

## U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #188, AUGUST 2019

This publication is intended for your information about issues important to education, women and children. How you choose to use the information included here is up to you.

This free newsletter is sponsored by the United States Forum of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is an organization of leading women educators with over 70,000 members. Delta Kappa Gamma members wishing to subscribe to this **FREE** newsletter should send a request to the editor Angela O. Bedenbaugh at [Bedenbaugh.Angela@gmail.com](mailto:Bedenbaugh.Angela@gmail.com). We urge you to share this newsletter with other interested individuals who are not members of Delta Kappa Gamma or members who do not subscribe to this publication.

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### NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE LAW

The **National Popular Vote Law** is legislation passed by state legislatures rather than Congress. The states ratifying it pledge to cast votes in national elections based on the popular vote in their state rather than the all or nothing mandated by the Electoral College System. This system would not take effect until enough states committed. So far fifteen states and the District of Columbia have passed the law with a total of 196 electoral votes of the needed 270. The National Popular Vote Law has been passed by California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington. Additionally, the Arizona House has passed it as well as the Oklahoma Senate. Arizona has eleven electoral votes and Oklahoma has seven electoral votes. Legislation addressing this issue has been taken up in Georgia (16 electoral votes) and Missouri (ten electoral votes). Assuming these four states pass the bill that would bring the total electoral vote count to 240. The National Popular Vote bill would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The bill would ensure that every vote, in every state, will matter in every presidential election.

[Note: This is legislation originating in the state rather than Congress.]

### ANOTHER POTENTIAL CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

An effort is being made in Congress to overturn the **Citizens United decision of the Supreme Court** which allows corporations and wealthy people to make large donations to national elections. (It is even possible for foreign countries or foreign individuals to contribute money to US elections.) In order to amend the Constitution, 38 states must approve the measure. New Hampshire is the twentieth state to approve the amendment. Other states which have passed the amendment are California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington and West Virginia. The District of Columbia has also passed the amendment. There is a measure in Congress which addresses this problem along with several other things related to voting. The **For the People**

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**Act of 2019 (H.R.1)** “expands voter registration and voting access, makes Election Day a federal holiday, and limits removing voters from voter rolls.” It has passed the House and been sent to the Senate where it has not been voted on.

### GUN CONTROL

The recent shootings in El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio have saddened us all. Two ex-military congressmen have advocated for an assault weapons ban based on their combat experience. There needs to be legislation passed which bans guns of the AR47 type. This would not prevent the events from happening, but it would reduce the number of people killed. It is likely that seven of the nine people killed in Dayton and 15-20 of the people killed in El Paso would not have died if the shooter had been using a conventional weapon. During the 1994-2004 period when an assault weapons ban was in place, there were 53 deaths from mass shootings. From 2005-2017 after the assault weapons ban lapsed there was an increase of 309 deaths. Some gun control bills have been introduced. Most notably is **The Assault Weapons Ban of 2019 (H.R.1296, S.66)**. Neither of which has been brought to a vote in either house.

### NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR

Now is the time to make plans to attend the **National Legislative Seminar**. The seminar will be held at the Holiday Inn Crystal City on March 15-18, 2020. The registration form and additional information can be found on the United States Forum website ([www.usforumdkg.org](http://www.usforumdkg.org)). We look forward to seeing you in March!

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### FORUM FACEBOOK PAGE LINK

For those of you desiring discussion of legislative topics there is a U.S. Forum Facebook page online at <http://www.facebook.com/DKG.US.Forum> and a Group page online at [https://www.facebook.com/groups/2269724846587657/?source\\_id=349823881770007](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2269724846587657/?source_id=349823881770007)  
Let us know the issues that concern you and let your voice be heard!

**FORUM WEBSITE:** <http://www.usforumdkg.org/>

### CONTACTING YOUR LEGISLATOR

If you wish to contact your senator to express your opinion, you can call the Congressional Switchboard at 1-202-224-3121. [This is not a toll-free number]. Another way of contacting your senator is via email or a telephone number which is not toll free both of which are available at

[https://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)

**Email access and addresses**

<http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House of Representatives <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the U.S. Senate  
White House 1-202-456-1111

**FIVE CONSTITUENT CONTACTS WILL CAUSE A LEGISLATOR TO PAY SERIOUS ATTENTION TO A GIVEN ISSUE.**

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