

ONE PERSON, ONE VOTE

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE

AAUW of Virginia Presentation



LWV of Virginia

October 14, 2025

Every vote for President
and Vice President of
the United States
should count equally.

Right?



Source: iStock

That's not the way it is.
Let's change it.

So that our President and
Vice President reflect the
will of the people.



Source: iStock

CURRENT ELECTORAL SYSTEM

Article II of the U.S. Constitution:

***“Each state shall
appoint, in such a
Manner as the
Legislature thereof
may direct, a number
of Electors...”***

Slavery and the Origins of the Electoral College

- **Compromise to Protect Slavery**
- **The 3/5 Compromise**
- **Long-term impact and consequences**

*Without the Electoral College,
the South would not have
agreed to join the Union.
(Historian consensus)*



SOURCE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Slavery and the Origins of the Electoral College

1787



Slavery and the Origins of the Electoral College

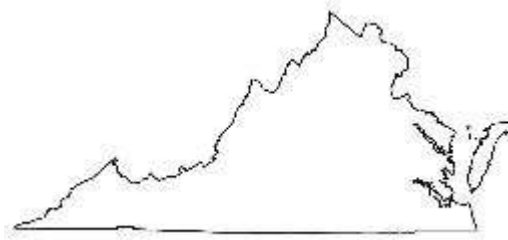
1787

"It seems now to be pretty well understood that the real difference of interests lies not between the large and small but between the northern and southern states. The institution of slavery and its consequences form the line of discrimination."

James Madison, July 14, 1787
(source: National Archives)



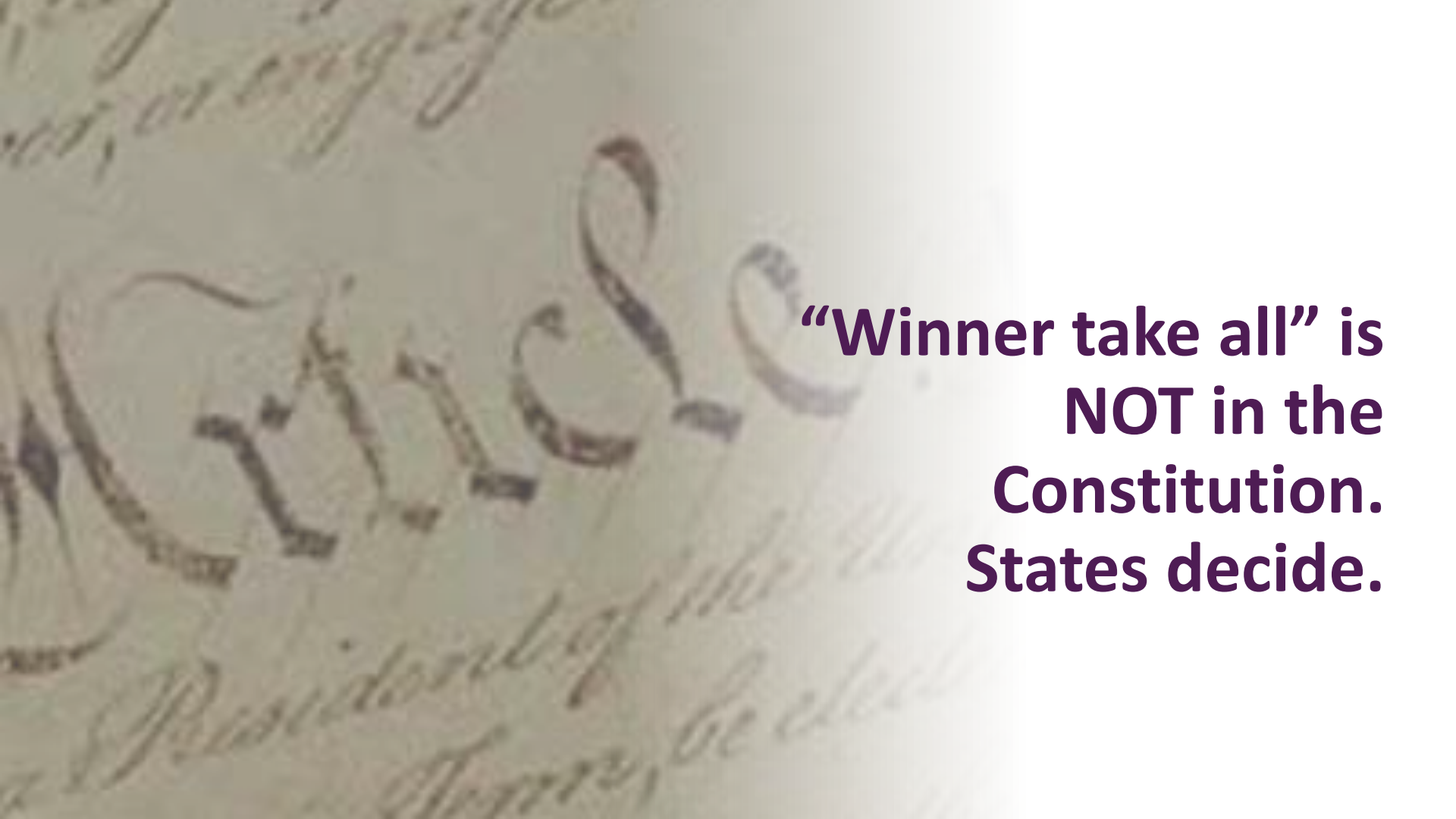
State-By-State Winner-Take-All



**TODAY, STATE ELECTORAL
VOTES GO TO THE
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE
WHO WINS THE POPULAR
VOTE IN THE STATE.**



**THE FINAL ELECTION
OUTCOME IS NOT THE
WINNER OF THE POPULAR
VOTE NATIONWIDE.**



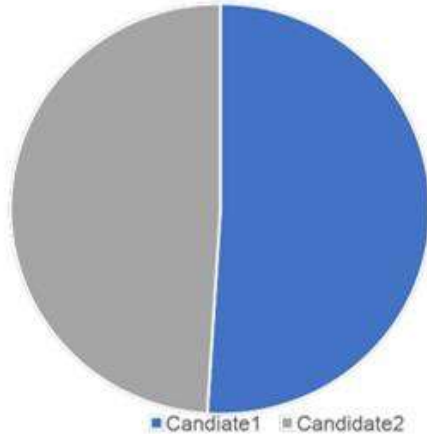
**“Winner take all” is
NOT in the
Constitution.
States decide.**

Total Number of U.S. Electors



So, who wins?

