
HOUSE BILL 2146

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representative Van Werven

1 AN ACT Relating to withdrawing from the interstate compact to
2 elect the president by national popular vote; amending RCW
3 29A.56.320; creating a new section; repealing RCW 29A.56.300; and
4 repealing 2009 c 264 s 1 (uncodified).

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that our
7 founding fathers created the electoral college as a check on the more
8 populous states to prevent them from imposing their will on smaller
9 states. The electoral college obligates presidential candidates to
10 appeal to the varied interests of all states and not just the
11 interests of large, monolithic population centers. Requiring such
12 widespread appeal is necessary to ensure that the diverse
13 geographical, agricultural, and cultural voices in this country are
14 represented.

15 The legislature finds that assigning presidential electors based
16 on the national popular vote will result in presidential candidates
17 campaigning in populous states while ignoring the voices of voters in
18 states with smaller constituencies. This will have the effect of
19 diminishing Washington state's influence in presidential elections.
20 Assigning presidential electors based on the national popular vote
21 will also outsource Washington state's electoral votes to the will of

1 the nation as a whole, instead of giving effect to the will of its
2 own voters. In effect, the agreement to assign presidential electors
3 based on the national popular vote is an end run around the United
4 States Constitution, and it effectively abolishes the electoral
5 college for partisan purposes.

6 The legislature therefore intends to withdraw from the interstate
7 agreement to elect the president by national popular vote.

8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.56.320 and 2013 c 11 s 56 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 In the year in which a presidential election is held, each major
11 political party and each minor political party or independent
12 candidate convention that nominates candidates for president and vice
13 president of the United States shall nominate presidential electors
14 for this state. The party or convention shall file with the secretary
15 of state a certificate signed by the presiding officer of the
16 convention at which the presidential electors were chosen, listing
17 the names and addresses of the presidential electors. Each
18 presidential elector shall execute and file with the secretary of
19 state a pledge that, as an elector, he or she will vote for the
20 candidates nominated by that party. The names of presidential
21 electors shall not appear on the ballots. The votes cast for
22 candidates for president and vice president of each political party
23 shall be counted for the candidates for presidential electors of that
24 political party(~~(; however, if the interstate compact entitled the~~
25 ~~"agreement among the states to elect the president by national~~
26 ~~popular vote," as set forth in RCW 29A.56.300, governs the~~
27 ~~appointment of the presidential electors for a presidential election~~
28 ~~as provided in clause 9 of Article III of that compact, then the~~
29 ~~final appointment of presidential electors for that presidential~~
30 ~~election shall be in accordance with that compact)).~~

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The following acts or parts of acts are
32 each repealed:

33 (1) RCW 29A.56.300 (States' agreement—Presidential election—
34 National popular vote) and 2009 c 264 s 2; and

35 (2) 2009 c 264 s 1 (uncodified).

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