



NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE AND ELECTION FRAUD

Election fraud is a threat to our republic as it erodes trust in the democratic process. The National Popular Vote interstate compact (NPV) would make this problem worse.

People have gone to prison and elections have been overturned due to election fraud, such as the “ballot harvesting” scheme in a North Carolina congressional race in 2018; the Clay County, Kentucky vote-buying operation uncovered in 2010 that bribed thousands of voters over several election cycles; and, of course, the legendary vote stealing political machines in big cities like Chicago and New York City.

In presidential elections, these types of fraud are less likely and more difficult because of the Electoral College’s state-by-state process. Fraud within a state can only effect the results in that one state. A state where one party is overwhelmingly popular—and where one-party control might make vote fraud easier—is probably already going to vote for that party’s candidate anyway. The most competitive states tend to have two strong political parties and higher levels of oversight, making fraud more difficult.

With NPV, however, fraudulent ballots anywhere—even in just one state—could steal an entire election. For the first time in American history, a presidential election could be stolen by vote fraud in one-party controlled “safe” states. This would create a new incentive to suppress the vote of the minority party in order to drive down its national vote total.

The increased risk of election fraud under NPV, combined with the fact that it fails to establish a single official vote count or create a process for a nationwide recount, would lead to countless lawsuits and even worse voter distrust.

KEY POINTS

- Election fraud and distrust are serious threats that the National Popular Vote interstate compact would make worse.
- The current system makes fraud more difficult by decentralizing the election and containing disputes in individual states.
- With NPV, a stolen or suppressed vote anywhere could swing the election, creating new incentives and opportunities for election fraud—and more reasons for voters to distrust the process.