Total of 538 Electoral Votes



270
TO WIN

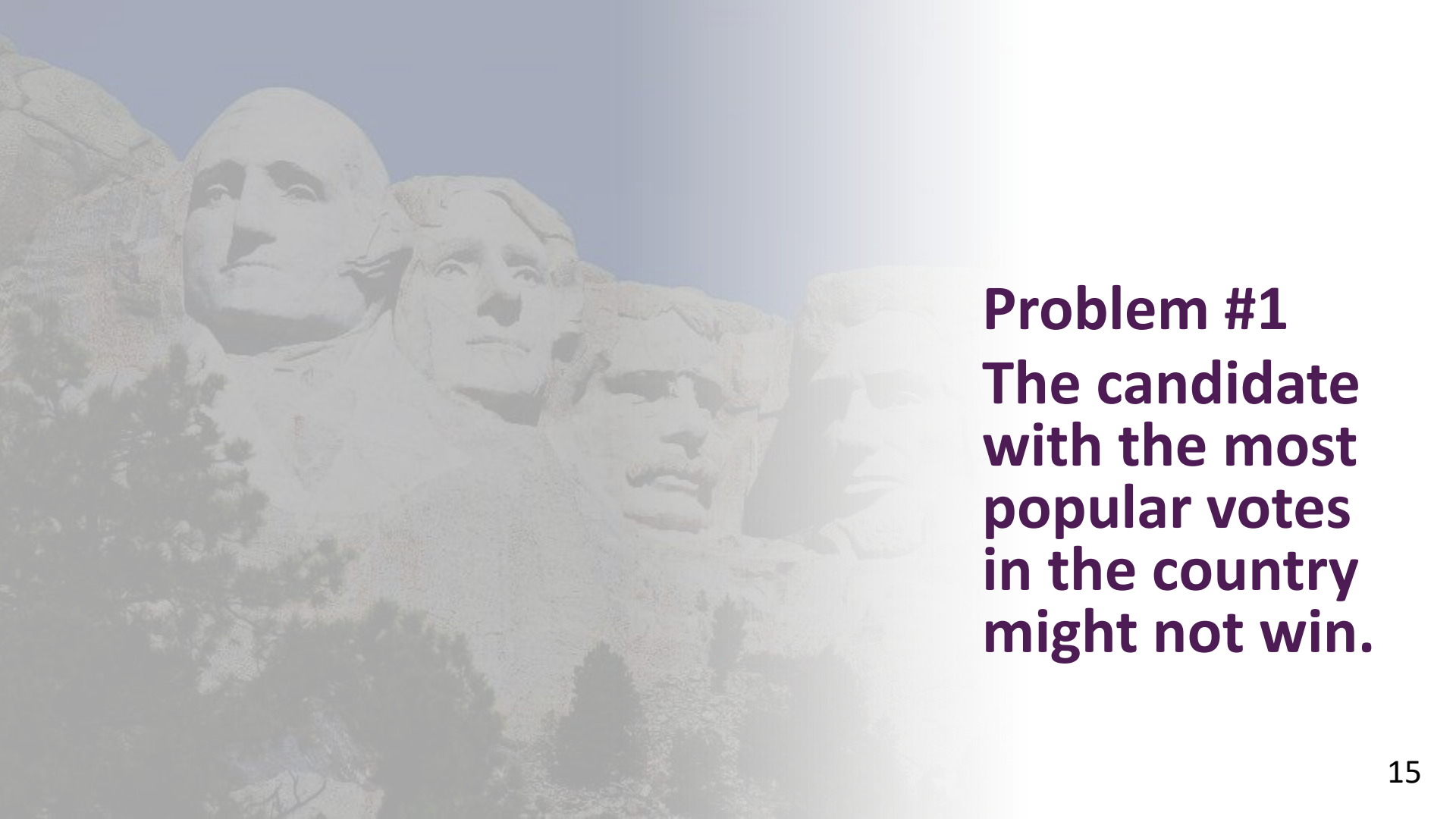
Virginia's Electors

2 Senators + 11 Representatives



= 13 Electors

PROBLEMS WITH “WINNER TAKE ALL” SYSTEM

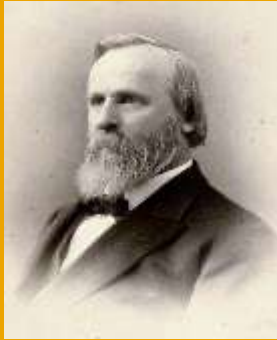


Problem #1
**The candidate
with the most
popular votes
in the country
might not win.**

Five US Presidents did not win with a popular vote majority



JOHN QUINCY ADAMS
1824



**RUTHERFORD B.
HAYES**
1876



**BENJAMIN
HARRISON**
1888



GEORGE W. BUSH
2000



DONALD J. TRUMP
2016

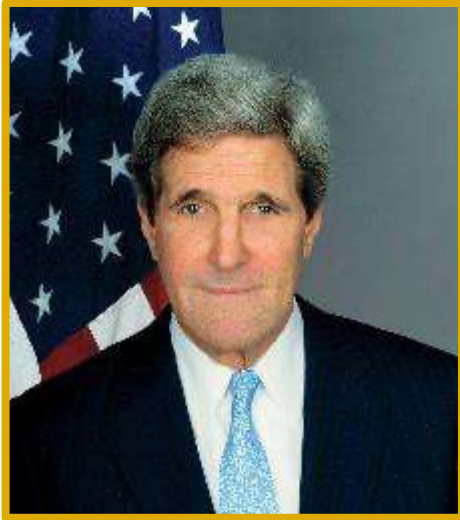
Impact of one Loser becoming President

The Jim Crow Era (1877 – 1964)

After slavery was abolished, the 1876 election traded the civil rights of Black Americans to allow **Rutherford B. Hayes** (who lost the popular vote) to become President.



...And there have been many Near-Misses



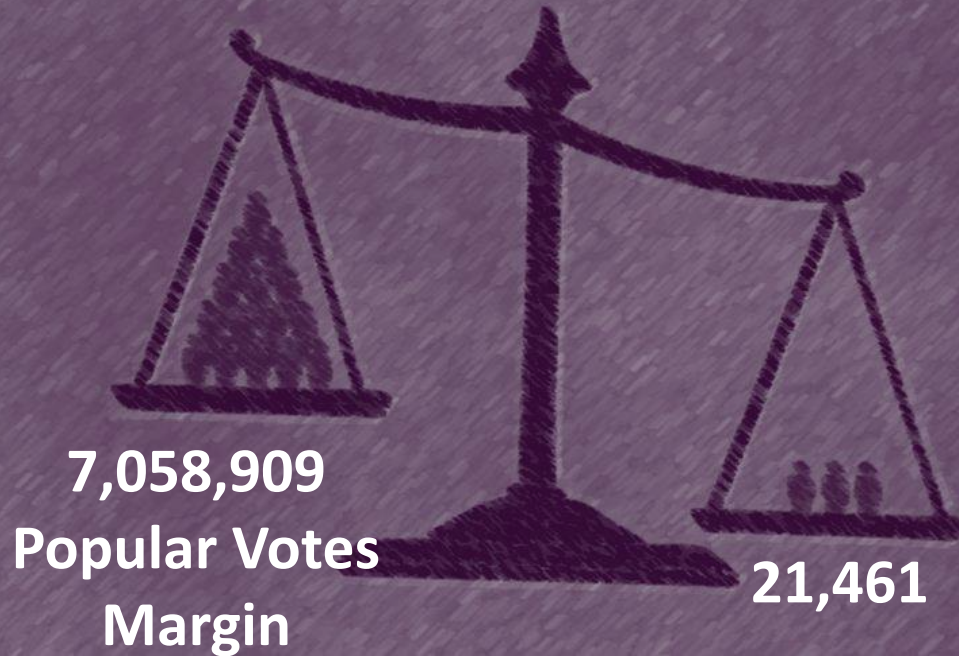
**Example:
In 2004
John Kerry
vs.
George W. Bush**

