. According to Justia Legal Dictionary, the definition of and interstate compact is "a voluntary pact among two or more states aimed at tackling shared issues". NPV clearly meets the criteria, and is an interstate compact.

The Compact Clause of the constitution (Article 1, section 10, clause 3) states "'No State shall, without the Consent of Congress...enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State.'". This has been interpreted by the Supreme court to mean that any compact that "increase the political power of the state" is controlled by the Compact Clause, but it is pretty clear that NPV will run afoul of this clause.

NPV may seem like a reasonable idea on the surface, but there is a reason that the founding fathers created the Electoral College, and that reason is still valid today: protecting the smaller and more thinly populated states from being dominated and abused by the larger states. We have Direct Representative governance in the House of Representatives – where the number of representatives is determined by population. The Senate however, is populated with 2 senators per state – regardless of the population of the states. Like the Senate, the Presidential election needs the protections of the Electoral College.