

A Third World Presidential Election System for the United States? Assessing NPV: National *Anti*-Popular Vote¹

The National Popular Vote Compact should be called the National *Plurality* Vote or the National *Anti-Popular* Vote. It would award a majority of electors to whomever won a plurality of the national popular vote as certified by state elections officers (no matter how corrupt their tabulations). The Constitution's *runoff elections* for president in the House of Representatives and for vice president in the Senate would become nullities.²

The plurality presidential system prevails in Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, the Philippines, and Venezuela.³ Here's how those elections turn out:

Some Recent Elections in Presidential Plurality Systems

<u>Country</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Winner's % of Vote</u>	<u>% of Other Leading Candidates</u>
Honduras	2017	43%	41, 15
	2013	37%	29, 20, 13
	2009	57%	39
	2005	46%	42
Nicaragua ⁴	2016 (rigged)	72%	15
	2011 (rigged)	62%	31
	2006	38%	29, 26
Mexico	2018	53%	22, 15, 5
	2012	38%	32, 25
	2006	36%	35, 22
	2000	43%	36, 17
Panama	2019	33%	31,19,11
	2014	39%	31, 28
	2009	60%	38
	2004	47%	30, 16

¹By Rob Natelson, Professor of Law (ret.), The University of Montana; Senior Fellow in Constitutional Jurisprudence, The Independence Institute, Denver.

²On its website NPV states "Under the current system, there is no procedure for a run-off." They need to re-read the Twelfth Amendment.

³The NPV advocates would point out that it also is used in most states for electing governors. However, state parties are held together by the need to win national elections and most American states are more compact and homogeneous than most nations.

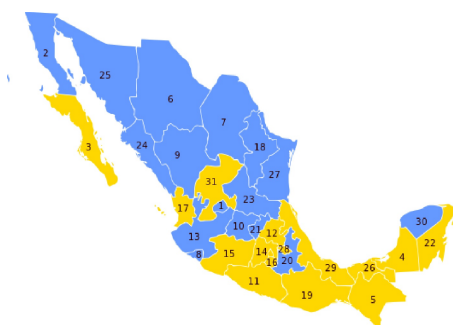
⁴Amnesty International and the Organization of American States report Marxist President Daniel Ortega has engaged in a violent oppression campaign against protesters.

Paraguay	2018	49%	45
	2013	48%	39
	2008	42%	30, 22
	2003	38%	35, 22
Philippines	2016	39%	33, 21
	2010	42%	26, 15, 11
	2004	40%	36, 11, 6, 6
	1998	40%	16, 14, 12, 9
	1992	24%	20, 18, 15, 10, 10
Venezuela ⁵	1993	30.5%	24

Conclusions

- * Setting aside the rigged Nicaragua elections of 2011 and 2016, the tabulation shows that the winner garnered an absolute majority in only 2 of 22 elections. (The winner of the U.S. presidency usually wins an absolute majority.)
- * President Trump won 46% of the popular vote. In these 22 elections, the winning candidate exceeded or matched that less than a third of the time (7).
- * Over a third of the time, the winner received less than 40%. This has *never* happened in the U.S. since the first year the people voted for presidential electors in all states (1864). Candidates have rarely won with less than 45%.
- * These fractured results in the tabulation *disprove* the NPV website’s claim that “plurality voting favors a two-party system.”
- * NPV claims it would not promote regional candidates. But multiple parties and regionalism are common in plurality-rule countries (Canada, the UK). And in Mexican presidential elections (the closest analogy to the U.S.) regionalism can be pronounced—for example:

Mexican Election, 2006



Mexican Election, 2012



⁵Last free pre-Chavez election; Chavez had earlier staged a coup.