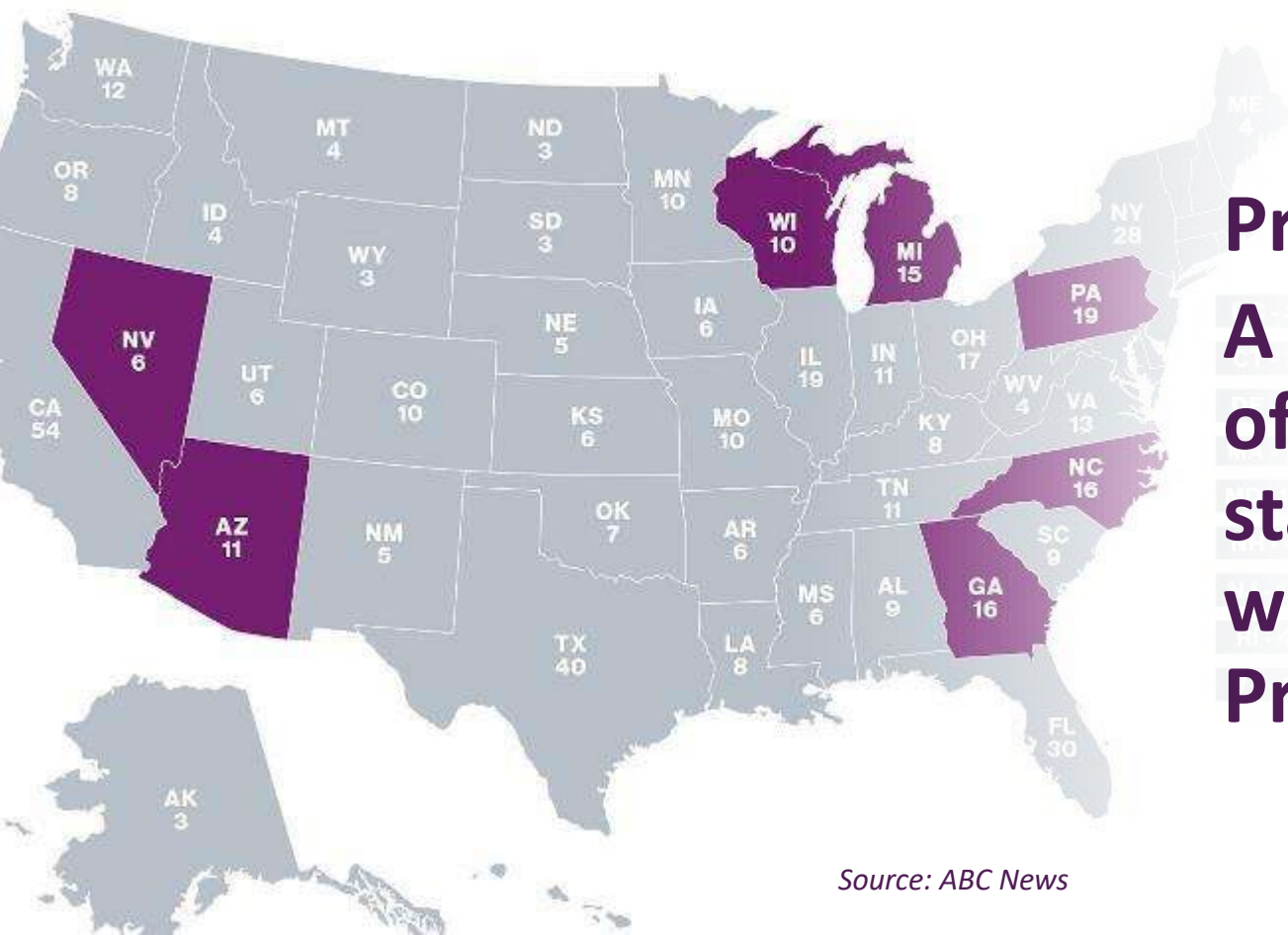


If just 59,393 votes in Ohio had shifted from Bush to Kerry, Ohio's 20 electoral votes would have gone to Kerry, making him president. Yet he lost the popular vote by 3,000,000 **

2020

A Near Miss by only 21,000+ Votes





Problem #2

A small number of battleground states determine who becomes President.

Detrimental Ripple Effect

Voters know their votes “don’t matter”

This leads to voter apathy

And affects Presidential and down-ballot outcomes

Many Votes Don't Count

Red Votes in California

Blue Votes in Texas

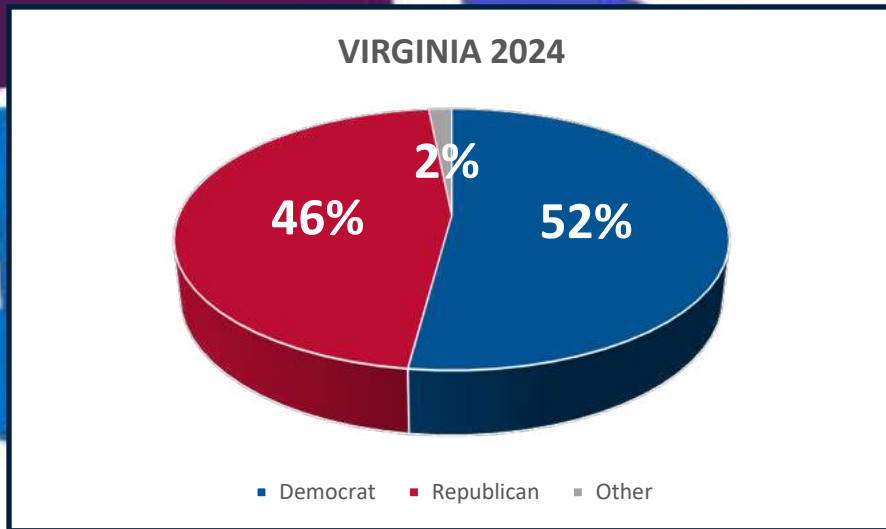
Electoral College
discounts
them All



Many Votes Don't Count

Red Votes in California
Blue Votes in Texas

Electoral College
discounts
them All





Source: CartoonStock

Problem #3
Candidates and campaigns focus on battleground states – other states are just spectators.

