

FOREWORD

By **B. Thomas Golisano**

Seventy-five percent of voters polled in the United States think the way we elect our President should be changed.

Under our current system, a candidate can win the White House without receiving the most votes nationwide. This has actually happened a number of times in our history, and it is likely to happen again.

The current system awards all the state's electoral votes to the candidate who gets the most votes in that particular state. This is called the "winner-take-all" rule. By the way, this method of awarding electoral votes is not a part of the U.S. Constitution. It is strictly a matter of state laws that were adopted on a piecemeal, state-by-state basis.

Unfortunately the winner-take-all rule creates a problem where the candidate with the most votes can actually lose the election. Would you call that democratic?

We can easily change to a system where the candidate with the most votes always wins.

In fact, the process is already under way. Once states representing a majority of electoral votes approve, the process will change, and the President will be elected by the national popular vote.

In fact, nine states have already approved this legislation, called the National Popular Vote bill. We are already at a half of the votes needed to approve the bill. In 2010, the New York State Senate voted 52 to 7 to go to the National Popular Vote. Republicans supported the change 22 to 5, Democrats 30 to 2. Talk about nonpartisanship.

There are some other very important reasons for this bill to be passed.

Have you noticed how the media categorizes our states into two groups: Battleground and fly-over states? A battleground state is a state where the vote for candidates is undecided. The state could go either way. A fly-over state is a state where the outcome is a foregone conclusion for one candidate or the other.

Unless you live in one of the few battleground states, your particular vote doesn't matter. The presidential candidates don't need to consider your issues as they "fly over" your state on the way to the few states that swing presidential elections.

In 2008, candidates concentrated 98% of their ad money and visits in just 15 states.

In summary we have the option to guarantee that the choice of the American people wins the election. Every American's vote should count. Candidates will pay attention to the needs and concerns of all 50 states, not just a few battleground states. And we can do this while preserving the states' power over how we pick our President.

The President we choose represents this entire nation. We should all count when making that choice. This is the world's greatest democracy. Our presidential election should truly be democratic. Please join me and 75% of Americans in supporting the National Popular Vote bill because it's the right thing to do.