

RE: National Popular Vote Compact

To the Editor:

Since 1970, the League of Women Voters has had a position in favor of the direct election of the President. After a two-year study, at its convention in June, 2010, the League further adopted the position that the National Popular Vote (NPV) Compact is an acceptable way to attain that goal.

Under the NPV Compact, states joining the compact will instruct their Electors to vote for the presidential candidate who wins the popular vote nation-wide, rather than just in their state. When enough states have joined the compact to have 270 Electoral votes, the popular election of the President will be accomplished.

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct popular vote for the election of the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government.

Six states and the District of Columbia have passed legislation to join the Compact, representing 28% of the Electoral votes needed for enactment. Thirty-one legislative bodies have supported it. New York and California are poised to pass the NPV bill. Vermont can join that company in this Legislative session.

In 2004, George W. Bush won by 3.5 million votes. Kerry lost Ohio by 118,000 votes, so if just 60,000 voters had gone the other way, Kerry would have won, despite trailing in the popular vote by more than 3,000,000. Make every vote count. Ask your legislators to support the NPV Compact for Vermont.

Catherine A. Rader  
President, LWV of Vermont