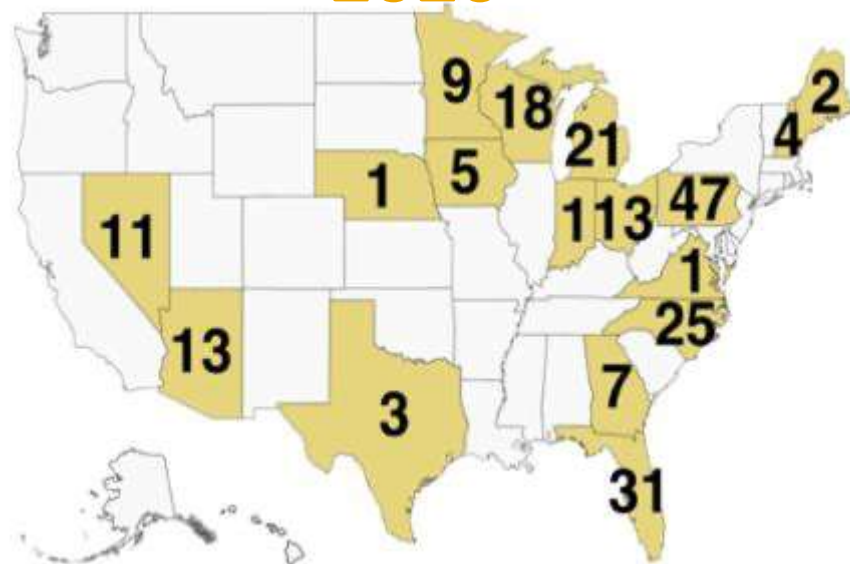
Only swing (battleground) states matter

2024



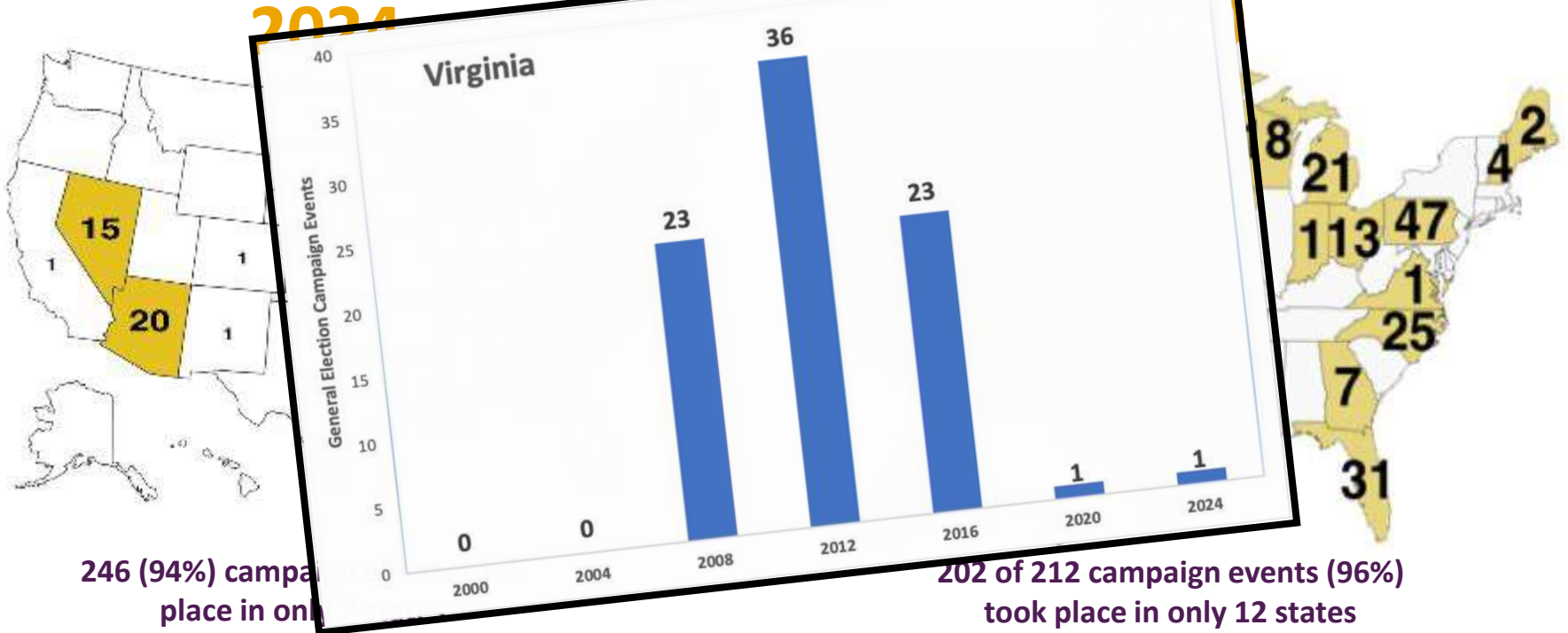
246 (94%) campaign events took place in only 7 states

2020



202 of 212 campaign events (96%) took place in only 12 states

Only swing (battleground) states matter



How do battleground politics playout?



Presidential
campaigns woo
battleground states



Battleground voters'
concerns are heard
by the candidates



Battlegrounds get
rewards from federal
government and
incumbents



Campaigns end up
ignoring 70-80% of
American voters

And, in states where votes don't seem to matter, voter apathy results.



