

**Testimony of Vermont Senator Christopher Pearson on  
National Popular Vote Bill in Connecticut (HB 5421) at  
Committee on Government Administration and Elections**

March 19, 2018

The National Popular Vote bill (HB 5421) would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

I would like to present evidence concerning the following facts:

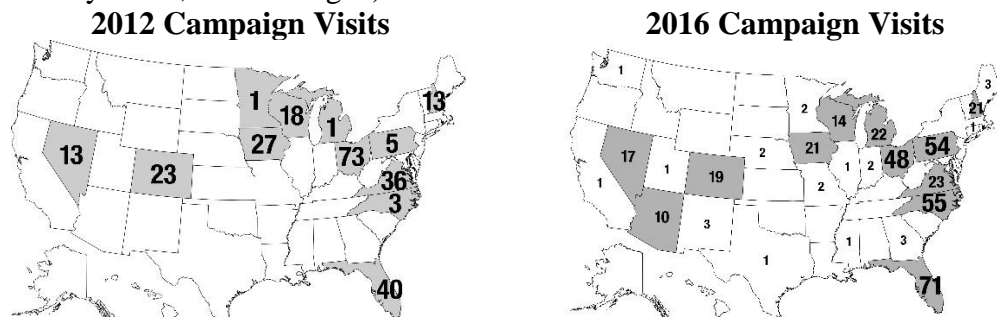
- Connecticut is irrelevant in presidential elections because of winner-take-all rule.
- The winner-take-all method of awarding electoral votes is not in the Constitution.
- Small states are disadvantaged by the state-by-state winner-take-all system.
- Presidential candidates would not ignore rural areas in a nationwide campaign.

**Connecticut Is Irrelevant in Presidential Elections Because of the Winner-Take-All Rule**

The shortcomings of the current system of electing the President stem from *state* winner-take-all laws (i.e., awarding all a state's electoral votes to the candidate receiving the most popular votes in each separate state). Because of these laws, candidates have no reason to solicit votes in states (such as Connecticut) where the statewide outcome for President is a foregone conclusion.

In 2012, 100% of the general-election campaign events took place in 12 closely divided “battleground” states. Two-thirds of the events (176 of 253) were in just four states (Ohio, Florida, Virginia, and Iowa). Meanwhile, 38 states (including Connecticut) were totally ignored.

In 2016, 94% of the events (375 of the 399) occurred in just 12 states. Two-thirds (273 of 399) of the general-election campaign events were in just six states (Ohio, Florida, Virginia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Michigan).



As presidential candidate and Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker said:

**“The nation as a whole is not going to elect the next president. Twelve states are.”**

The winner-take-all approach of awarding electoral votes adversely affects governance as well as campaigning. The book *Presidential Pork: White House Influence over the Distribution of Federal Grants* shows that battleground states receive 7% more presidentially controlled grants, twice as many disaster declarations, and disproportionately more presidential waivers and exemptions. The study found:

**“Presidents engage in pork barrel spending in a comprehensive and systematic way to advance their electoral interests. ... Presidents target the federal largesse toward swing states.”**

## **The Winner-Take-All Method of Awarding Electoral Votes Is Not in the U.S. Constitution**

The U.S. Constitution (Article II, Section 1) gives state legislatures exclusive and plenary control over choosing the state's method of awarding its electoral votes:

**“Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors....”**

The winner-take-all method of awarding electoral votes was not debated at the Constitutional Convention. It was not mentioned in the *Federalist Papers*. It was used by only three states in the nation's first presidential election in 1789.

The current winner-take-all method of awarding electoral votes is an ordinary state law enacted by state legislatures under the authority of Article II, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution. It may be repealed in the same way it was originally enacted, namely by passing a different state law.

The winner-take-all system was not envisioned or designed by the Founding Fathers at the Constitutional Convention. Instead, it was the result (decades later) of each state's dominant political party working to eliminate the influence of the state's minority party.

In 1796, Thomas Jefferson lost the nation's first competitive presidential election to John Adams by a mere three electoral votes. He lost one electoral vote each from three Jeffersonian states, including North Carolina and Virginia where presidential electors were elected from presidential-electoral districts. That led Thomas Jefferson to write the Virginia Governor:

**“while 10 states choose either by their legislatures or by a general ticket [winner-take-all], it is folly and worse than folly for the other 6 not to do it.”**

As a result of Jefferson's lobbying, the Virginia legislature passed a winner-take-all law, thereby guaranteeing Jefferson all of Virginia's electoral votes in the 1800 election.

Meanwhile, the legislature in John Adams' home state of Massachusetts became alarmed by rising Jeffersonian support in the state. Thus, they repealed the state's existing district system for electing presidential electors, thereby guaranteeing Adams all the state's electoral votes in 1800.

The changes in Virginia and Massachusetts triggered a domino effect in which each state's dominant party adopted winner-take-all in order to maximize its power.

