

Resolution No.  
55th Annual Oregon AFL-CIO State Convention  
September 8th-10, 2017  
Bend, OR

**Resolution in Favor of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact**

**WHEREAS** on five occasions in American history the winner of the national popular vote for President of the United States has lost the election; and

**WHEREAS** with the ending of slavery and the advancement of mass media reasons for enacting the electoral college are no longer exist; and

**WHEREAS** the current winner take all state election approach 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** this effect is most profound in states that lean strongly toward one candidate; and

**WHEREAS** the current system creates so-called “swing states,” where a small difference in the number of people voting for a particular side can decide the election for the entire country; and

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

**WHEREAS** the current system is one cause of voter apathy in presidential elections, especially in states that are not “swing states;” and

**WHEREAS** surveys have shown that a majority of Americans support the idea that the winner of the national popular vote should be President; and

**WHEREAS** the Electoral College, as established in the US Constitution 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** the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, if adopted by a sufficient number of states, would alleviate the aforementioned problems; and

**WHEREAS**, 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); and

**WHEREAS**, HB 3475, whose purpose was to adopt this compact, was passed by the Oregon House of Representatives during the 2015 legislative session, and a similar bill passed the Oregon house in 2013 and 2009; and

**THEREFORE, we, Oregon AFL-CIO, resolve as follows:**

1. We urge the Oregon State Legislature to adopt legislation that would allow Oregon to join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, which assigns all of the state's electors to the winner of the national popular vote after the compact has been adopted by states sufficient to guarantee an electoral vote majority.
2. We urge the Legislature to do this without a referral to a citizen measure that would be costly, invite out-of-state money and influence, and take up valuable time and resources needed to get the Compact passed in other states before the next presidential election.
3. That the OR AFL-CIO will forward a similar resolution, with a national focus instead of a state one, to our national convention in October 22nd-25th 2017 in St Louis, MS.

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President or Secretary

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Date