

National Popular Vote Interstate Compact

Electing the President who receives the most votes in the COUNTRY based on an agreement between the states



Did you know?

There have been 5 times when the presidential candidate who received the most votes nationwide **LOST** the election!

1824 – Andrew Jackson

1876 – Samuel Tilden

1888 – Grover Cleveland

2000 – Al Gore

2016 – Hillary Clinton



The U.S. Constitution established the Electoral College to elect the President of the United States

The U.S. Constitution says in Article 2, Section 1:

“Each state shall appoint, in such manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors, equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress.”

But, the Constitution does not say how this appointment of electors is supposed to be accomplished in each state.

Presidents are elected by the number of *electoral* votes they receive

- When you vote for President, you are really casting a ballot for a slate of “electors” for your state.
- Each state political party chooses a slate of electors. Selection of electors and their responsibilities are determined by state (not federal) law.
- Electors are pledged to vote for their party’s candidate in the Electoral College.
- In Missouri, and most states, names of electors do not appear on the ballot; only the presidential candidates are shown.

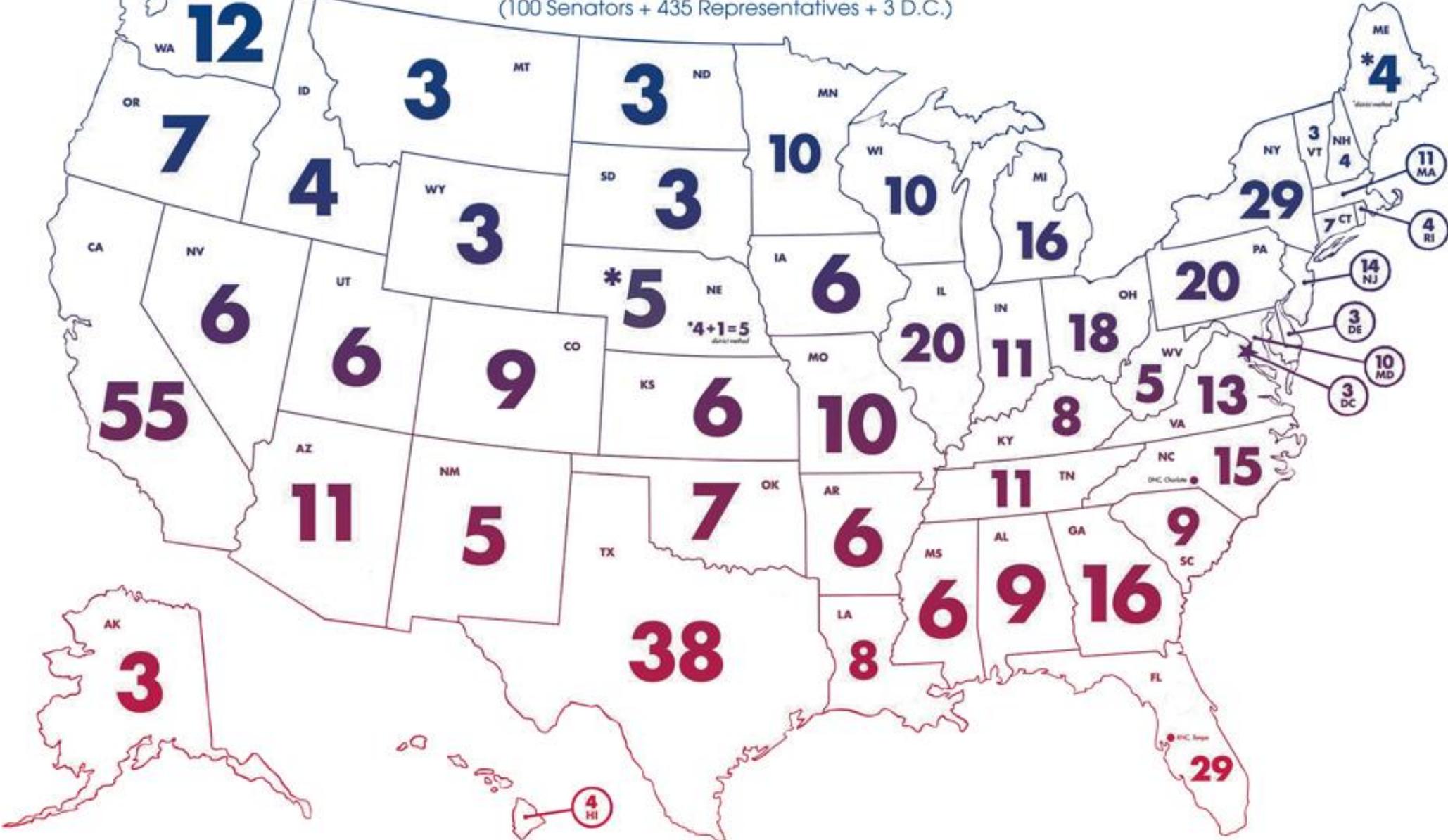
Presidents are elected by the number of electoral votes they receive (cont.)

