



## **NEWS BRIEF:**

# **Governor's Signature Makes Delaware Part of National Popular Vote Compact**

**March 29, 2019** -- Delaware is now a member of an interstate compact, the members of which pledge their electoral votes to whichever presidential candidate wins the majority of the national popular vote.

Gov. John Carney signed the [National Popular Vote Bill](#) at a brief ceremony Thursday (3/28) afternoon in Dover.

The compact would become active when its members' collective electoral votes total at least 270 -- the minimum number needed to secure a presidential victory.

Thus far, 14 jurisdictions (Hawaii, Colorado, Delaware, Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Washington, Vermont, California, New York, Rhode Island, and the District of Columbia) possessing a total of 184 electoral votes have joined the compact.

The New Mexico legislature sent a National Popular Vote bill to Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham earlier this month. If she signs it, another five electoral votes would be added.

Delaware's Republican legislators largely opposed the bill.

**State House Minority Whip Tim Dukes, R-Laurel**, says part of his opposition was due to his belief that it sidesteps the appropriate process for making such a fundamental change. "The proposal is an end-run around the requirements of the U.S. Constitution," he said. "If the supporters of national popular vote believe in the merits of their cause, they should be pursuing it through a constitutional amendment, not an interstate compact."

**State Rep. Bryan Shupe, R-Milford South**, says the compact would remove the ability of Delawareans to determine which presidential candidate earns the state's three electoral votes, instead ceding that authority to voters in other states.

**State Rep. Rich Collins, R-Millsboro**, says the current Electoral College system was designed to safeguard the interests of small states like Delaware by giving them disproportionate influence in presidential elections. He said the National Popular Vote compact eliminates that protection.