



THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Origins, Challenges, and Debates

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WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

Let's talk about what you know about the Electoral College.

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TED TALK AND DISCUSSION

Watch short Ted Talk and answer some questions.

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WHAT IS THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE?

Take notes on the presentation of the Electoral College.

04

SELF-REFLECTION

Answer some questions about what you have learned!

**WHAT DO YOU
KNOW?**



Electoral College

When citizens cast their vote, they will not be electing the president directly, rather, their votes will choose “electors”. Each state has a number of electors decided by the number of their US senators and representatives. If a candidate gets the most popular (people) votes in the state, he/she gets ALL the electoral votes for that state, except for Maine and Nebraska.

Maine and Nebraska use the congressional district method, which allocates one electoral vote to each congressional district in Maine or Nebraska state. The winner of each congressional district is awarded the one electoral vote, and the winner of the statewide vote is then awarded the state's remaining two electoral votes. If a presidential candidate wins more than half of the electoral votes in the country (270 or more) he/she wins the presidency.



VOTES NEEDED TO WIN

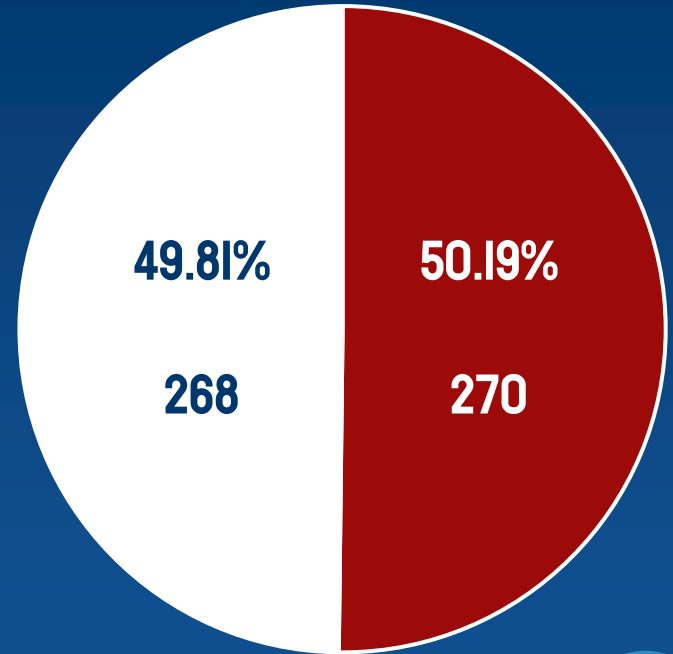
WINNER ★

The winner of the presidential election receives 270 votes from the Electoral College.

LOSER ★

The loser of the presidential election receives at most, 268 votes from the Electoral College.

