MICHIGAN PATRIOTS FOR NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE

October 31, 2011

Dear State Legislator,

In 1787, after debating the method of electing the president for 22 days and conducting 30 votes on the matter, delegates at the Constitutional Convention never agreed on a method for choosing the presidential electors. The matter was simply turned over to the states as article II, section I of the U.S. Constitution asserts:

"Each State shall appoint in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors"

Michigan's current "winner-take-all" method of awarding electoral votes, while constitutional, was NOT advocated by the Founding Fathers. Today the winner-take-all system has forced Michigan to become a "flyover" state in presidential elections. Not only do the presidential candidates ignore Michigan votes, our state's issues take a backseat to the "battleground" states in the policy making process.

National Popular Vote creates a voluntary compact between any combination of states which collectively total at least 270 electoral votes – a majority of the Electoral College required to elect the President of the United States. The compact states would then award their electoral votes to whichever presidential candidate who wins the most votes in all 50 states.

The National Popular Vote plan achieves the following:

- Preserves the Constitution and the role of our Electoral College.
- Exercises state power as delineated in Article II, Section I of the Constitution which declares; *"Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors..."*
- Discourages voter fraud because every vote would count in every state, as opposed to the current system where just a handful of fraudulent votes in the right battleground state can steal a national election.
- Provides an incentive for presidential candidates to campaign in a vastly larger number of states beyond the current 6 to 10 battleground states that are determined by campaign consultants.

We urge you, as a State Legislator, to make Michigan votes count by exercising your constitutional power to change the way Michigan awards her electoral votes. National Popular Vote is good for our constitutional republic and good for Michigan.

Sincerely,

Jeff Farnsworth
Allegan, MI

Michigan Patriots for National Popular Vote is a group of patriotic and conservative minded folks who cherish and treasure our country, and the values and principles of its Founding Fathers as embodied by our Constitution.

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National Popular Election of the President

National Popular Vote!

www.NationalPopularVote.com

November 1, 2011

"Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote"

The National Popular Vote bill would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in the entire United States. The bill ensures that *every* vote, in *every* state, will matter in *every* presidential election.

The bill has been enacted by 9 jurisdictions possessing 132 electoral votes — 49% of the 270 necessary to activate it (VT, MD, WA, IL, NJ, DC, MA, CA, HI).

The bill has passed 31 legislative chambers in 21 jurisdictions (AR, CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, HI, IL, ME, MD, MA, MI, NV, NJ, NM, NY, NC, OR, RI, VT, WA). In the recent 47–13 vote in the Republican-controlled New York Senate, Republicans supported the bill 21–11, and Democrats supported it 26–2. The bill has been endorsed by 2,124 state legislators.

The shortcomings of the current system stem from the winner-take-all rule (i.e., awarding all of a state's electoral votes to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in each state).

The winner-take-all rule has permitted a candidate to win the Presidency without winning the most popular votes nationwide in 4 of our 56 elections — 1 in 14 times. A shift of 60,000 votes in Ohio in 2004 would have elected Kerry despite Bush's nationwide lead of 3,000,000.

Another shortcoming of the winner-take-all rule is that presidential candidates have no reason to pay attention to the concerns of voters in states where they are comfortably ahead or hopelessly behind. In 2004 and 2008, candidates concentrated two-thirds of their visits and ad money in the post-convention campaign in just six closely divided "battleground" states— with 98% going to just 15 states. Two thirds of the states were ignored.

Article II, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution gives the states exclusive control over the manner of awarding their electoral votes: "Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors…." The winner-take-all rule is not in the Constitution. It was used by only 3 states in our nation's first election in 1789. Maine and Nebraska's awarding of electoral votes by district is a reminder that states control the process.

Under the National Popular Vote bill, all the electoral votes from the enacting states would be awarded to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states (and DC). The bill would take effect only when enacted by states possessing a majority of the electoral votes — that is, enough electoral votes to elect a President (270 of 538).

The National Popular Vote bill preserves the Electoral College and state control of elections.

