



The League of Women Voters of New York State
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THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
of New York State

October 25, 2016

Governor Andrew Cuomo:

On March 25, 2014 both the NYS Assembly and the NYS Senate passed S.03149-A/A.04422-A (the Compact for the National Popular Vote) by overwhelming majorities. Significantly, both the debates and the votes were truly non-partisan. However, that legislation was sunsetted to expire by December 31, 2018. This year both houses passed S. 5478 (Griffo) and A. 6044 (Dinowitz), which made the provisions of the original legislation permanent. Now it is up to you to sign this legislation which will continue to make it possible for New York State to add its electoral votes to those other states already signed on to the Compact. The League of Women Voters of New York State is a strong believer in the principle of “one person – one vote” and therefore urges you to sign S.5478/A.6044.

A federal constitutional amendment is not needed to change state laws that currently use the winner-take-all rule to award electoral votes. Nationwide popular election of the President can be implemented through the use of an interstate agreement among member states to award their electoral votes for president to the candidate that receives a majority of the popular vote cast within all 50 states including the District of Columbia.

This legislation would come into effect only when it has been enacted, in identical form, by states possessing a majority (270) of the 538 electoral votes. It would ensure that each presidential vote cast has the exact same weight throughout the United States, and that presidential campaigns are waged nationwide (instead of targeting “swing” states and ignoring states like New York). This interstate agreement would ensure that the will of the majority of voters is reflected in the Presidential election.

Enacting the Compact for the National Popular Vote would really make it true that every vote does count in presidential elections. New York State should stand with the other progressive states supporting this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Dare Thompson'.

Dare Thompson
President

C.C.: Senator Joseph Griffo

C.C.: Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz