

## **How to use these materials when speaking with your legislators about the Electoral College**

(Remember: We are not allowed to advocate as representatives of the League when talking to our federal legislators about abolishing the Electoral College. Simply represent yourself as a constituent or partner with another group that can advocate.)

Print out the handouts and staple them into a packet. Make several copies that you can give to legislators and their aides, and keep one for yourself to use as visuals during your conversation.

The handouts illustrate the key points from the Power Point, so review the presentation before your meeting to ensure you're familiar with the background for each handout.

Think about the order in which it makes sense for you to discuss the handouts, and staple them in that order.

Ask your legislator if you could provide a brief overview of the Electoral College, its problems, and some myths surrounding it. Keep it VERY short, and allow for questions and discussion along the way.

We don't have a handout around the framers' intent, so you might want to start with a little background, just a few sentences such as:

- The framers of the Constitution wanted a system that would help bridge the information gap across large distances with limited communication, while ensuring that the choice of president was based on the popular wishes of the citizenry.
- It was not a well-thought-out system: "The second choice of many but the first choice of few." "A jerry-rigged improvisation." They were exhausted, hot, and ready to go home.
- This is not a sacred text of our Constitution that deserves to be defended, and none of the founders' original concerns remain relevant today.

Then walk them through each handout, using your own words.

Also, take a look at the FAQ page, and if there are any key points here that you'd like to emphasize, be sure to do so.

**Then let us know how it went!**