



LET EVERY VOTE COUNT EQUALLY

Campaign to reform the Electoral College

Common Ground for Texans
<http://www.cg4tx.org/>

Presidential elections are different from any other election in the US. A Texan's vote for a given party's presidential candidate is actually a vote for that party's slate of Texas electors who, together with other states' electors, constitute the Electoral College. This entity alone decides the election a few weeks after the November general election. This indirect system was instituted when **it was thought that a group of electors could better represent voters' interests than could voters themselves.**

This argument may have had some validity in the 1800s when electors, sitting in their state capitals, were better known to voters, had access to more information than the voters, and could deliberate to choose the best candidate for the country.

But today, voters have access to the same information as electors and they can deliberate as well. Nowadays electors are pledged to vote for their party's candidate, and are not free to deliberate. Today's Electoral College exists mostly because it's difficult to change anything that has been in the Constitution for over 200 years, despite its very **significant flaws:**

- Because of the way electors are apportioned, **a vote in a less-populous state like Vermont has more say** in the outcome of the presidential race **than a vote in a larger state such as Texas.**
- A candidate can **lose the popular vote but win the Electoral College vote.** This has happened numerous times in US history. It happens because most states, including Texas, have a **"winner-take-all"** system, where the candidate with the most votes gets **all** of the state's electors. This system effectively **disenfranchises the losing side** in every state, since they have no representation among the electors their state appoints.
- It motivates presidential candidates **to campaign only in contested states.** In "safe" states (ones that lean heavily toward one party or another), electoral votes are a given and as a result, candidates often decide not to campaign there.

A solution is at hand – it's called the **National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC).** This requires no Constitutional amendment. Instead, the NPVIC is a binding commitment for states that have agreed to it. By signing the Compact, such states simply agree that their electors will cast their votes for President based on which candidate won the **national popular vote – even if that candidate lost in their state.** This guarantees that the candidate with the most votes (nationwide) wins the Presidency.

In order for this to happen, enough states to total 270 electoral votes must join the Compact. A number of states have already signed on, and states with more electoral votes (like Texas, with its 38 electoral votes) are key to hastening the day when the US has **a system that counts every vote equally.** It's not about partisanship, it's a basic matter of fairness.

**Isn't it time for the vote of every Texan to count
as much as the vote of every Vermonter?**

[A more detailed version of this document can be found at <http://cg4tx.org/resources-for-the-npvic/>]