

FOREWORD

By Gregory G. Aghazarian

Every four years a presidential election takes place. Our votes are cast. Our votes are counted. But, do they count?

The truth of the matter is that we, the people, do not directly elect the President. The Electoral College elects the President. Every four years, each state appoints electors who in turn elect a president. Under the U.S. Constitution, each state legislature has the complete and total power as to how it appoints its electors (Article II, section 1, clause 2). The current practice in 48 states is to appoint electors, winner-take-all, based on the outcome of each state's popular vote. This sounds simple enough, but the problem is that the current practice ensures that a large majority of Americans have no say in choosing their chief executive.

Most states are solidly "red" or "blue." This means that no matter how much money or time a presidential candidate spends in states like Texas and Wyoming or New York and Vermont, the result is a foregone conclusion. Consequently, no money or time is spent in these states. Instead, virtually everything goes into a small group of "battle-ground" states. In 2008, two-thirds of the collective presidential campaigns' time and money was dedicated to just 6 states, with 98% going to only 15 states. Over two-thirds of us just had to sit back and watch.

The real problem with the current winner-take-all practice is that it encourages the wholesale dismissal of the hopes, dreams and aspirations of over 200 million Americans. Issues that are vital to states like Montana and California are routinely disregarded. Under the current system, they do not matter. Issues that are vital to states like Ohio and Pennsylvania are overemphasized. Under the current system, they do matter. It is difficult to imagine that the Founding Fathers intended the disenfranchisement of so many states and the empowerment of so few in their quest to form a more perfect union.

There is a better way. *Every Vote Equal* eloquently lays out the blueprint for a truly democratic and efficient way to elect the President of the United States. Through detailed historic, legal and statistical analysis, this book sets forth a comprehensive and compelling case for each state, pursuant to its constitutional powers, to appoint its electors based on the outcome of the national popular vote. The winner of the election would be the candidate who gets the most popular votes in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia. Every state would matter, because every vote would matter. No longer would the issues of a small handful of states dominate presidential elections. Candidates for President would need to be in tune and in touch with all Americans regardless of their address.

The time has come for a national popular vote system.