- ❑ The candidate who wins the popular vote in a state gets to have their entire slate of electors certified. “Winner takes all.” (Maine and Nebraska work differently.)
- ❑ Nationwide, there are 538 electors. A state gets 1 elector for each House member + 2 (for their Senators). In addition, the District of Columbia gets 3. U.S. territories such as Puerto Rico, Guam, etc. get none. 435 in House + 100 in Senate + 3 for DC = 538 electoral votes total
- ❑ A candidate must receive 270 or more votes to win: $538/2 + 1$.
- ❑ According to the Constitution, if no candidate gets 270 votes, the House of Representatives meets to decide the winner.



Electoral Votes in the US (2012)

Total Votes: 538 | Vote to win: 270
(100 Senators + 435 Representatives + 3 D.C.)



Electors represent a different number of people in each state

Wyoming

3 electors

573,720 population

1 elector : 191,240 people

California

55 electors

39.78 million population

1 elector : 723,300 people

Missouri

10 electors

6.14 million population

1 elector : 614,000 people

Florida

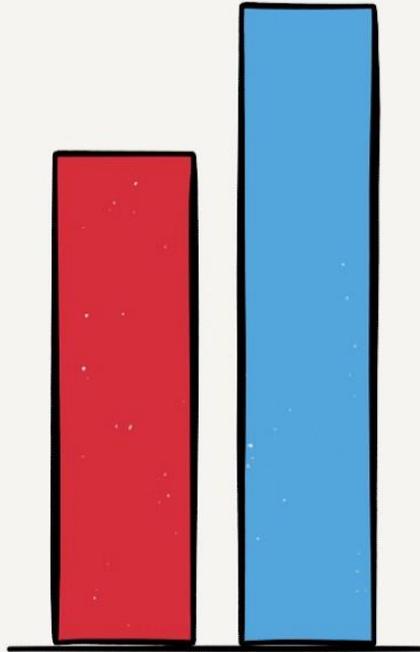
29 electors

21.31 million population

1 elector : 734,800 people

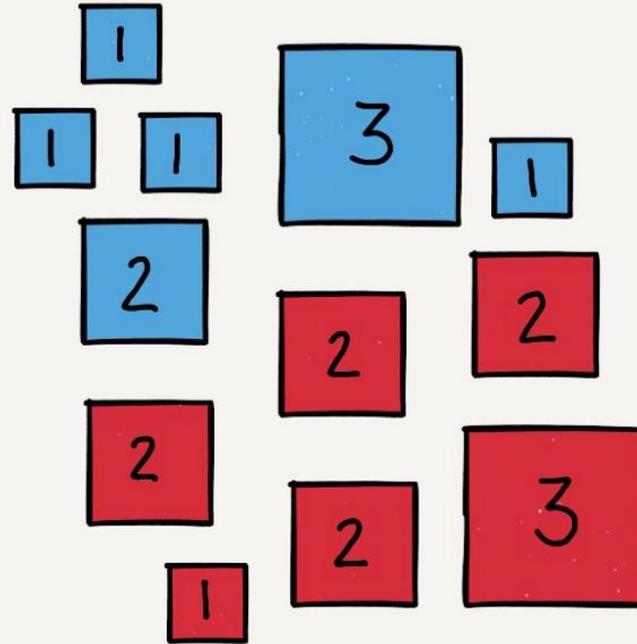


POPULAR VOTE



 WINS

ELECTORAL COLLEGE



 9
 12

11 NEEDED TO WIN

 WINS

Major Problems with current system

The WINNER LOSES.

