

**Draft V. 2**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF WASHINGTON**  
**COUNTY, OREGON**  
**DPWC 2017-034**

**In Support of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (1)**

**WHEREAS** on five occasions the winner of the national popular vote for President of the United States did not become President, notably in 2016 and twice since 2000; and

**WHEREAS** the Electoral College violates the democratic principle of “one person, one vote,” giving unequal power to voters in different states such that it takes 3.2 times as many votes in California, the most populous state, to elect an elector as it does in Wyoming, the least populous state; and

**WHEREAS** shifting demographics make such mismatches between the popular vote and the electoral vote likely to happen with increasing frequency in the future; and

**WHEREAS** the Electoral College results in “wasted” votes since any votes cast in excess of a simple majority in a state add nothing to the outcome and are therefore “wasted”; and

**WHEREAS** this effect is most profound in states that lean strongly toward one candidate; and

**WHEREAS** the Electoral College process creates “swing states,” in which small differences voter preference can determine the election outcome for the entire country; and

**WHEREAS** due to their lopsided importance, swing states receive disproportionate numbers of candidate visits and vastly more campaign spending; and

**WHEREAS** because swing states are identified years in advance, political operatives have clear guidance on where to concentrate voter suppression efforts, voting machine hacking, and other types of voter fraud; and

**WHEREAS** the Electoral College heightens a “red state/blue state” mentality, reinforcing an “us versus them” attitude and deepening perceived political divides; and

**WHEREAS** a majority of Americans support the idea that the winner of the national popular vote should be President (3); and

**WHEREAS** the Electoral College, as established in the US Constitution (2) would be difficult to repeal and replace with a popular national vote because a Constitutional Amendment requires ratification by  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the state legislatures; and

**WHEREAS** an alternative that produces the same result is desirable:

**THEREFORE, We, the Democratic Party of Washington County, Oregon Resolve as Follows:**

1. We urge the Oregon State Legislature to sign on to the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, which assigns all of the state’s electors to the winner of the national popular vote.

*(Note: This law/compact will take effect when it has been adopted by states sufficient to guarantee an electoral vote majority [currently 270 votes]).*

2. We authorize submittal of this resolution for consideration by the Democratic Party of Oregon during its March, 2017 Central Committee meeting requesting action by the Oregon legislature during the 2017 session.

*Note #1: The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact has been enacted into law in 10 states and the District of Columbia, representing 165 electoral votes (CA, DC, HI, IL, MA, MD, NJ, NY, RI, VT and WA). Oregon's seven electoral votes to the total would bring the total to 172.*

*Note #2: HB3475(4), whose purpose was to adopt this compact, was passed by the Oregon House of Representatives during the 2015 legislative session by a vote of 37 to 21. The corresponding bill SB 680 (5) was referred to committee but was not brought to a vote.*

Resolution submitted: Will Hobbs, WashCoDems P&RC; approved for 1<sup>st</sup> reading – January 10, 2017.

**References:**

- (1) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National\\_Popular\\_Vote\\_Interstate\\_Compact](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Popular_Vote_Interstate_Compact)
- (2) U.S. Constitution, Article II, Section 1, Clause 3 - amended by the Twelfth Amendment)
- (3) <http://www.nationalpopularvote.com/>
- (3) <http://gov.oregonlive.com/bill/2015/HB3475/>
- (2) <http://gov.oregonlive.com/bill/2015/SB680/>