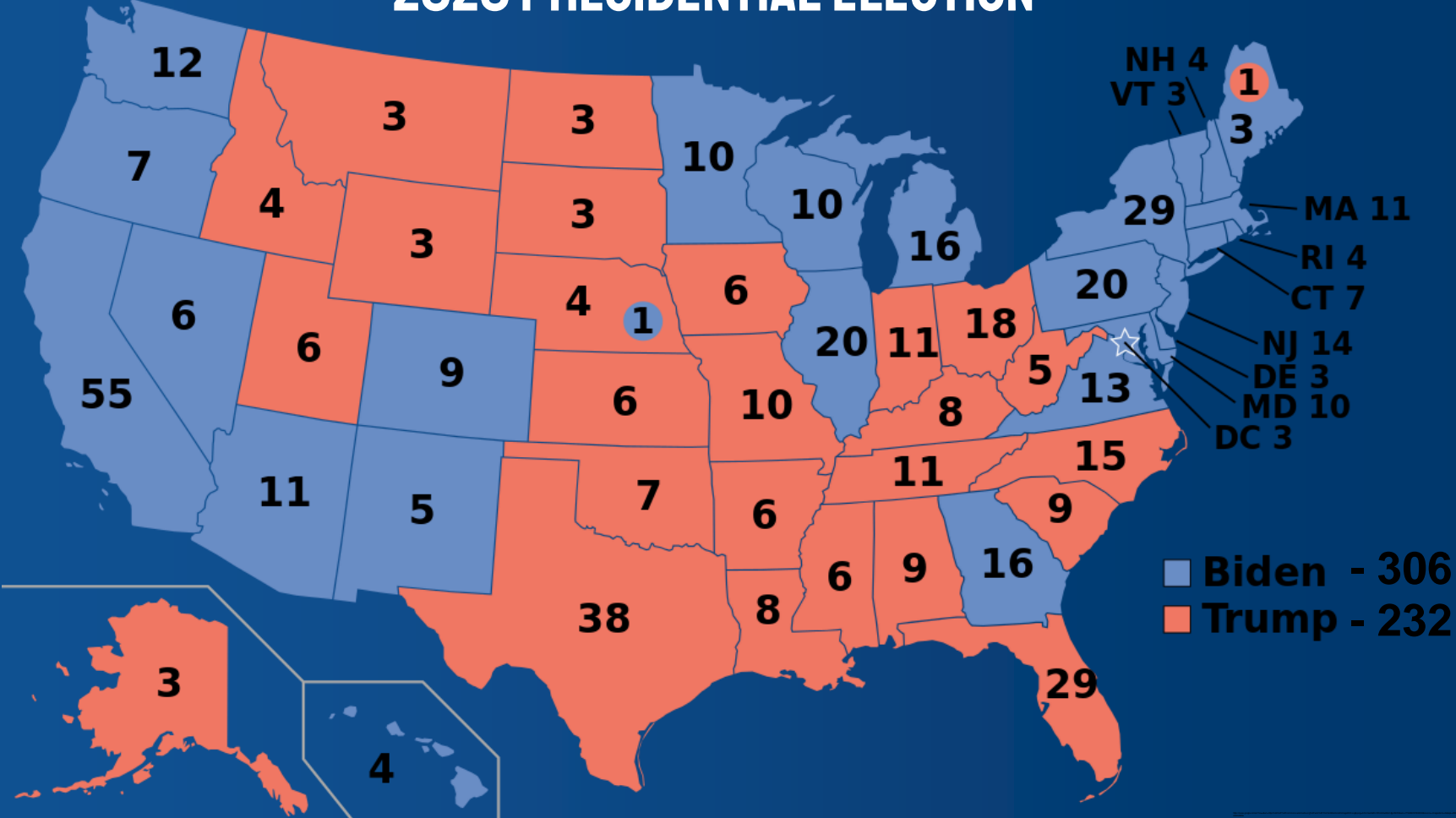
Votes Needed



■ Winner ■ Loser



2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION



DOES YOUR VOTE COUNT?

THE
ELECTORAL
COLLEGE
EXPLAINED





ORIGINS OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

- Constitutional Convention
 - Divided by urban cities, like Philadelphia, in the North and rural towns in the south.
 - Debate of slavery at the convention resulted in the 3/5 compromise.
 - 3/5 Compromise - each enslaved person is considered 3/5 of a person.
 - The compromise indirectly established the Electoral College with electors based on congressional representation.



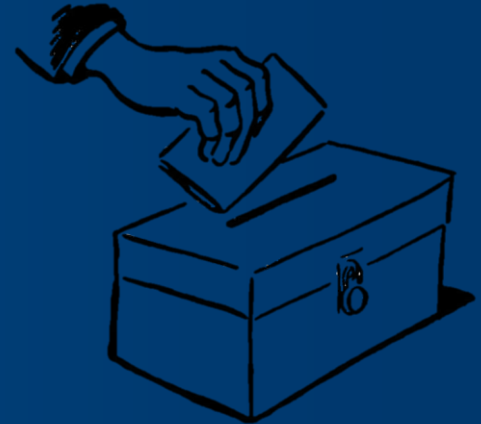
EARLY CHALLENGES AND REFORMS

- Election of 1800 - Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr both received 269 electoral votes.
 - The House of Representatives voted for Jefferson, resulting in the 12th Amendment.
 - The 12th Amendment mandates separate votes for President and Vice President and addresses tie-breakers in the Electoral College through House votes.
- In the 1824 election, Andrew Jackson won the popular vote but not the Electoral College.
 - The House's choice of John Quincy Adams over Jackson led to accusations of corruption.



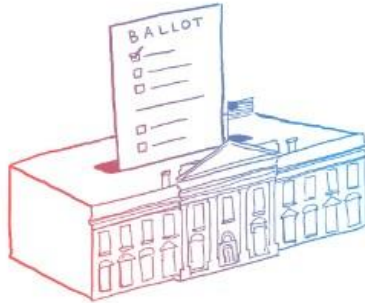
DISCREPANCIES AND CONTROVERSIES

- More than one election has resulted in a candidate receiving a popular vote but not the Electoral College votes.
 - People question the equity of the system.
- **Faithless Electors** - Electoral College members who break their promise to vote for a specific candidate.
 - Never greatly affected an election.