By 1832, most states had adopted winner-take-all laws. By 1880, all the states had adopted a winner-take-all law. However, Maine adopted a district system in 1969 and Nebraska adopted a district system in 1992—a reminder that state legislatures have the exclusive and plenary power, under the U.S. Constitution, to choose the method of awarding the state's electoral votes.

## **Small States are Disadvantaged by the State-by-State Winner-Take-All System**

Although some people believe that the current winner-take-all method of awarding electoral votes forces presidential candidates to pay attention to less populous states, the facts show otherwise. In fact, small states are almost totally ignored because of the current state-by-state winner-take-all method of awarding electoral votes.

The table below shows the states in order of population and their number of 2012 general-election campaign events. As can be seen from the table:

- Only one of the 13 smallest states (the “battleground” state of New Hampshire) received any attention.
- Only three of the 25 smallest states (New Hampshire, Iowa, and Nevada) received any attention.
- Connecticut (the 25<sup>th</sup> smallest state and 25<sup>th</sup> largest state) was totally ignored—like almost every Northeastern state except New Hampshire.

**Only 1 of the 13 Smallest States (New Hampshire) and Only 3 of the 25 Smallest States (Iowa, Nevada, and New Hampshire) Received Campaign Events in 2012**

Campaign events	State	Electoral votes
0	Alaska	3
0	Delaware	3
0	D.C.	3
0	Montana	3
0	North Dakota	3
0	South Dakota	3
0	Vermont	3
0	Wyoming	3
<b>13</b>	<b>New Hampshire</b>	<b>4</b>
0	Hawaii	4
0	Idaho	4
0	Maine	4
0	Rhode Island	4
0	Nebraska	5
0	New Mexico	5
0	West Virginia	5
<b>27</b>	<b>Iowa</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Nevada</b>	<b>6</b>
0	Arkansas	6
0	Kansas	6
0	Mississippi	6
0	Utah	6
0	Connecticut	7
0	Oklahoma	7
0	Oregon	7
0	Kentucky	8
0	Louisiana	8
<b>23</b>	<b>Colorado</b>	<b>9</b>
0	Alabama	9
0	South Carolina	9
<b>18</b>	<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>10</b>
0	Maryland	10
0	Missouri	10
0	Arizona	11
0	Indiana	11
0	Massachusetts	11
0	Tennessee	11
0	Washington	12
<b>36</b>	<b>Virginia</b>	<b>13</b>
0	New Jersey	14
<b>3</b>	<b>North Carolina</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Michigan</b>	<b>16</b>
0	Georgia	16
<b>73</b>	<b>Ohio</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<b>20</b>
0	Illinois	20
<b>40</b>	<b>Florida</b>	<b>29</b>
0	New York	29
0	Texas	38
0	California	55
<b>253</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>538</b>

Small states are not ignored because of their low population, but because small states are almost always one-party states in presidential elections.

This political reality is highlighted by looking at the 12 non-competitive smallest states (those with three or four electoral votes). These 12 states together have the same population (about 12 million) as the closely divided “battleground” state of Ohio. These 12 small states have 40 electoral votes—more than twice Ohio’s 18 electoral votes. However, Ohio received almost 30% (73 of 253) of the entire country’s general-election campaign events in 2012, while these 12 small non-battleground states received none. This fact makes clear that a state’s influence in presidential elections does not depend on the state’s size, or the state’s number of electoral votes, or the fact that every state gets two electoral votes corresponding to its two U.S. Senators. Political influence flows from being a closely divided “battleground” state. The 40 electoral votes possessed by the 12 smallest states are of no importance to anyone running for President, whereas the 18 electoral votes possessed by the “battleground” state of Ohio are very important. As can be seen from the table above, almost all the campaign activity occurs in big states (i.e., those at the bottom of the table). The fact is that the current state-by-state winner-take-all system shifts power from the smaller states to a haphazard collection of big states (namely big states that happen to be closely divided “battleground” states).

The fact that the small states are disadvantaged by the current state-by-state winner-take-all system has long been recognized by prominent officials from those states. In 1966, Delaware led a group of 12 predominantly small states in suing New York (then a closely divided battleground state) in the U.S. Supreme Court in an unsuccessful effort to get state winner-take-all statutes declared unconstitutional.

Under the current state-by-state winner-take-all system for awarding electoral votes, a vote for President in Connecticut or Wyoming is equal to a vote in California or Texas—they are politically irrelevant in presidential elections.

## Presidential Candidates Would Not Ignore Rural Areas in a Nationwide Campaign

Some people have speculated that a nationwide presidential campaign would ignore rural areas and concentrate on big cities (or big states).

However, there is no need for speculation, because there is plenty of factual evidence as to how a presidential campaign would be run in an election in which every vote is equal and in which the winner is the candidate receiving the most popular votes.

This evidence comes from looking at how presidential candidates actually campaign today *inside* “battleground” states. Inside a battleground state, every vote is *already* equal, and the winner (of all of the state’s electoral votes) is the candidate receiving the most popular votes. If there was any tendency toward de-emphasizing rural areas or over-emphasizing cities, it would be evident today *inside* the battleground states (all of which have rural areas and cities).