A candidate can win without getting the most popular votes in all 50 states.

Many states are IGNORED in campaigning.

Voter issues in non-competitive states are not addressed.

Example from 2012:

- 100% general election campaign events were in only 12 states (because races were close, 45%-51%)
- 2/3 of events were concentrated in only 4 states
- 38 states ignored because one candidate was safely ahead
- In battleground states candidates campaign in all parts of the state.



So why not just abolish the Electoral College?

Abolishing the Electoral College requires an amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

LWVUS Position: Abolish the Electoral College.

Direct popular vote is essential for representative government.

Until the EC is abolished, the League believes the NPV is a way to achieve direct presidential election.



How does National Popular Vote Interstate Compact work?

- State legislatures enact a law pledging all their state's electoral votes to the candidate who gets the most popular votes of ALL 50 States and D.C. combined, not just votes in the participating states.
- The bill would take effect ONLY when enacted by enough states to reach the majority of electoral votes - 270 of the 538.
- This bill "guarantees" the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most votes in ALL 50 states and D.C.
- This bill must be passed by the legislatures of the enacting states because the U.S. Constitution says that the state legislature appoints and directs the Electors.



Status of NPV in the US

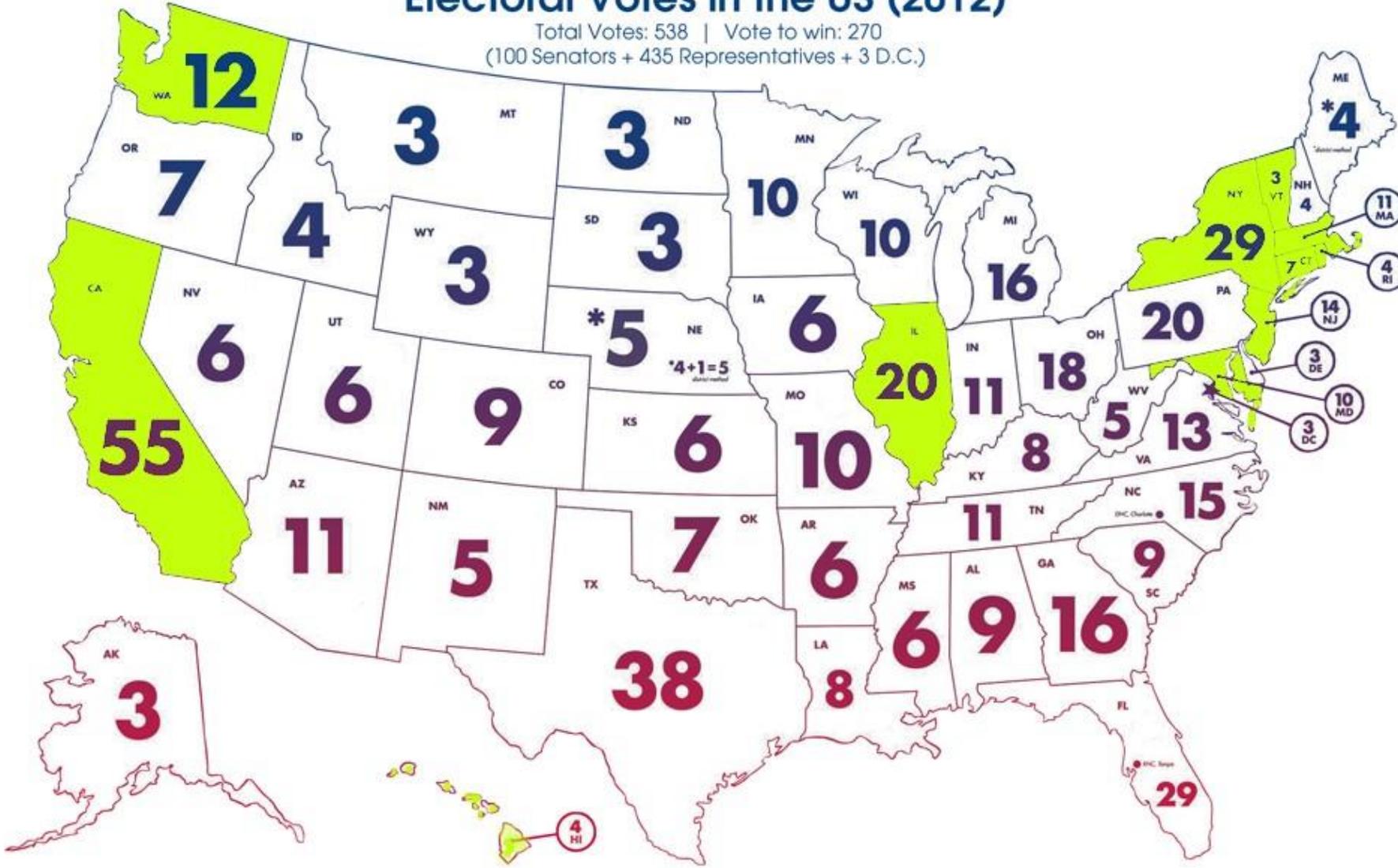
- ❑ 12 states have passed NPV = 172 electoral votes
- ❑ Only 98 more electoral votes needed! Then the compact can go into effect in all the states that passed the NPV legislation.
- ❑ At LWWUS 2018 convention, a resolution was passed to encourage all state Leagues to advocate for NPV.

