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MICHIGAN

CITY BUS TURNED PONY EXPRESS



MANDI WRIGHT, DETROIT FREE PRESS

Jordan Williams, 35, of the Urban City Cowboys, pats his 12-year-old American paint horse named Raven as he gives a tour of his land Thursday in Romulus, Mich. Williams was in Detroit with a friend Nov. 7 to help with a fundraiser when they took their horses on to a DDOT bus in a video that went viral.

Video of horses, riders boarding Detroit bus goes viral

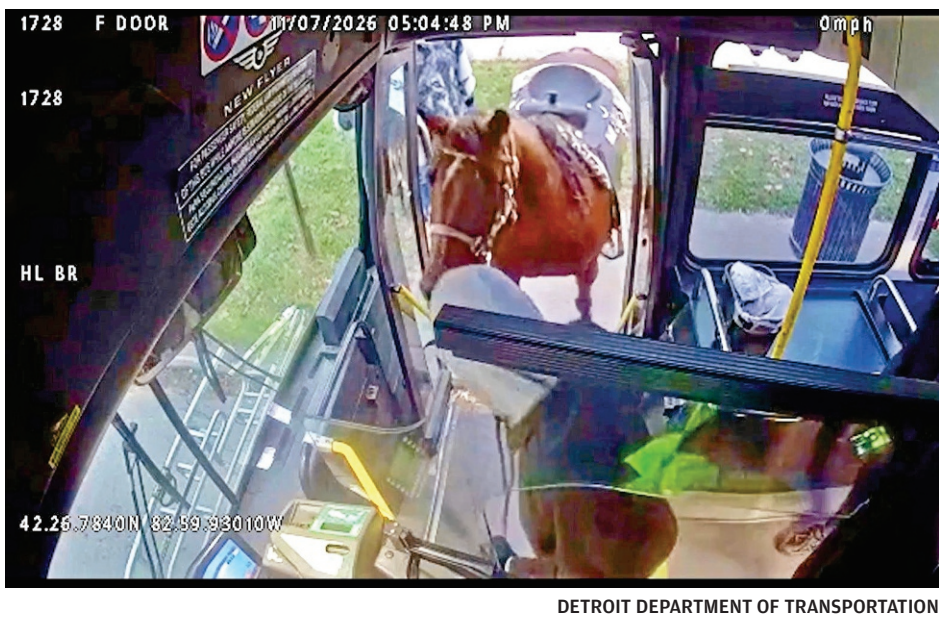
NUSHRAT RAHMAN
Detroit Free Press

It turns out Jordan Williams wasn't actually trying to ride a Detroit bus with his horse Raven.

Williams, co-founder of Urban City Cowboys, was out with his best friend (another horse owner), and their horses in Detroit for a fundraiser, riding along 7 Mile Road, when he came across a Detroit Department of Transportation bus pulling into a stop.

Williams said he spoke to the driver, jokingly remarked that the horse was his service animal and was on and off the bus in no time, much to the astonishment of a passenger inside who snapped some pictures. Williams didn't know the person outside recording him — a video that would soon go viral — but he did intend to make a splash with the stunt.

Please see **HORSES,** Page A2



DETROIT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

A screenshot from surveillance video shows two horses boarding a bus Nov. 7 in Detroit.

Dems' state sweep revives prospect of popular vote compact

Multi-state effort would be way to sidestep Electoral College in presidential races

KIMBERLY WETHAL
kwethal@madison.com

MADISON — In two of the last three presidential elections, Wisconsin's 10 electoral votes played a pivotal role by putting President Donald Trump over the 270 threshold needed to win the presidency.

Now, Democrats may be eyeing changes to how the state allocates those electoral votes as the party claims complete control of state government for the first time in nearly 20 years.

Party leaders in the Legislature are considering entering the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, a Democratic-led multi-state effort to upend how the nation elects a president. Instead of awarding a state's electoral votes to whichever candidate wins the popular vote in that state, the initiative seeks to have states award their electoral votes to the candidate who wins the national popular vote.

Democrats have introduced bills to have Wisconsin join the compact over the last several sessions, but they never advanced under Republican legislative control.

Incoming Assembly Speaker Greta Neubauer, D-Racine, and incoming Senate Majority Leader Sen. Dianne Hesselbein, D-Middleton, served as co-sponsors on those bills, including one introduced earlier this year. Both leaders said they need to consult with their respective caucuses and Democratic Gov.-elect David Crowley before committing to advancing similar legislation next year.

A spokesperson for Crowley's transition team didn't say whether the governor-elect would sign the legislation. But Crowley told the Associated Press this week he was in favor of doing away with the Electoral College.

As a perennial swing state, having Wisconsin join the compact would be guaranteed to be controversial. In the last three presidential elections, all of which featured Trump on the ballot, the vote margins were less than 1 percentage point.

Eighteen states and Washington, D.C., representing 222 electoral votes, have already joined the compact. To take effect, the compact would need to consist of enough states to claim a majority of the Electoral College, or 270 votes.

After Democrats took full control of several more states in this month's election, including Arizona, Michigan, Nevada and Pennsylvania, a popular vote compact could comprise 283 votes if they all joined, exceeding the threshold needed to take effect.

While presidential candidates' names appear on the ballot, voters are not actually electing them. Instead, they're voting for a slate of electors who will then cast votes for the state on their behalf.

Twice this century, the system has resulted in the candidate who lost the national popular vote becoming president — Trump after the 2016 election and George W. Bush after the 2000 election.

Supporters of the Electoral College system say it's necessary to balance power between large and small states. Critics say it dilutes the political influence of larger states, gives smaller states an outsized say in the election and encourages candidates to campaign in only a handful of swing states.

Each state has one electoral vote for every U.S. House member and senator representing it, giving every state at least three votes regardless of population.

Eliminating the Electoral College would take an amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The popular vote compact is seen as a means of achieving the same result without going through that lengthy and often fraught process.

If a popular vote compact were activated, it would likely draw legal challenges that would be decided by a conservative U.S. Supreme Court. The compact would face other challenges, including population shifts that could cause a state to gain or lose Electoral College votes. That could potentially drop the compact below 270 votes.

The last time Democrats held a trifecta in Wisconsin state government, in 2008, it was one year after the compact had been created. Democrats lost that majority two years later in 2010 and have battled for more than 15 years to get it back.