



2018 New York State YMCA  
Youth And Government

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Committee Assignment: Senate 4

Bill #: S-23

1 **Sponsors:** Evan Meinke. Christopher Muchow, Gabrielle Pancir

2

3 **An Act To**

4 Amend Section 12-100 of the NYS Election Law to replace New York's "winner-take-  
5 all" Presidential election system with a Congressional District Presidential voting  
6 system.

7

8 ***The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:***

9

10 **Purpose**

11 Our bill seeks to rid New York state of the "winner-take-all" system by which we  
12 currently vote for President and Vice President. Rather than having all of New York  
13 state's electoral votes be won by a statewide popular vote, our bill will make each  
14 Congressional District have an independent electoral vote that will be awarded to  
15 the candidate who wins the popular vote in that district.

16 **Summary of Provisions**

17 **Section 1**

18 Popular vote: vote based on total number or percentage of votes for a candidate.

19 Elector: selected by political parties, appointed to cast a vote for a Presidential  
20 Candidate.

21 Electoral College: system of electing Presidential candidates including statewide  
22 popular votes.

23 Congressional district: area of a state that is represented by one delegate to the  
24 House of Representatives.

25 **Section 2**

26 § 12-100. Electors of president and vice president. At the general  
27 election in November preceding the time fixed by law of the United  
28 States for the choice of president and vice president of the United  
29 States, as many electors of president and vice president of the United  
30 States shall be elected, as this state shall be entitled to. Each vote  
31 cast for the candidates of any party or independent body for president  
32 and vice president of the United States and each vote cast for any  
33 write-in candidates for such offices shall be deemed to be cast for the  
34 candidates for elector of such party or independent body or the  
35 candidates for elector named in the certificate of candidacy of such  
36 write-in candidates. Each elector of president and vice president must be  
37 representative of each Congressional District in New York. Each elector will be  
38 selected by the political party who wins said district by popular vote. Each elector  
39 must submit their vote for the candidate who wins said district by popular vote.

40

41 **Justification**

42 The electoral college was originally implemented as a defense mechanism against  
43 the illiterate, uninformed electorate that existed at the time of the Constitutional  
44 Convention. It is time for us, in today's technologically advanced society, to take  
45 responsibility of our electoral votes here in New York as the 27 Congressional  
46 districts that make up our great state. By replacing the winner-take-all system with  
47 a Congressional District voting system, the diverse demographics and communities  
48 of New York can all be represented in the distribution of New York's electoral votes.  
49 New York would be following the footsteps of Nebraska and Maine, who have  
50 already adopted this system. New York's congressional districts will now become  
51 battleground districts for all Presidential Candidates, now that New York's votes do  
52 not come in a package. Increased exposure to these candidates will increase  
53 political efficacy in our state, and will also hopefully increase voter turnout.

54 **Fiscal Implications**

55 Suspected short-term fiscal implications include an increase in campaign spending  
56 in New York by all Presidential candidates in future elections due to the available  
57 electoral votes. Parties will increase their campaign events across the state, which  
58 could lead to an increase in tax revenue for New York state long-term.

59 **Effective Date**

60 January 1, 2020.