Since the state of Ohio alone received almost 30% (73 of 253) of the entire nation’s campaign events in 2012, let’s start with Ohio:

- The 4 biggest metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) in Ohio have 54% of the state’s population. They are Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati, and Toledo.
- The 7 medium-sized MSAs have 24% of the state’s population. They are Akron, Canton, Dayton, Lima, Mansfield, Springfield, and Youngstown.
- The 53 remaining counties (that is, the rural counties lying outside the state’s 11 MSAs) have 22% of the state’s population.

How did presidential candidates—advised by the nation’s most astute political strategists—actually campaign in Ohio when every vote was equal and the winner was the candidate receiving the most popular votes?

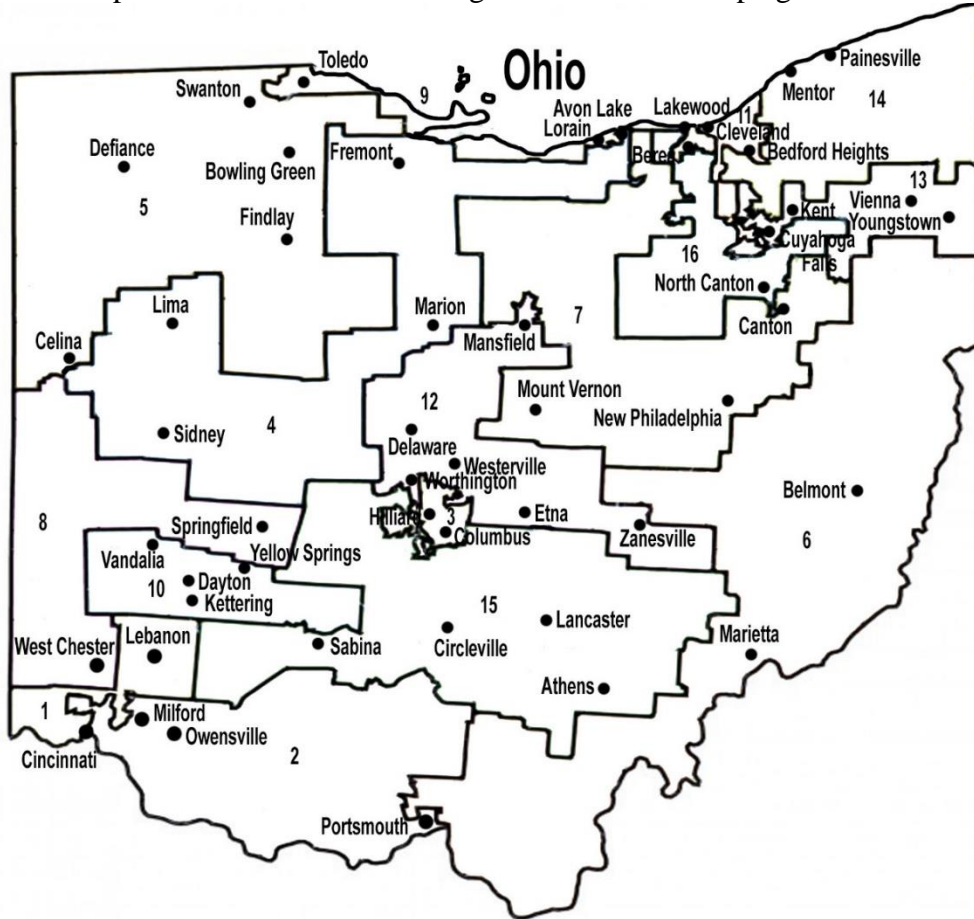
### How Ohio’s 73 Campaign Events Were Spread among Big Cities, Medium-Sized Cities, and Rural Areas

	Percent of Ohio’s population	Percent of campaign events
4 biggest MSAs	54%	52%
7 medium-sized MSAs	24%	23%
53 remaining counties (rural)	22%	25%

As can be seen from the table, candidates hew very closely to population in allocating campaign events in an election in which every vote is equal and the winner is the candidate receiving the most popular votes. Candidates campaign everywhere—big cities, medium-sized cities, and rural areas. There is no evidence of ignoring rural areas or favoring big cities.

There is not only no evidence that presidential candidates ignore rural areas, *it would be preposterous to do so*. There is nothing special about a city vote compared to a rural vote in an election in which every vote is equal. When every vote is equal, every vote is equally important.

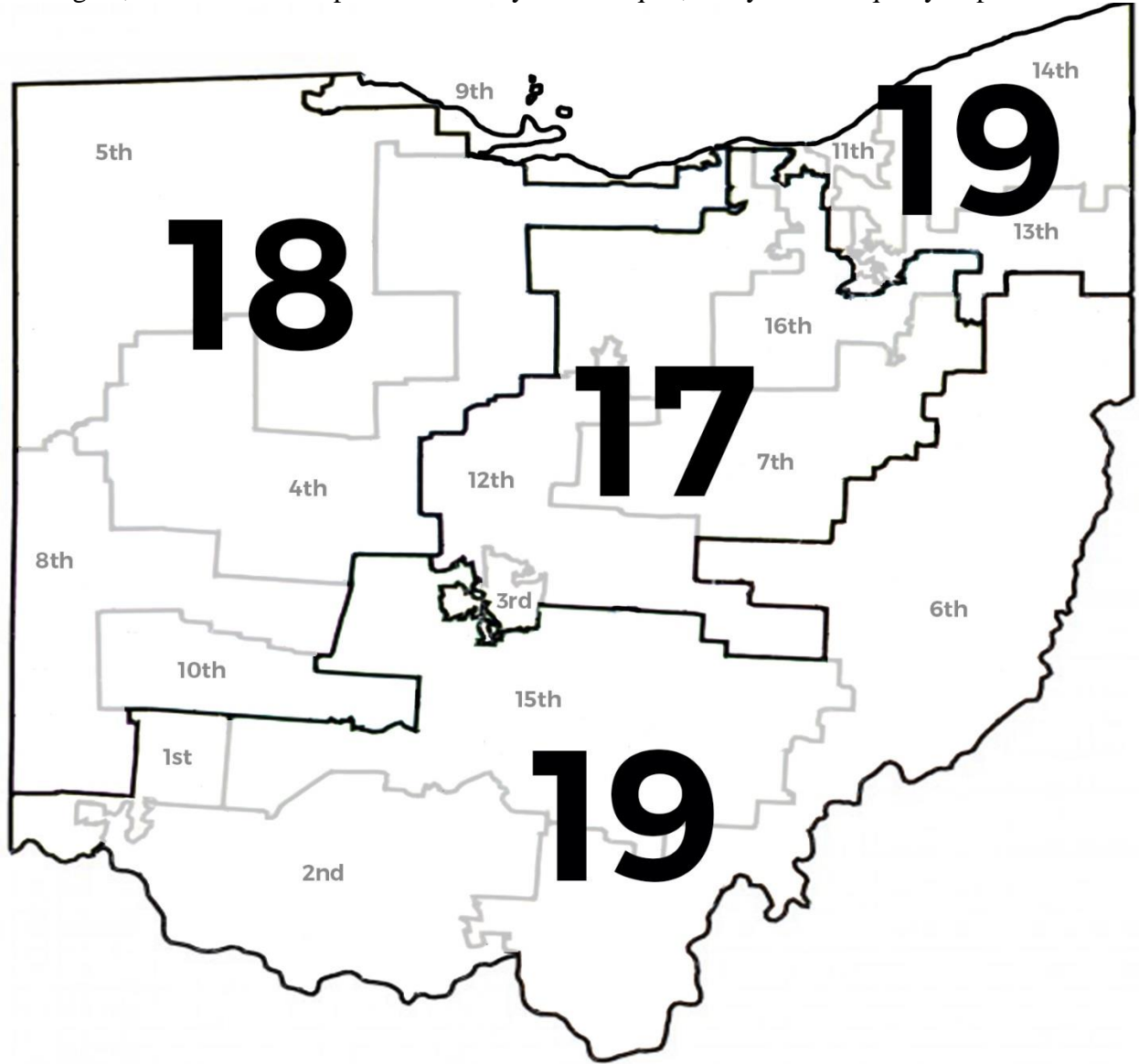
This conclusion is reinforced if you look at how presidential candidates actually campaigned among Ohio's 16 congressional districts. Presidential candidates campaigned in all of the districts, as shown in the map and table below of the 73 general-election campaign events in Ohio in 2012.



## Location of Presidential Campaign Events in Ohio in 2012

Place	Population	Candidate and date of campaign event	County	CD
Belmont	447	Ryan (10/20)	Belmont	6
Owensville	794	Ryan (9/12)	Clermont	2
Sabina	2,548	Ryan (10/27)	Clinton	15
Yellow Springs	3,526	Ryan (10/27)	Greene	10
Swanton	3,690	Ryan (10/8)	Fulton	5
Vienna	4,021	Ryan (11/5)	Trumbull	13
Milford	6,681	Biden (9/9)	Hamilton	2
Celina	10,395	Romney (10/28)	Mercer	5
Bedford Heights	10,751	Romney (9/26)	Cuyahoga	11
Circleville	13,453	Ryan (10/27)	Pickaway	15
Worthington	13,757	Romney (10/25)	Franklin	12
Marietta	14,027	Ryan (11/3)	Washington	6
Vandalia	15,204	Romney (9/25)	Montgomery	10
Etna	16,373	Romney (11/2)	Licking	12
Fremont	16,564	Biden (11/4)	Sandusky	4
Mount Vernon	16,812	Romney (10/10)	Knox	7
Defiance	16,838	Romney (10/25)	Defiance	5
New Philadelphia	17,292	Ryan (10/27)	Tuscarawas	7
North Canton	17,404	Romney (10/26)	Stark	16
Berea	18,980	Ryan (10/17)	Cuyahoga	9
Painesville	19,634	Romney (9/14)	Lake	14
Portsmouth	20,302	Biden (9/9), Romney (10/13)	Scioto	2
Lebanon	20,387	Romney (10/13)	Warren	1
Sidney	21,031	Romney (10/10)	Shelby	4
Avon Lake	22,816	Romney (10/29)	Lorain	9
Athens	23,755	Obama (10/17), Biden (9/8)	Athens	15
Zanesville	25,411	Biden (9/8), Ryan (10/27)	Muskingum	12
Kent	29,807	Obama (9/26)	Portage	13
Hilliard	30,564	Obama (11/2)	Scioto	15
Bowling Green	31,384	Obama (9/26)	Wood	5
Delaware	35,925	Romney (10/10)	Delaware	12
Marion	36,904	Biden (10/24), Romney (10/28)	Marion	4
Westerville	37,073	Romney (9/26)	Franklin	12
Lima	38,339	Obama (11/2), Ryan (9/24)	Allen	4
Lancaster	38,880	Biden (11/4), Romney (10/12)	Fairfield	15
Findlay	41,526	Romney (10/28)	Hancock	5
Mentor	47,023	Obama (11/3)	Lake	14
Mansfield	47,052	Romney (9/10), Ryan (11/4)	Richland	12
Cuyahoga Falls	49,245	Romney (10/9)	Summit	13
Lakewood	51,385	Biden (11/4)	Cuyahoga	9
Kettering	55,990	Romney (10/30)	Montgomery	10
Springfield	60,147	Obama (11/2)	Clark	8
West Chester	60,958	Romney (11/2)	Butler	8
Lorain	63,707	Biden (10/22)	Lorain	9
Youngstown	65,405	Biden (10/29), Ryan (10/12)	Mahoning	13
Canton	72,683	Biden (10/22)	Stark	7
Dayton	141,359	Obama (10/23), Biden (9/12)	Montgomery	10
Toledo	284,012	Biden (10/23), Romney (9/26)	Lucas	9
Cincinnati	296,550	Obama (9/17, 11/4), Romney (10/25), Ryan (9/25, 10/15)	Hamilton	1
Cleveland	390,928	Obama (10/5, 10/25), Romney (11/4, 11/6), Ryan (10/24)	Cuyahoga	11
Columbus	809,798	Obama (9/17, 10/9, 11/5), Romney (11/5), Ryan (9/29)	Franklin	3

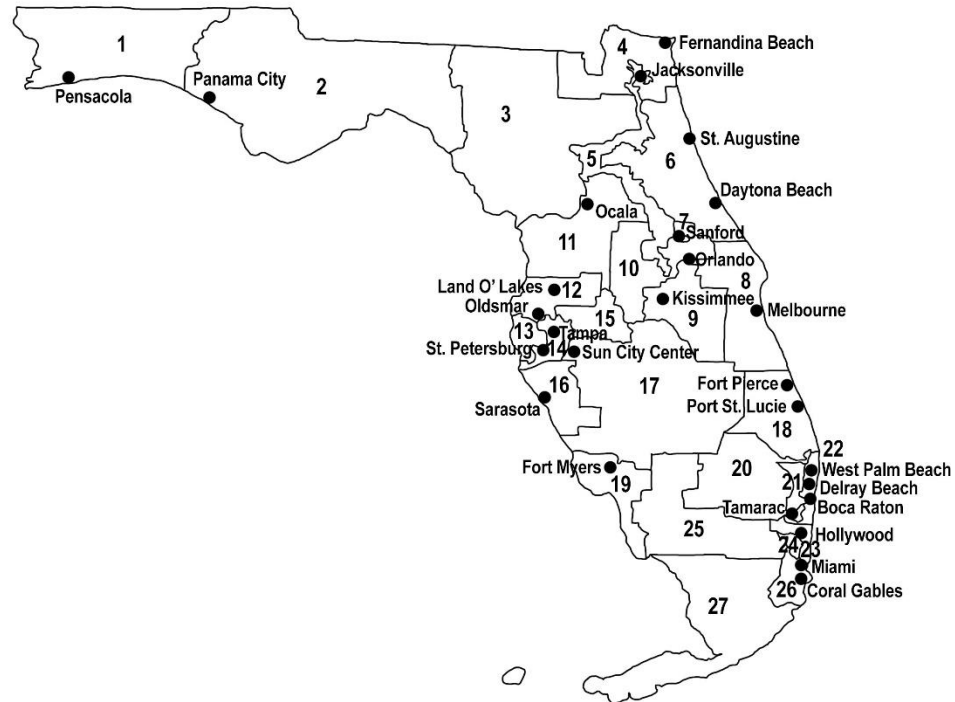
The fact that candidates hew closely to population in allocating campaign events may also be seen by dividing Ohio into four geographic areas—each containing four of the state’s 16 congressional districts (and, therefore, each containing a quarter of the state’s population). As can be seen, each of these four geographic areas received almost exactly a quarter of the campaign events. Again, the reason is simple. When every vote is equal, every vote is equally important.





