

From: Rozanne Gates, Westport, CT

Subject: I am submitting testimony in support of the National Popular Vote Bill, HB 5421

To: The Connecticut Legislature

I am urging each and every Connecticut Legislator to support HB 5421 the proposal to elect the President by the national popular vote in all 50 states. That way CT voters would matter. Presidential candidates rarely campaign in Connecticut. With the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, HB 5421 every vote in CT would matter and candidates would have to pay more attention to us. Every vote should matter equally.

It is well known that most of the 2016 campaign events were held in just 12 states, and just one was in CT. Each of us has the power to change that by supporting our Connecticut HB 5421, the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, which will make every vote for president matter equally.

In a democracy, every vote should matter equally, and the President should be the candidate who gets the most votes. Under the current state-by-state winner-take-all method of awarding electoral votes, it doesn't work that way. Because most states, including Connecticut, vote either blue or red, candidates rarely campaign beyond the dozen battleground states. That leaves CT on the sidelines. That can be changed by supporting HB5421, the National Popular Vote Compact. In two of the past five elections, the candidate elected president received fewer popular votes than the loser, which makes no sense.

The idea of electing the President by a national popular vote in all the states is a good idea. The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact currently has the support of 10 states and the District of Columbia which totals 165 electoral votes. Adding Connecticut's 7 electoral votes to the Interstate Compact will bring the total to 172 with only 98 additional electoral votes remaining to elect the next President by national popular vote. Much information on the details of the Interstate compact is available at several websites, the following two being extremely relevant: <http://www.nationalpopularvote.com> and <http://www.npvct.com>.

I present to you some statistics to help support the passing of HB 5421

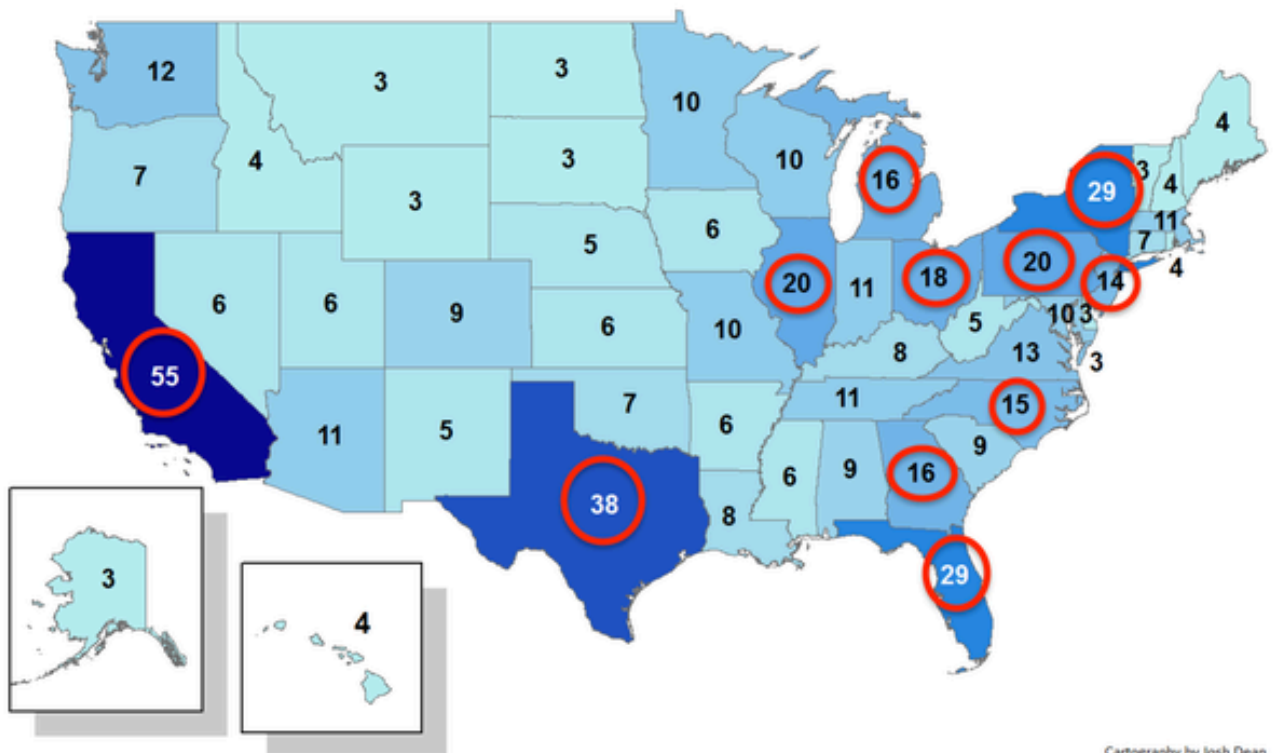
1. 11 is **larger** than 89 million.
2. 84% is **equal** to 78.16%.

