

Here are several sample pieces that support the National Popular Vote Compact. The first is the testimony that LWVCT submitted for the GAE public hearing on February 22, 2017. Local leagues are welcome to use all or part of this testimony to craft a letter to the editor, post it on your website or FB feed.

**CGA Government Administration and Elections Committee February 22, 2017 Public Hearing Testimony Submitted by Yvonne Senturia, Election Law Specialist**

The League of Women Voters of Connecticut is a nonpartisan, statewide organization committed to effective public policy, the active involvement of citizens in their government and improving the electoral process. We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on bills before you today.

The League of Women Voters believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice President is best for representative government. The National Popular Vote (NPV) Compact provides a way to achieve the goal of choosing the President of the United States by popular vote without amending the Constitution, which is a protracted process with delayed outcome. The NPV Compact would guaranty the winner of the popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia becomes the President

Voters believe that the candidate who “wins” an election should be the candidate who received the most votes – either a majority or a plurality (in multi-candidate elections) in our democracy based on “one person, one vote.” When this does not occur, the legitimacy of our electoral system is called into question. Yet out of our nation’s 56 presidential elections, there have been five elections in which the candidate elected to the presidency was not the person who won the most votes.

Under the current Electoral College system, presidential candidates tend to focus their campaigns on the relatively few battleground states that determine an Electoral College victory or loss. A large part of the country is virtually ignored by the candidates, and residents of non-key states become passive observers of the election process. With a shift to the NPV Compact, voters across the country, including Connecticut, would have a greater sense that their votes do indeed count in a meaningful way and would have an incentive to pay attention, vote and participate in the electoral process. The League believes that it is more important than ever that we preserve the democratic ideal of making each vote count.

The following is commentary written by Elaine Wiant, President of LWV Texas and Dan Eckham, secretary for Common Ground for Texans for the American-Statesman. You are welcome to post it to your website or FB feed. The link is included at the end of the commentary.

**Commentary: National popular vote ensures every vote counts equally**

From my Statesman.com Tuesday, March 14, 2017

The Electoral College is a blemish on our representative democracy. While other elections are determined by a simple tally of everyone’s vote, presidential elections segregate votes by state.

Presidents are elected not by the people but by Electoral College electors. Each state appoints electors equal to its total number of U.S. House members and senators. In most states the winner of the popular vote claims all of that state’s electors. This winner-take-all rule makes some states “safe” and others “swing” – rendering most people’s votes less relevant than they otherwise would be.

When a state is safely either “red”, like Texas, or “blue”, like California, neither candidate has any incentive to campaign there. Major-party presidential nominees largely ignore safe states, except as sources of money to spend elsewhere.

Eliminating the Electoral College would require a constitutional amendment approved by three-fourths of the states – a high hurdle. However, the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact offers a way to make the popular vote

decisive without requiring an amendment. It would ensure that every American's vote is valued, not just those in swing states. How does the compact work?

Each member state agrees to appoint a slate of electors pledged to vote for whoever wins the most votes nationwide — regardless of who wins in their state. The agreement doesn't take effect until the member states command the 270 electors required to win the presidency.

Why would the electors all vote for someone who didn't win their state? States have the right to appoint electors however they see fit. Texas now appoints its electors according to the state popular vote. Under the popular vote compact, Texas would appoint them according to the national popular vote, thus ensuring that the presidential outcome reflects the national will. "One person, one vote" is the most fundamental democratic principle, one that we will only attain when we value every presidential vote equally.

Ten states and the District of Columbia have already joined the compact. Members of the compact boast 165 electors — or 61 percent of the number needed to ensure a popularly elected president. If Texas and enough other states join, our next president could be elected by a national popular vote.

Texas House members Ina Minjarez and Celia Israel recently introduced a bill adopting the popular vote compact, House Bill 496. Texans of any party who want their votes to matter should urge their state representatives to support this legislation.

This shouldn't be a partisan issue, since the Electoral College can rob either major party of the presidency. Apart from 2016, the Electoral College trumped the popular vote in 1876, 1888, 2000 and, arguably, in 1960.

The Electoral College is a relic of the 18th century, when many people were denied the right to vote. The Founding Fathers expected the electors to deliberate before voting; they thought that most elections would be decided finally in the House. Neither prediction proved accurate. Isn't it time to bring our democracy into the 21st century?

No person's vote should have more — or less — importance than any other's. Make them all count equally. Pass HB 496 for Texas to join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

Wiant is president of the League of Women Voters of Texas. Eckam is secretary for Common Ground for Texans.

From my Statesman.com Tuesday, March 14, 2017

<http://www.mystatesman.com/news/opinion/commentary-national-popular-vote-ensures-every-vote-counts-equally/6iUtZgDyvQZOLshsA7HEIJ/>

LWV Larimer County (Colorado) Posted this support for NPVCompact

### **Support changes to the Electoral College system**

POSTED: 03/08/2017 07:51:47 PM MST

The League of Women Voters of Larimer County supports the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact as it corrects a basic anomaly in the U.S. Constitution — the Electoral College.

The NPVIC is an agreement among states to award all their respective electoral votes to whichever presidential candidate wins the overall popular vote. It has become commonly accepted that the winner of an election is the person who receives the most popular votes. Four times in our history this has not been the case when electing the president. This defies the notion of one-person one-vote.

When the Founding Fathers established the Electoral College, they envisioned it would serve as a deliberative body that would ensure the general population would not elect someone unqualified for the office and to guard against foreign influence in our elections. Originally, some electors were chosen by state legislatures. With the creation of political parties, electors increasingly identified with a particular party and voted accordingly. After 1860, electors

were chosen by a statewide popular vote and the Electoral College ceased to act as a deliberative body; the reasons for its creation are no longer germane.

The NPVIC is not new to the Colorado General Assembly. It passed the Senate in 2006 and 2007 and the House in 2009. Since it never passed both chambers in the same session, Colorado has not yet joined the compact.

The Founding Fathers created the Electoral College to ensure our republican form of government would endure. With changing circumstances, today the Electoral College diminishes the ideal of a truly representative government. It diminishes minority voices in all states, creates regional divides and concentrates campaign efforts to a small number of states. A national election for president needs a national dialogue where concerns of all citizens are heard and thoroughly debated.

Nancy Crow

Fort Collins

Nancy Crow is the president-elect of the Colorado League of Women Voters