The bill has been endorsed by *New York Times*, *Sacramento Bee*, *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Fayetteville Observer*, *Tennessean*, and *Miami Herald.*

The bill has been endorsed by League of Women Voters, Common Cause, and FairVote.

State polls are favorable: AK-70%, AR-80%, AZ–67%, CA-70%, CO-68%, CT-74%, DC-76%, DE-75%, FL-78%, ID-77%, IA-75%, KY-80%, ME-77%, MA-73%, MI-73%, MS-77%, MO-70%, MT–72%, NH-69%, NE-74%, NV-72%, NM-76%, NY-79%, NC-74%, OH-70%, OK-81%, OR-76%, PA-78%, RI-74%, SC–71%, SD-75%, TN–83%, UT-70%, VT-75%, VA-74%, WA-77%, WI-71%, WV-81%, and WY–69%.

Our National Advisory Board includes former Senators Jake Garn (R–UT), Birch Bayh (D–IN), and David Durenberger (R–MN) and former congressmen John Anderson (R–IL, I), John Buchanan (R–AL), Tom Campbell (R–CA), and Tom Downey (D–NY). Former Senator Fred Thompson (R–TN) and Governors Bob Edgar (R–IL) and Chet Culver (D-IA) are champions.

Additional information is available in our book *Every Vote Equal: A State-Based Plan for Electing the President by National Popular Vote* and at www.NationalPopularVote.com.

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CURRENT SYSTEM	NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE
Two-thirds of states ignored by candidates of both parties	Presidential campaigns forced to campaign in every state
Presidential candidate with most popular votes loses 1 out of 14 elections	Presidency guaranteed to the winner of the most overall popular votes in all 50 states
Presidential elections decided by small group of "battleground" states	Presidential elections decided by voters in all 50 states
Is constitutional	Is constitutional
Makes little sense to the average voter	Polls indicate that at least 70% or more of people support
Causes 12 of the 13 smallest states to be ignored during presidential campaign season	Ensures small states, along with every other state, have a voice in presidential elections
Preserves the Electoral College	Preserves the Electoral College
"Safe" states and "battleground states"	Voters and votes
Every vote is not equal	Every vote counts equally

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Campaign Visits in 2008 Presidential Election

November 1, 2011

In 2008, two-thirds of states were ignored by the presidential and vice-presidential candidates in the post-convention general election campaign for President.

Two-thirds of the campaign events (206 of 300) were in just 6 states (Ohio, Florida, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Missouri, and Colorado). 98% of the campaign events were concentrated in just 15 states. 100% of the events were in 19 states.

The 25 states with smallest population are presented in the three columns on the left, and the 25 states with largest population are shown on the right.

The seven states receiving 15 or more of the 300 post-convention visits are in bold.

Electoral votes	State	Campaign events
3	DC	1
3	Wyoming	–
3	Vermont	–
3	North Dakota	–
3	Alaska	–
3	South Dakota	–
3	Delaware	–
3	Montana	–
4	Rhode Island	–
4	Hawaii	–
4	Idaho	–
4	Maine	2
4	New Hampshire	12
5	Nebraska	–
5	West Virginia	1
5	New Mexico	8
5	Nevada	12
5	Utah	–
6	Kansas	–
6	Arkansas	–
6	Mississippi	–
7	Iowa	7
7	Connecticut	–
7	Oklahoma	–
7	Oregon	–
8	Kentucky	–

Electoral votes	State	Campaign events
9	Louisiana	–
8	South Carolina	–
9	Alabama	–
9	**Colorado**	**20**
10	Minnesota	2
10	Wisconsin	8
10	Maryland	–
11	**Missouri**	**21**
11	Tennessee	1
11	Indiana	9
12	Massachusetts	–
10	Arizona	–
11	Washington	–
13	**Virginia**	**23**
15	New Jersey	–
15	**North Carolina**	**15**
15	Georgia	–
17	Michigan	10
20	**Ohio**	**62**
21	**Pennsylvania**	**40**
21	Illinois	–
27	**Florida**	**46**
31	New York	–
34	Texas	–
55	California	–
538	**Grand total**	**300**