

# DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

## Platform Committee

2/16/2017

### RESOLUTION 2017.4

#### A resolution of the Democratic Party of Lane County

*Relating to the National Popular Vote*

WHEREAS, on five occasions in American history the winner of the national popular vote for President of the United States has lost the election, notably in the most recent election and twice since 2000; and

WHEREAS, the current winner take all state election (WTASE) 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, the WTASE approach 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 WTASE approach 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, 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 WTASE approach 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; 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, HB3475, 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

WHEREAS, the DPLC platform of 2016 urges the Oregon legislature to pass a National Popular Vote bill;

THEREFORE, the Democratic Party of Lane County Resolves:

SECTION 1. We urge the Oregon State Legislature to adopt 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.

SECTION 2. The DPLC will send this resolution to our Lane County state senators and to Senate President Peter Courtney.

**Resolved by the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Lane County,  
Assembled in Eugene, Oregon, February 16, 2017**

Signed:

X \_\_\_\_\_ .                      X \_\_\_\_\_ .

Chris Wig

Celine Swenson-Harris

Chair

Secretary