Four states (Ohio, Florida, Virginia, and Iowa) accounted for over two-thirds of all campaign events in 2012. So, let's look at how actual presidential candidates campaigned in these other three "battleground" states.

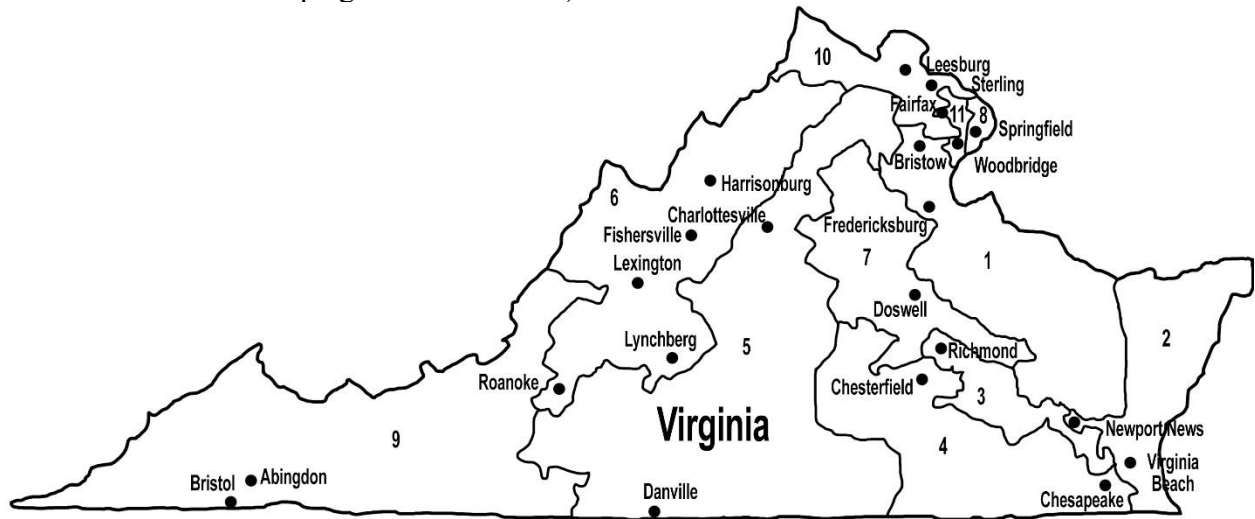
In Florida (which received 40 campaign events), candidates campaigned throughout the state.



**Location of Presidential Campaign Events in Florida in 2012**

Place	Population	Candidate and date of campaign event	County	CD
Fernandina Beach	11,705	Ryan (10/29)	Nassau	4
St. Augustine	13,407	Biden (10/20)	St. Johns	6
Oldsmar	13,703	Ryan (9/15)	Pinellas	12
Sun City Center	19,258	Biden (10/19)	Hillsborough	17
Land O' Lakes	31,145	Romney (10/27)	Pasco	12
Panama City	36,167	Ryan (11/3)	Bay	2
Fort Pierce	42,645	Biden (10/19)	St. Lucie	18
Apopka	44,474	Romney (10/6)	Orange	5
Coral Gables	49,411	Obama (10/11), Romney (10/31)	Miami-Dade	26
Pensacola	52,340	Romney (10/27)	Escambia	1
Sarasota	52,811	Biden (10/31), Romney (9/20)	Sarasota	16
Sanford	54,651	Romney (11/5)	Seminole	5
Ocala	56,945	Biden (10/31), Ryan (10/18)	Marion	11
Daytona Beach	62,035	Romney (10/19)	Volusia	6
Delray Beach	62,357	Obama (10/23)	Palm Beach	22
Tamarac	62,557	Biden (9/28)	Broward	20
Kissimmee	63,369	Obama (9/8), Romney (10/27)	Osceola	9
Fort Myers	65,725	Biden (9/29), Ryan (10/18)	Lee	19
Melbourne	77,048	Obama (9/9)	Brevard	8
Boca Raton	87,836	Biden (9/28)	Palm Beach	22
West Palm Beach	101,043	Obama (9/9)	Palm Beach	22
Hollywood	145,236	Obama (11/4)	Broward	23
Port St. Lucie	168,716	Romney (10/7)	St. Lucie	18
St. Petersburg	246,541	Obama (9/8), Romney (10/5)	Pinellas	14
Orlando	249,562	Ryan (9/22)	Orange	7
Tampa	347,645	Obama (10/25), Romney (10/31), Ryan (10/19)	Hillsborough	14
Miami	413,892	Obama (9/20), Romney (9/19 x 2), Ryan (9/22)	Miami-Dade	27
Jacksonville	836,507	Romney (9/12, 10/31)	Duval	5

