

April National Debate of the Month

Resolved, that the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact should be adopted.

Background: In response to some of the public's dissatisfaction with the Electoral College, individuals and politicians have proposed the [National Popular Vote Interstate Compact](#), which would guarantee the presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes across all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The Compact is a state-based approach that preserves the Electoral College, and has been enacted by 16 jurisdictions possessing 196 electoral votes.

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact will go into effect when enacted by states possessing a majority of the electoral votes—that is, enough to elect the President (270 of 538). At that time, every voter in the country will acquire a direct vote for a group of at least 270 presidential electors supporting their choice for President. All of this group of 270+ presidential electors will be supporters of the candidate who received the most popular votes in all 50 states and DC—thus making that candidate President. Those in favor of the Compact argue that it will give each individual voter an equally weighted vote. Those against the adoption of the Compact argue that smaller states will be put at a disadvantage in elections, therefore making the Compact detrimental on a larger scale.

Pro:

- The Compact ensures that *every* vote, in *every* state, will matter in *every* presidential election, thus solving the issue of disproportionate voting power among states.
- The Compact preserves the power of the states in a presidential election, thus preventing federal tyranny in regards to the selection of leaders.
- The existing system of “winner take all” elections alienates voters and is an inherently inequitable process of election. This compact directly serves to alleviate this issue, and therefore should be adopted.

Con:

- This compact undermines the republic ideals of the United States. The original system of the Electoral College was founded on the basis of preserving the republic and preventing tyranny of the majority.
- Smaller states will be put at a disadvantage with this compact, as their smaller populations will result in fewer popular votes. Therefore, in order to maintain equality, this system should not be adopted.
- The existing Electoral College system has failed a minimal amount of times, and the popular vote would present a variety of challenges and faults. Namely, miscounting votes would prolong the elections process and create inefficiency in electing leaders.