Problem #4 Not All Votes Are Equal

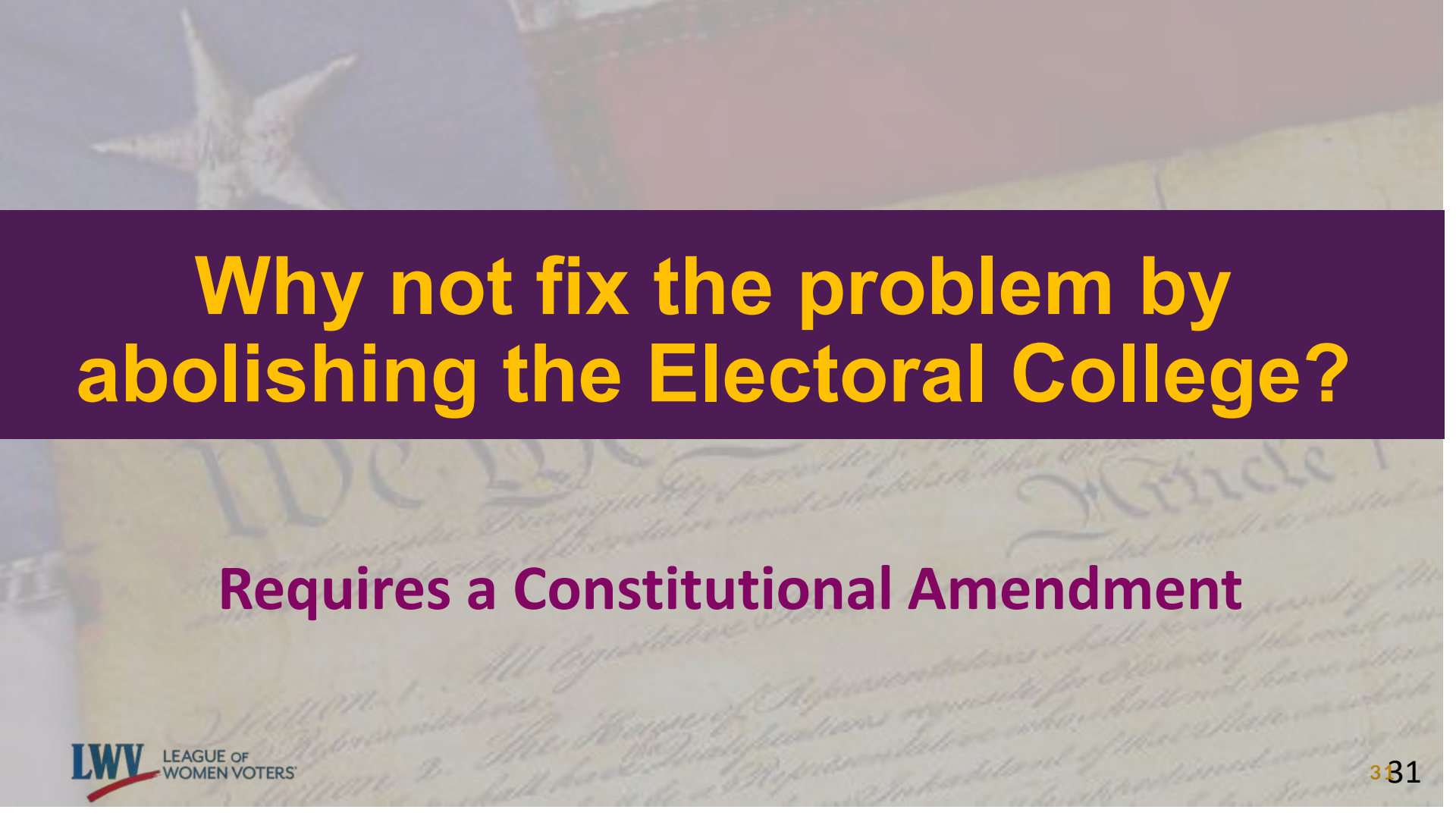
Votes are NOT equal

	WYOMING	VIRGINIA	CALIFORNIA
POPULATION	576,851	8,631,393	39.5 MILLION
ELECTORAL VOTES	3	13	54
NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER ELECTORAL VOTE	192,284	663,953	731,481

How should we elect the president?

**ONE PERSON
ONE VOTE**

The logo consists of a blue circle containing a stylized human figure with arms raised in a 'V' shape. A red checkmark is superimposed over the figure, extending from the top right of the circle. The text 'ONE PERSON' is in blue and 'ONE VOTE' is in red, with the logo acting as the letter 'O' in 'VOTE'.

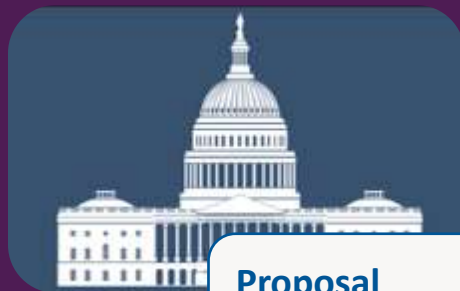


Why not fix the problem by abolishing the Electoral College?

Requires a Constitutional Amendment

Constitutional Amendment Process

Abolishing the Electoral College requires an amendment to the US Constitution.



Proposal

- 2/3 vote US Senate
- 2/3 vote US House



Ratification

- By $\frac{3}{4}$ of state legislatures (38 states)

Capitol image: <https://pixabay.com/vectors/us-capitol-washington-dc-1533368/>

Map image: <https://pixabay.com/vectors/>

While working toward the big goal, NPV can improve the Electoral College system

- Stop using state winner-take-all
(Not in the US Constitution)
- Guarantee the winner is the one with the most votes nationally
 - Ensure every vote is equal

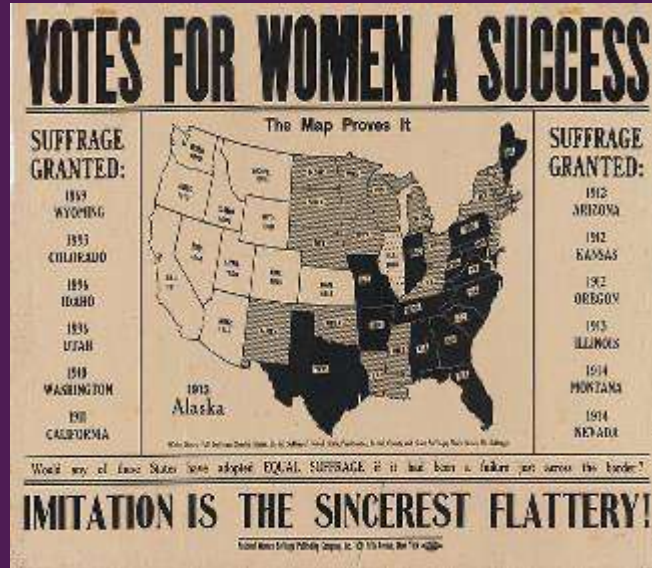
LWV HAS SUPPORTED ABOLISHING THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE FOR 50+ YEARS AND THE USE OF NPV FOR OVER 10



Carrying The Torch

From the 19th Amendment to NPV

Then



Now



HISTORY DIDN'T WAIT FOR THE AMENDMENT. NEITHER SHOULD WE.

How can we *quickly* make the Electoral College fairer?

Pass *the*
National Popular Vote Interstate Compact
law in the states

**National
Popular
Vote!**

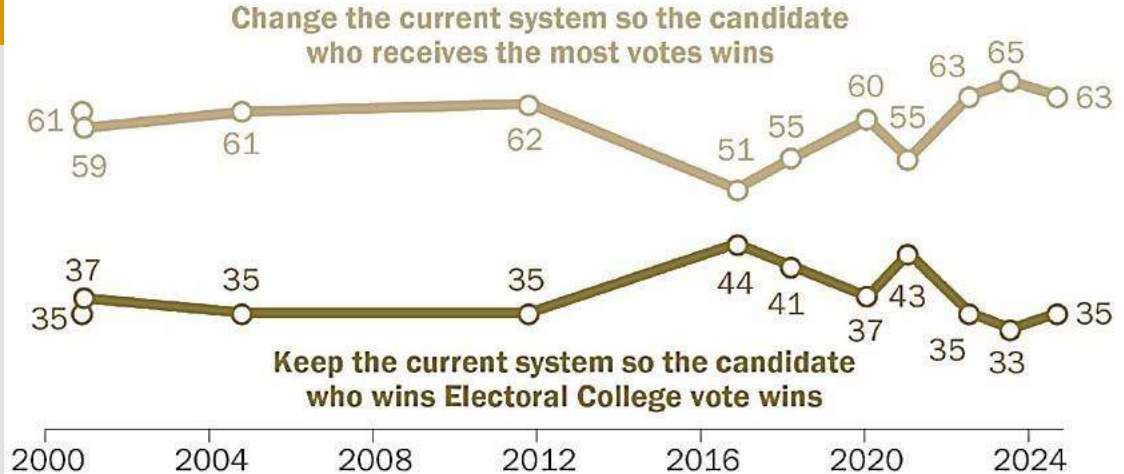
What is NPVIC?

A legal agreement among states to award each state's electoral votes to the Presidential candidate who wins the **NATIONWIDE** popular vote.