Point 1 states that 11 is larger than 89 million — and so does the electoral college.

There are 11 states which can determine the outcome of an election if their people all primarily vote for the same person. These 11 states have a total of 271 electoral votes — enough to win the election.

In the absurd hypothetical scenario that only 1 person votes in each of these 11 states, and those 11 people all vote for the same candidate, that candidate would win the election. On the other hand, even if the 89 million people who live in the other states all vote for the opposing candidate, those 11 people's votes would disregard the vote of the other 89 million.

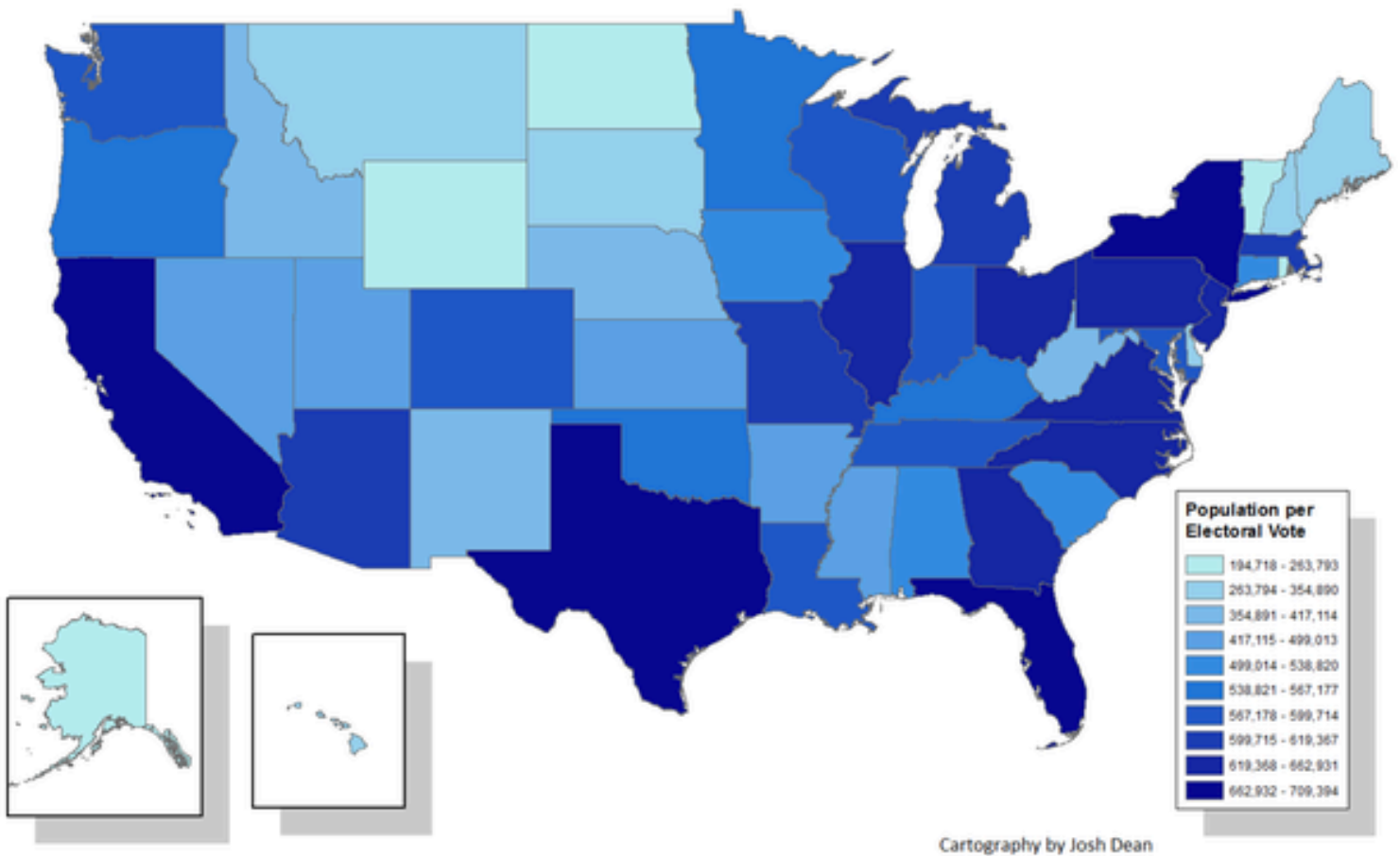
The 11 states are marked in the picture below:



Cartography by Josh Dean

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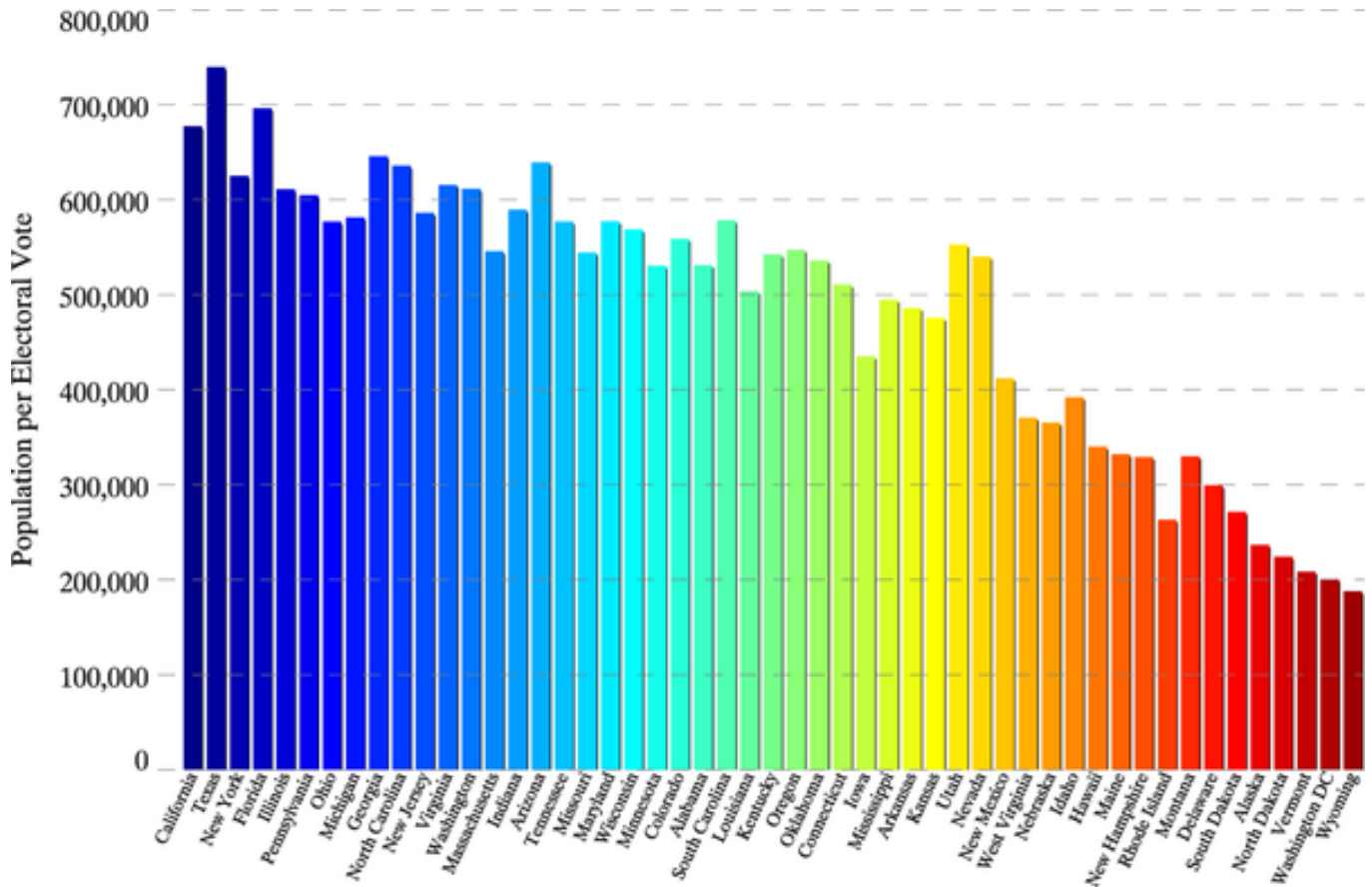
If a candidate gets just over 50% of the votes in the 11 states marked in the map above and 0% of the votes in all other states, they would again win the election as decided by the electoral college with 271 votes out of the total 538 electoral votes. That is, the vote of 21.84% of the population is considered more important than that of the other 78.16%.



Larger states like California, Texas, and New York have a lower number of votes relative to their population than states like Wyoming because each state is allotted 2 Senators no matter what their overall population is.

Above is a map showing the population of each state in comparison to its number of electoral votes:

Here's a bar chart of it:



In a way, we can say that every ~190 thousand people in Wyoming have the same influence in choosing the US President as every ~750 thousand people in Texas do.

Electing the President by the National Popular Vote has majority support of CT voters across party lines. Overall, 78%, including 62% of Republicans, 76% of Unaffiliated, and 92% of Democrats agree – the candidate who wins the most votes nationwide should become President (polling by Making Every Vote Count, February 2018).

Let every person and every vote count in choosing who will be the leader of the United States of America.

Respectfully submitted,

Rozanne Gates
Westport, CT