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Sonoma County Democratic Party

111 Sebastopol Road
Santa Rosa, California 95407
707-575-3029

<http://www.sonomademocrats.org>



1 **SONOMA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**
2 **SUPPORTING AN AGREEMENT AMONG THE STATES TO ELECT THE PRESIDENT BY**
3 **NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE**

4 **WHEREAS** voters in two-thirds of the states are effectively disenfranchised from the Presidential
5 election process if they don't live in a "battleground" state, with two-thirds of all campaign visits and
6 advertising spending being concentrated on only five states; and seven of the nation's 11 most
7 populous states (California, Texas, New York, Illinois, New Jersey, Georgia and North Carolina), 12
8 of the 13 least populous states; and the vast majority of medium-sized states all being largely
9 ignored by the campaigns; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the current system for electing the president does not reliably reflect the national
11 popular vote, allowing for a candidate to win the Presidency without winning the most popular votes
12 nationwide; and where a shift of a relatively small number of votes in one or two states would have
13 elected the second-place candidate in five of the last 12 elections; and the consequences of the
14 current system on the health of our democracy are extremely serious, including discouraging voter
15 turnout and participation in non-competitive states, marginalizing the policy consideration given to
16 the needs of the non-competitive states, and creating a two-tiered system of participant states and
17 spectator states; and the American public has consistently supported by over 65% a national popular
18 election of the president; and a national popular election of the president would make all states
19 competitive and all voters important and all votes equal; and a national popular election of the
20 president would likely lead to presidential campaign activity in every region of the country and
21 invigorate our democracy; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the Constitution gives exclusive and plenary rights to the states to determine how to
23 award their electors; and the Constitution provides the states with the interstate compact as a means
24 of addressing shared needs and concerns; and National Popular Vote's proposal for an "Agreement
25 Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote" is a practical, constitutionally-
26 protected means of achieving a national popular election of the president based on the rights of all
27 states to determine how they award their electors and to enter into interstate compacts; and in 2006
28 both the California Assembly and the Senate passed Assembly Bill 2948, which Governor
29 Schwarzenegger vetoed; and Senator Carol Migden has introduced Senate Bill 37 in the 2007
30 session;

31 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Sonoma County Democratic Central Committee supports
32 the National Popular Vote plan, and urges California lawmakers to pass and Governor
33 Schwarzenegger to sign into law an "Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by
34 National Popular Vote;" and

35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Sonoma County Democratic Central Committee distribute
36 copies of this resolution to Assembly members Patti Berg, Noreen Evans and Jared Huffman, to
37 Senators Pat Wiggins and Carol Migden, to all other California county Democratic central
38 committees, and to the California Democratic Party for consideration and support.

39 Drafted by Thomas Gangale
40 Chair, Issues and Legislation Committee, Sonoma County Democratic Party

41 Adapted from National Popular Vote,
42 <http://www.nationalpopularvote.com/npv/files/NPV_Sample_Resolution_2006.10.10.doc>.

Common Sense, Common Good, Common Destiny