Two out of three
of Americans
want election of
the president by
popular vote

By a wide margin, Americans want popular vote – not Electoral College – to decide who is president

Thinking about the way the president is elected in this country, would you prefer to ... (%)



Note: Data prior to 2020 comes from telephone surveys. Data for 2016 is from CNN; data for 2000-2011 is from Gallup. Prior to 2020, the question asked about “amending the Constitution.” Read methodological note on question wording for details. No answer responses are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 26-Sept. 2, 2024.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

61% of Virginians polled in 2020 wanted election of the president by popular vote

Political party	61% of Virginia voters favor a national popular vote for President, including: 73% of Democrats, 57% of Independents, and 50% of Republicans
Part of State	60% of those residing in urban areas, 61% of those in suburban areas, and 61% of those in rural areas favor a national popular vote.
Gender	65% of women and 56% of men favor a national popular vote.
Race	59% of whites and 70% of African-Americans favor a national popular vote.
Age	63% of 18-to-45-year-olds, 61% of 45-to-65-year-olds, and 60% of over-65-year-olds favor a national popular vote.
Education	66% of those with high school education or less, 61% of those with some college, 55% of those with a two-year college degree, 52% of those with a four-year college degree, and 66% of those with a post-graduate degree favor a national popular vote.

**The Constitution gives states the power to
assign their electors without requiring a
change to the U.S. Constitution**

...and states have changed their method many times

**In Virginia this would NOT require a state
constitution amendment either.**

NPV works because it:

**Guarantees victory to
the Presidential
candidate who wins
the most votes
NATIONWIDE**

**Ensures that every
American's vote counts
equally**

**Makes all states
competitive, not just
the battleground
states**

**Honors the
will of the people**

**Encourages candidates
to moderate their
proposals to appeal to
more voters**

**Does not require a
Constitutional
amendment**

**The National Popular
Vote Laws will be
activated when states
with a total of 270
Electoral Votes have
passed NPV legislation.**



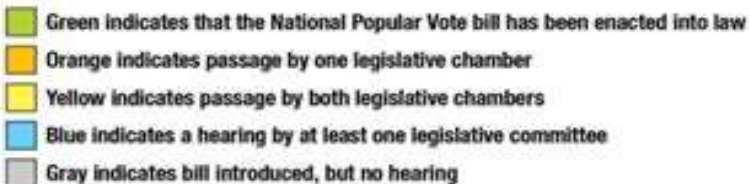
Current status of NPV*

Legislation passed in 17 states plus Washington, D.C.

209 of the required 270 electoral votes.

Only 61 more electoral votes needed

**As of September 2025*



61 Electoral Votes needed to reach 270!



Electoral College Myth #1

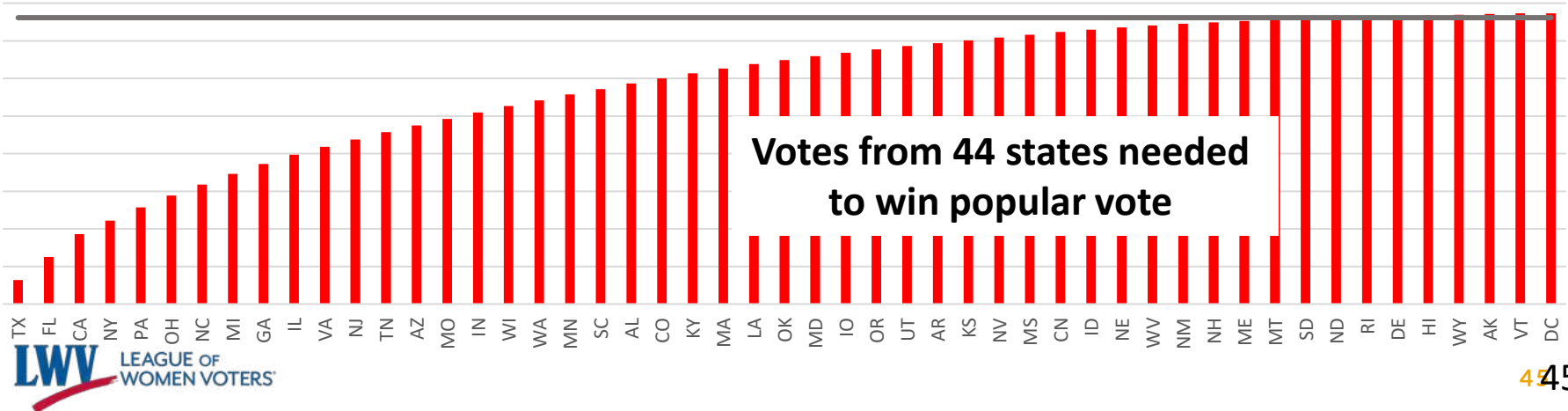
2024

- **Myth**

- Without the Electoral College, our Presidents would be chosen by a few big states, like California and New York

- **Fact**

- Votes from MOST or ALL states would be needed to win the Presidency by a direct popular vote.



Electoral College Myth #1

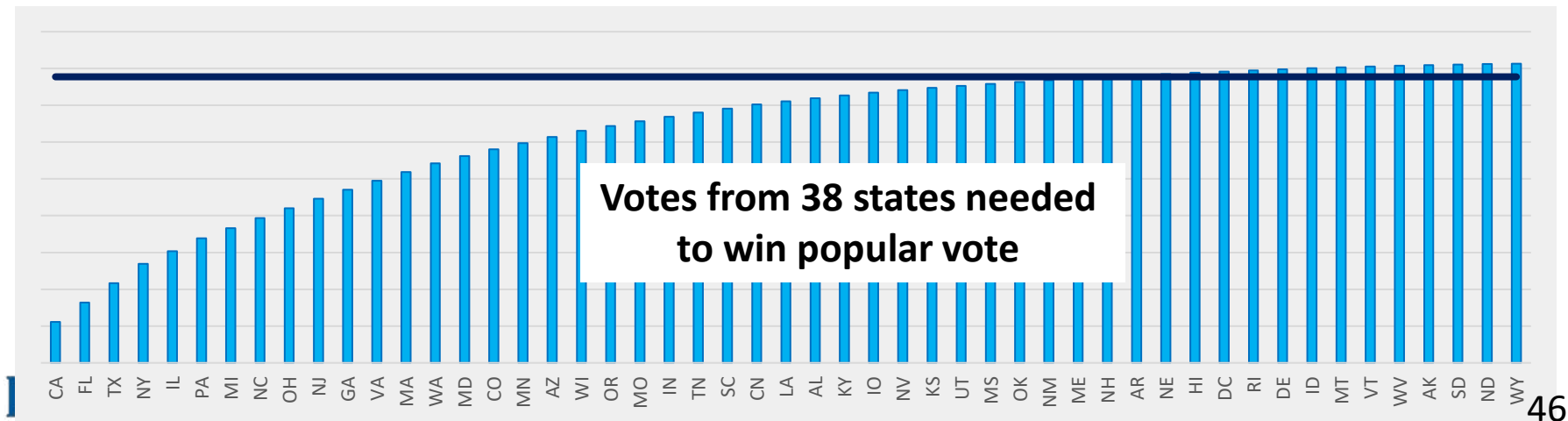
2020

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2012

- Without the Electoral College, our Presidents would be chosen by a few big states, like California and New York

- Votes from MOST or ALL states would be needed to win the Presidency by a direct popular vote.

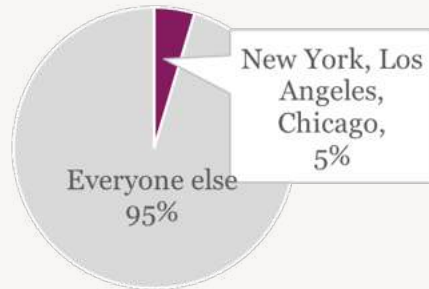
63.4 M Votes Needed to Win Popular Vote



Electoral College Myth #2

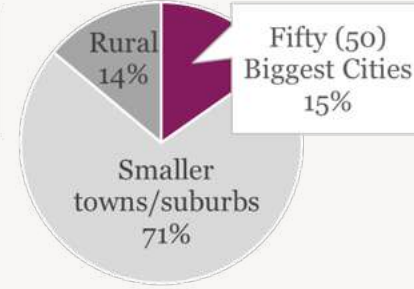
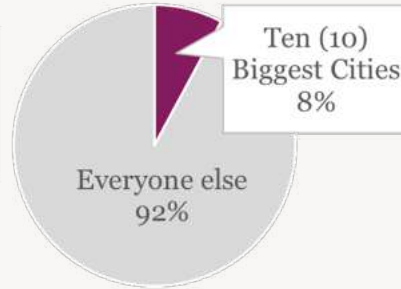
MYTH

- Without the Electoral College, our Presidents would be chosen by a few big cities, like New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago.



FACT

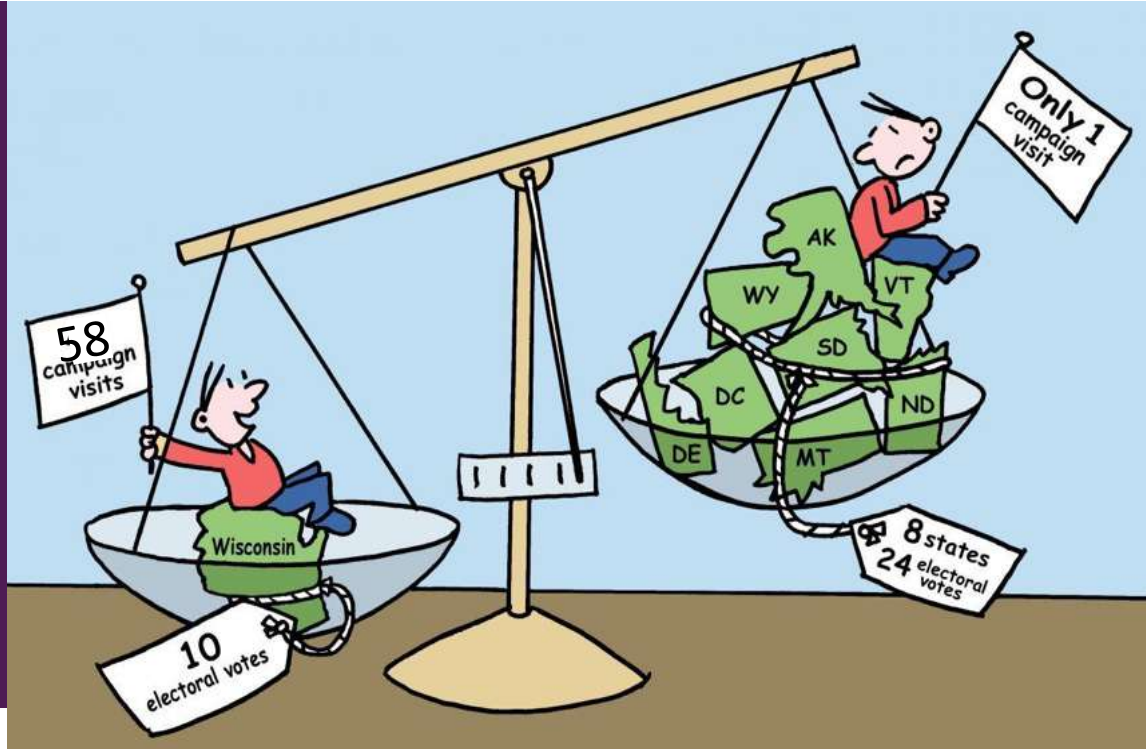
- There aren't enough people living in New York City, Los Angeles and Chicago — or even in the 50 biggest cities — to choose the President on their own.



Electoral College Myth #3

Myth

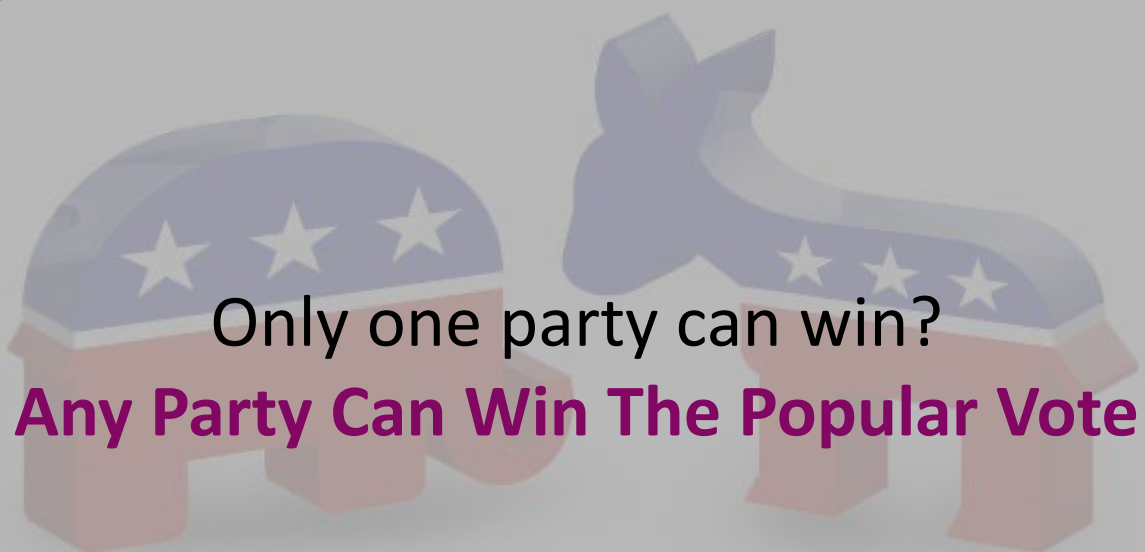
Small states would lose their increased clout.



Fact

Campaigns ignore small states with only 3 or 4 electoral votes.

Electoral College – Myth # 4



Only one party can win?
Any Party Can Win The Popular Vote

Virginia and NPVIC



Goal: Passage of NPVIC legislation in Virginia

State of NPV in Virginia

Past:

2020 House of Delegates passed NPV

Did not get out of Senate committee

Also introduced in...