Approximately 65%-75% of voters nationwide support electing the President by a direct vote.



Electoral Votes in the US (2012)

Total Votes: 538 | Vote to win: 270
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States that passed the NPVIC

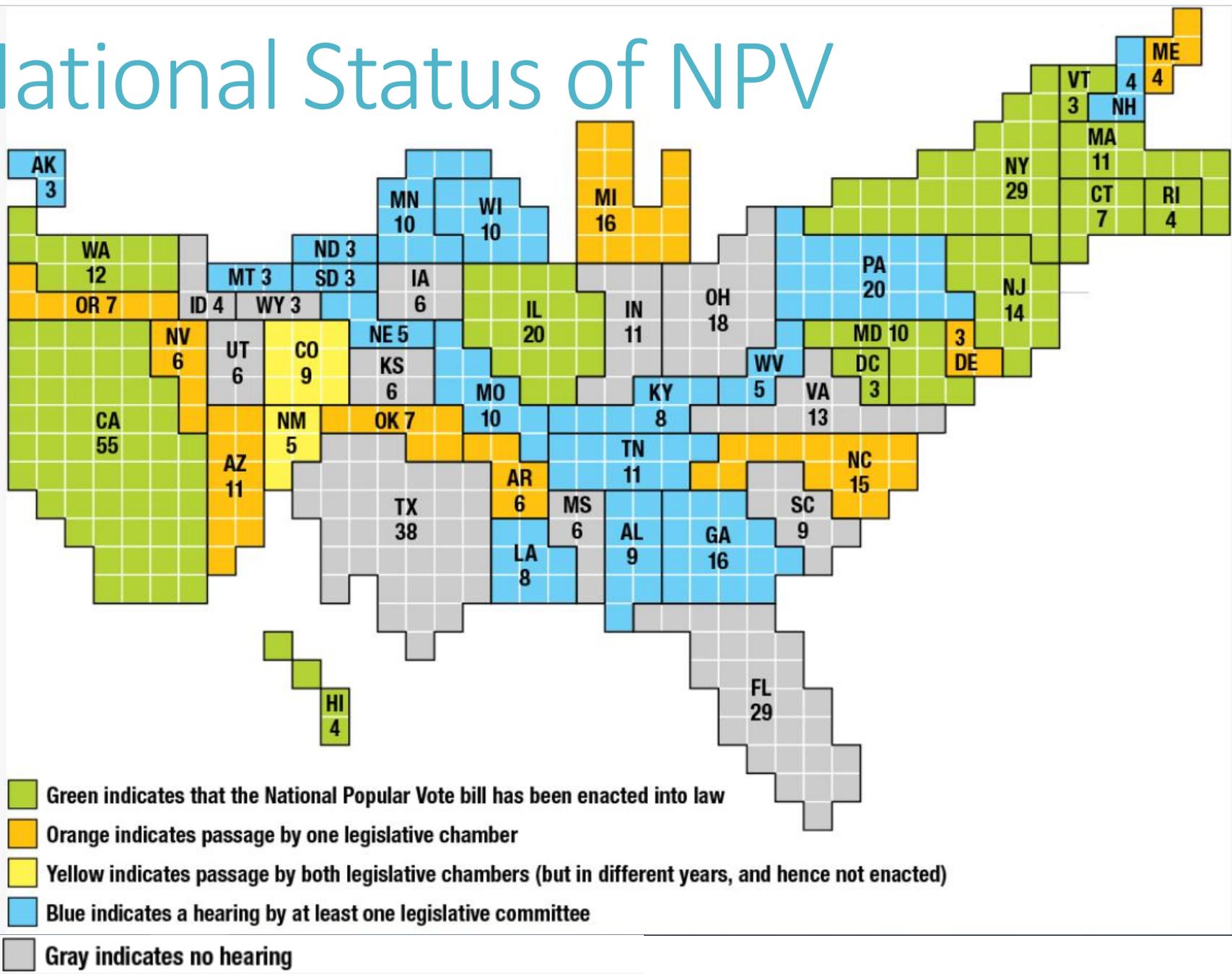
California (2011)	55 votes
Connecticut (2018)	7
DC (2010)	3
Hawaii (2008)	4
Illinois (2008)	20
Maryland (2007)	10
Massachusetts (2010)	11
New Jersey (2007)	14
New York (2014)	29
Rhode Island (2013)	4
Vermont (2011)	3
Washington (2009)	12
TOTAL	172
Additional needed	98

