

TALKING POINTS:
State Legislatures Considering the Abolition of the Electoral College

What is going on at the state-level?

- There is a national effort underway to change our Constitution and our system for electing presidents. A handful of individuals from 11 of the most populous states have started campaigning for the National Popular Vote (NPV, www.nationalpopularvote.com).
- The campaign's goal is to get states with at least 270 votes in the Electoral College (EC) to enact identical bills requiring their own electors to ignore the winner of their state's election and cast all their state's ballots for the candidate who the state believes received more popular votes than the other candidates nationwide, even if he fails to win a majority of the popular vote.
- Bills to abolish the EC are currently being drafted and introduced in almost all 50 states.
- In April 2006, a bill to abolish the EC passed the Colorado state Senate.
- The NPV has been editorially endorsed by the *New York Times*, which called the EC an "anti-democratic relic."

What would be the consequences of abolishing the EC?

- Votes of Americans in about 25 states would be rendered irrelevant because candidates would zero in on piling up votes in large-population states.
- Election efforts would be largely urban. Rural states' issues wouldn't matter as much; big city populations and urban issues would become the focus of campaigns; thus, the character of campaigns and presidents would change.
- Democratic factionalism would increase, resulting in a multicandidate/multiparty system, instead of the two-party system we currently have.
- Direct election would lead to weaker presidents, since the winner only needs the highest percentage of votes, no matter how small.
- In any direct national election, there would be increased election fraud-concerns.

Why should we work to preserve the EC?

- **The EC represents the genius of our Founding Fathers and it was part of the great compromise which transformed us from 13 rival colonies into a constitutional republic.**
- **This great compromise gave us a Congress consisting of the Senate based on equal representation of the states and the House based on population. The EC is the mirror image of this compromise and allows all states to be players in the process of electing our President.**
- **The EC is the vehicle that gives us a President who achieves a *majority* in a functioning political process.**
- **Without the EC, we would always be saddled with minority Presidents without an adequate basis of support for leadership.**
- **The EC ensures that no single faction or issue can elect a president because he must win many diverse states to be elected.**

Conclusions:

- **This campaign effort is likely just the beginning of an effort to bring national government under the control of large and liberal states.**
- **The abolition of the EC contradicts our constitutional republic's state and federal government sharing of powers.**
- **Choosing presidents is one of our states' powers, and we should not remove it to begin a centralized national American government!**