- **2023 House**
- **2021 House**
- **2019 House**
- **2018 House**
- **2017 House**
- **2009 Senate**

Present:

National Popular Vote Task Force of the LWV of Virginia underway

National Popular Vote national organization is speaking with Delegates and state Senators

Awaiting word on introduction of NPV bill

You can help!

*If Virginia passes the law,
when will the national
popular vote winner
become the president?*

The National Popular Vote will determine the winner of Presidential elections when states with a total of 270 Electoral Votes have passed NPV legislation.

Virginia alone can bring the total to 222* so 4 or 5 additional states will be needed.

* As of September 2025



3 Strategies

Influence Key Legislators

Secure commitments from legislators to sponsor and/or support NPVIC legislation in both houses of the General Assembly of Virginia.

Mobilize and Engage Grassroots Coalitions

Amplify campaign efforts and **build pressure on legislators** to pass NPVIC legislation by leveraging a network of LWV Leagues and other partnering organizations.

Raise Public Awareness and Support

Increase public awareness and understanding and **drive constituent demand on legislators** through communications by presentations and media.

We need and welcome your help



**Learn more. Check
out our NPV
website and other
resources**



**Tell your state
delegate and
senator that you
support Virginia
joining the NPVIC**



**Raise awareness
through
community
presentations,
LTEs, social
networks**



**Join the LWWVA
National Popular
Vote Task Force.**

NPV Resources

Learn more about Virginia efforts



lww.org/virginia/advocacy/national-popular-vote

Learn more about National efforts



nationalpopularvote.com





THANK YOU

Backup Slides

What is an Interstate Compact?

An interstate compact is a formal contract or agreement between states, similar to a treaty, that establishes a legal relationship for addressing shared problems or promoting common goals.

Examples of Interstate Compacts

1. **Border compacts**, agreements between states regarding the establishment of boundaries of the states
2. **Advisory compacts**, agreements to create commissions to study a problem or issue relevant to both states
3. **Regulatory compacts**, agreements to create agencies to create rules and regulations binding to the states

Virginia is in at least 49 Interstate Compacts

Electors in Virginia

- **§ 24.2-241.** State Board to be furnished names of nominated electors selected by political parties; certain national conventions; vacancies.
- A. In elections for President and Vice President of the United States, the appropriate chairman or secretary of each political party as defined in [§ 24.2-101](#) shall furnish to the State Board **by noon on the seventy-fourth day before the presidential election** (i) the names of the individuals nominated to be electors by the party at its convention held for that purpose, with the total number of its nominated electors equaling the whole number of senators and representatives to which the Commonwealth at that time is entitled in the Congress of the United States, together with the names of the political party and of the candidates for President and Vice President for whom the nominated electors are required to vote in the Electoral College, and (ii) a copy of the subscribed and notarized oath required by § 24.2-240.
- B. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A, (i) the state political party chairman of a political party whose national convention has been scheduled to be held after the seventy-fourth day before the presidential election shall file by noon on the seventy-fourth day before the presidential election, with the certification of its nominated electors, a certification of the individuals expected to be nominated for President and Vice President at its national convention; (ii) the State Board shall certify candidates to the local electoral boards, and ballot preparation shall proceed on the basis of the state party chairman's certifications; and (iii) the candidates for President and Vice President nominated by the party at its national convention shall be certified to the State Board no later than 5:00 p.m. on the sixtieth day before the presidential election.
- C. In the event of the death, withdrawal, or disqualification of a candidate of a political party for President or Vice President, or of a nominated elector of a political party, that party may substitute the name of a different candidate or nominated elector, as applicable, before the State Board certifies to the county and city electoral boards the form of the official ballots.
- 2024, c. [801](#).

Electors in Virginia

- **§ 24.2-244. Convening of electors;** filling vacancies; how electors required to vote.
- A. The electors shall convene at the Capitol building in the capital city of the Commonwealth at noon on the first Tuesday after the second Wednesday in December following their election.
- B. Those electors present shall immediately fill, by ballot and by a plurality of votes, any vacancy due to death, withdrawal, disqualification, failure or inability to attend, or other cause. When all electors are present and any vacancies have been filled, they shall proceed to perform the duties required of such electors by the Constitution and laws of the United States.
- C. Electors selected by the state convention of any political party as defined in § 24.2-101 shall be required to vote for the nominees of the national convention to which the state convention elects delegates. Electors named in any petition of qualified voters as provided in § 24.2-242 shall be required to vote for the individuals named for President and for Vice President in the petition. Any elector who refuses to present a ballot, presents an unmarked ballot, or presents a ballot marked in violation of the elector's oath signed and notarized pursuant to § 24.2-240 shall be deemed to vacate the office of elector. Such vacancy shall be filled immediately by those electors present pursuant to subsection B.
- 2024, c. 801.

VOTES FOR WOMEN A SUCCESS

SUFFRAGE GRANTED:

1869
WYOMING

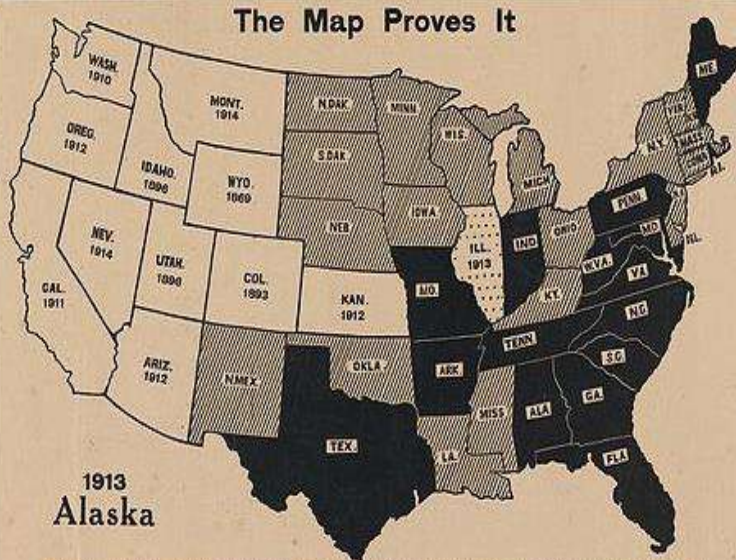
1893
COLORADO

1896
IDAHO

1896
UTAH

1910
WASHINGTON

1911
CALIFORNIA



White States, Full Suffrage; Shaded States, Partial Suffrage; Dotted State, Presidential; Partial County and State Suffrage; Black States, No Suffrage.

SUFFRAGE GRANTED:

1912
ARIZONA

1912
KANSAS

1912
OREGON

1913
ILLINOIS

1914
MONTANA

1914
NEVADA

Would any of these States have adopted EQUAL SUFFRAGE if it had been a failure just across the border?

IMITATION IS THE SINCEREST FLATTERY!

National Woman Suffrage Publishing Company, Inc., 505 Fifth Avenue, New York

Hypothetical Path to Activating the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact

How the compact could enter into effect for the Electoral College by 2028