Status of NPV in Missouri

- ❑ 2015 Missouri Voter Survey showed 75% overall support for the idea that the President should be the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states.
- ❑ 2018 - NPV bill introduced by Rep. John Carpenter(D)
- ❑ 2017 - NPV bill introduced by Rep. John Carpenter(D)
- ❑ 2016, Feb. - NPV bill introduced by Senators Dave Schatz (R) and Rob Schaaf (R)
- ❑ 2016, Jan. – NPV bills introduced by Reps Tony Dugger (R) and Jeremy LaFaver (R)
- ❑ 2012 – NPV bill introduced by bi-partisan group of 8 representatives
- ❑ 2011 – NPV bill introduced by bi-partisan group of 10 representatives
- ❑ 2009 – NPV bill introduced by group of 7 representatives
- ❑ 2007 – NPV bill introduced by group of 6 representatives
- ❑ 2006 – NPV bill introduced by 2 representatives



National Status of NPV



- Green indicates that the National Popular Vote bill has been enacted into law
- Orange indicates passage by one legislative chamber
- Yellow indicates passage by both legislative chambers (but in different years, and hence not enacted)
- Blue indicates a hearing by at least one legislative committee
- Gray indicates no hearing



National Popular Vote Summary

- The candidate with most popular votes in the entire country wins!
- Every voter in every state will be relevant in every presidential campaign.
- Every vote will be equally meaningful in every election.
- Voting power for all citizens is fair.
- NPV encourages citizen participation.
- Campaigns would no longer ignore 2/3 of the states. More voters interests would be addressed.
- NPV encourages a culture of higher voter turnout when every voter feels important



NPV Concerns & Responses

- Are Interstate Compacts legitimate?
- Must there be congressional approval?
- Will individual's votes be counted equally in all states?

- There are other compacts that are sanctioned by the Constitution
- Supreme Court has ruled that many compacts need no congressional approval, but the Compact plans to seek the consent of Congress when many states adopt.
- All voters in compacting and non-compacting states will be counted.

Questions???