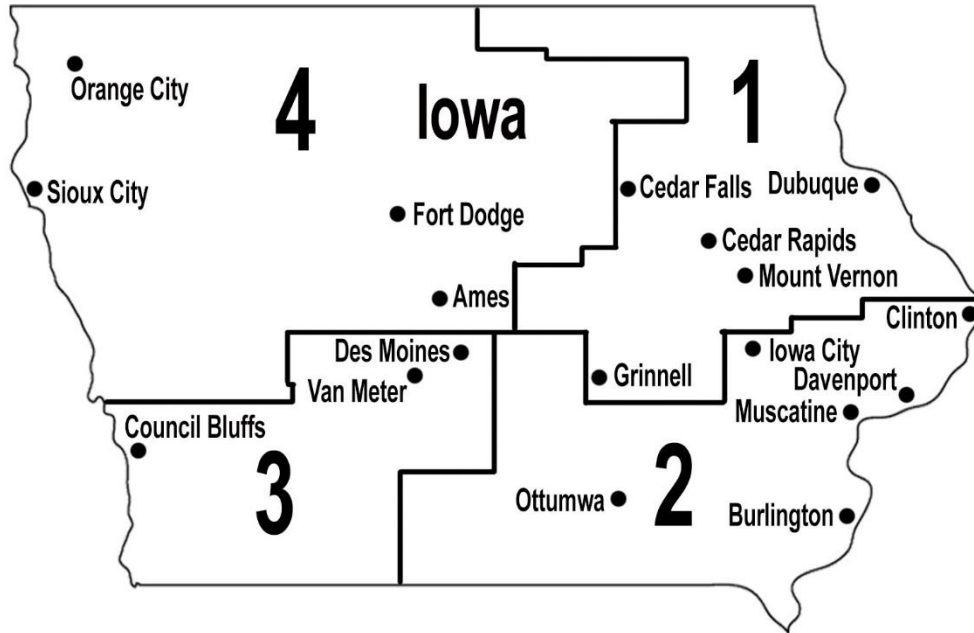
Likewise, presidential candidates campaigned throughout the state in Virginia (which received 36 of the nation's 253 campaign events in 2012).



**Location of Presidential Campaign Events in Virginia in 2012**

Place	Population	Candidate and date of campaign event	CD
Doswell	2,126	Romney (11/1)	7
Woodbridge	4,055	Obama (9/21)	11
Lexington	6,998	Romney (10/8)	6
Fishersville	7,462	Romney (10/4)	6
Abingdon	8,188	Romney (10/5)	9
Bristow	15,137	Obama (11/3)	1
Bristol	17,662	Ryan (10/25)	9
Fairfax	23,461	Obama (10/5, 10/19), Romney (9/13, 11/5)	11
Fredericksburg	27,307	Ryan (10/16)	1
Sterling	27,822	Biden (11/5)	10
Springfield	30,484	Romney (11/2)	8
Danville	42,996	Ryan (9/19)	5
Charlottesville	43,956	Ryan (10/25)	5
Leesburg	45,936	Romney (10/17)	10
Harrisonburg	50,981	Ryan (9/14)	6
Lynchburg	77,113	Biden (10/27), Romney (11/5), Ryan (10/16)	6
Roanoke	97,469	Romney (11/1)	6
Newport News	180,726	Romney (10/8, 11/4), Ryan (9/18)	2
Richmond	210,309	Obama (10/25), Biden (11/5), Romney (9/8, 10/12), Ryan (11/3, 11/6)	3
Chesapeake	228,417	Romney (10/17)	4
Chesterfield	323,856	Biden (9/25)	4
Virginia Beach	447,021	Obama (9/27), Romney (9/8, 11/1)	2

Similarly, presidential candidates campaigned throughout the state in Iowa (which received 27 of the nation’s 253 campaign events in 2012).



**Location of Presidential Campaign Events in Iowa in 2012**

Place	Population	Candidate and date of campaign event	County	CD
Van Meter	1,016	Romney (10/9)	Dallas	3
Mount Vernon	4,506	Obama (10/17)	Linn	1
Orange City	6,004	Romney (9/7)	Sioux	4
Grinnell	9,218	Biden (9/18)	Poweshiek	1
Muscatine	22,886	Biden (11/1), Ryan (10/2)	Muscatine	2
Fort Dodge	25,206	Biden (11/1)	Webster	4
Ottumwa	25,023	Biden (9/18)	Wapello	2
Burlington	25,663	Biden (9/17), Ryan (10/2)	Des Moines	2
Clinton	26,885	Ryan (10/2)	Clinton	2
Cedar Falls	39,260	Ryan (11/2)	Black Hawk	1
Dubuque	57,637	Obama (11/3), Romney (11/3), Ryan (10/1)	Dubuque	1
Ames	58,965	Romney (10/25)	Story	4
Council Bluffs	62,230	Biden (10/4), Ryan (10/21)	Pottawattamie	3
Iowa City	67,862	Obama-Biden (9/7)	Johnson	2
Sioux City	82,684	Ryan (10/21)	Woodbury	4
Davenport	99,685	Obama (10/24), Romney (10/29)	Scott	2
Cedar Rapids	126,326	Romney (10/24)	Linn	1
Des Moines	203,433	Obama (11/5), Romney (11/3), Ryan (9/17, 11/5)	Polk	3

In summary, when every vote is equal and the winner is the candidate receiving the most popular votes, presidential candidates—advised by the nation’s most astute political strategists—hew closely to population in allocating campaign events. The reason is simple. When every vote is equal, every vote is equally important.

## How a Nationwide Presidential Campaign Would Be Run

In a nationwide presidential campaign in which every vote is equal and the winner is the candidate receiving the most popular votes, candidates would do the same thing as they do today inside “battleground” states. That is, they would allocate their campaigning based on population. If you divide the country’s population (309,785,186) by the number of 2016 general-election campaign events (399), you get about three-quarters of a million people (776,404). The table below distributes these 399 campaign events over the states by dividing each state’s population by 776,404 and rounding-off. The table shows that candidates would campaign in all 50 states.

State	Population 2010	Campaign events based on population	Actual 2016 campaign events
Alabama	4,802,982	6	
Alaska	721,523	1	
Arizona	6,412,700	8	10
Arkansas	2,926,229	4	
California	37,341,989	48	1
Colorado	5,044,930	6	19
Connecticut	3,581,628	5	1
Delaware	900,877	1	
D.C.	601,723	1	
Florida	18,900,773	24	71
Georgia	9,727,566	13	3
Hawaii	1,366,862	2	
Idaho	1,573,499	2	
Illinois	12,864,380	17	1
Indiana	6,501,582	8	2
Iowa	3,053,787	4	21
Kansas	2,863,813	4	
Kentucky	4,350,606	6	
Louisiana	4,553,962	6	
Maine	1,333,074	2	3
Maryland	5,789,929	7	
Massachusetts	6,559,644	8	
Michigan	9,911,626	13	22
Minnesota	5,314,879	7	2
Mississippi	2,978,240	4	1
Missouri	6,011,478	8	2
Montana	994,416	1	
Nebraska	1,831,825	2	2
Nevada	2,709,432	3	17
New Hampshire	1,321,445	2	21
New Jersey	8,807,501	11	
New Mexico	2,067,273	3	3
New York	19,421,055	25	
North Carolina	9,565,781	12	55
North Dakota	675,905	1	
Ohio	11,568,495	15	48
Oklahoma	3,764,882	5	
Oregon	3,848,606	5	
Pennsylvania	12,734,905	16	54
Rhode Island	1,055,247	1	
South Carolina	4,645,975	6	
South Dakota	819,761	1	
Tennessee	6,375,431	8	
Texas	25,268,418	33	1
Utah	2,770,765	4	1
Vermont	630,337	1	
Virginia	8,037,736	10	23
Washington	6,753,369	9	1
West Virginia	1,859,815	2	
Wisconsin	5,698,230	7	14
Wyoming	568,300	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>309,785,186</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>399</b>

### **How the National Popular Vote Bill Works**

The National Popular Vote bill would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

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). When the bill is in effect, all the electoral votes from the states that enacted the bill would be awarded to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

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

### **Status of the National Popular Vote Bill**

The National Popular Vote bill has been enacted by 11 jurisdictions possessing 165 electoral votes. The bill will come into effect when states possessing an additional 105 electoral votes enact it. The enacting states include four small jurisdictions (Rhode Island, Vermont, Hawaii, and DC), three medium-sized states (Maryland, Washington, and Massachusetts), and four big states (New Jersey, Illinois, New York, and California).

The bill has passed a total of 35 legislative chambers in 23 states—most recently by a bipartisan 28–18 vote in the Oklahoma Senate, a 40–16 vote in the Republican-controlled Arizona House, a 57–4 vote in the Republican-controlled New York Senate, a 37–21 vote in the Oregon House. The National Popular Vote bill has also passed one chamber in Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, and Oregon. It has passed both chambers in Colorado and New Mexico (but in different years). The bill has been endorsed by 3,115 state legislators across the country.

### **Supporters of the National Popular Vote Bill**

The National Advisory Board of National Popular Vote includes former congressmen John Anderson (R–Illinois and later independent presidential candidate), John Buchanan (R–Alabama), Tom Campbell (R–California), and Tom Downey (D–New York), and former Senators Birch Bayh (D–Indiana), David Durenberger (R–Minnesota), and Jake Garn (R–Utah).

Other supporters include previous presidential candidates such as former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R–GA), Governor Howard Dean (D–VT), the late Senator Fred Thompson (R–TN), Congressman Tom Tancredo (R–CO), and former Congressman Bob Barr (R–GA).

Eight former ALEC national chairs have endorsed the bill.