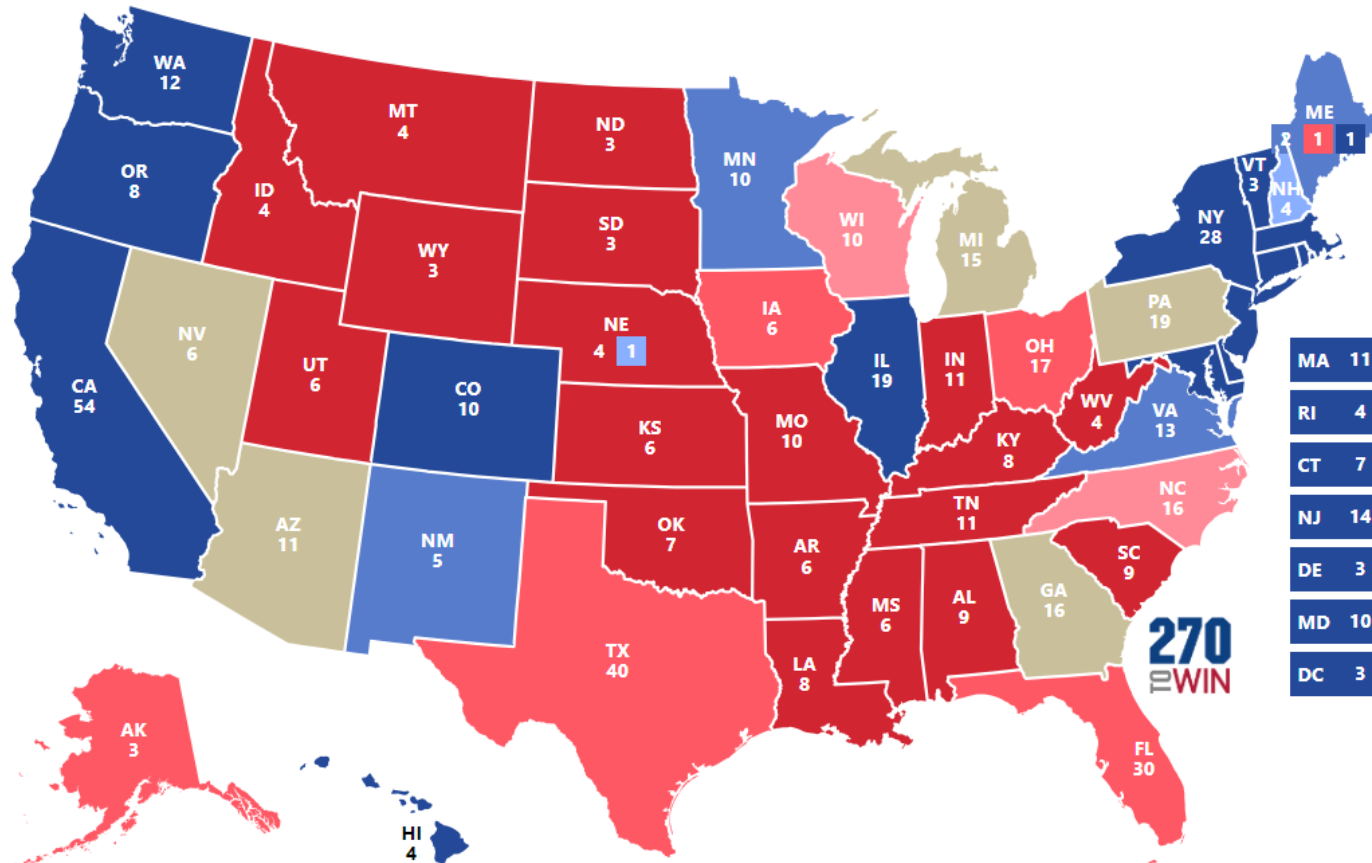
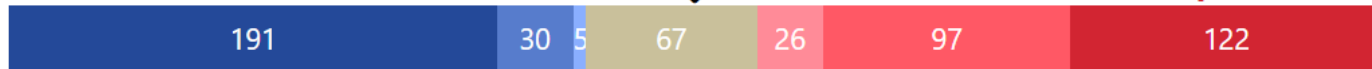
Discrepancies and Controversies

- John Quincy Adams – 1824 won the electoral College – Andrew Jackson popular vote
- Rutherford B. Hayes – 1876 won the electoral College – Samuel J. Tilden popular vote
- Benjamin Harrison – 1888 won the Electoral College – Grover Cleveland popular vote
- George W. Bush – 2000 won the Electoral College – Al Gore won the popular vote
- Donald Trump – 2016 won Electoral College – Hillary Clinton won the popular vote



Democrats ▾ 226

245 Republicans ▾



270
EWIN

Map Color Palette

- + ?

- Safe
- Likely
- Leans
- Toss-up

Show 3rd Party

Split Votes

State	District		
	1	2	3
ME	2	1	1
NE	2	1	1

User-Created Map

Reset Map

<https://www.270towin.com/maps/consensus-2024-presidential-election-forecast>

PERSPECTIVES ON THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE TODAY

- Critics
 - Claim it does not fit with the modern American mold.
 - Formed in a time of restricted voting.
 - Campaigns focus on “**swing states**” and not “**safe states**”.
- Supporters
 - Vital for federal union.
 - States and individuals have a say in government.
 - Prevents cities from controlling elections.



The background is a solid blue color. It features stylized red and white stripes that curve from the top right and bottom left corners towards the center. Scattered across the blue field are several white and light blue stars of varying sizes. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

**TO REFORM OR RETAIN:
DIVERGENT VIEWS ON THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE**

POTENTIAL REFORMS AND THE PATH FORWARD

- A constitutional amendment would be necessary to get rid of the Electoral College.
 - It would need a proposal and ratification by most states.
- Only very rare occasions where the Electoral College and popular votes are not the same.

A PILLAR OF FEDERALISM AND STATE REPRESENTATION



- The United States is a federal **republic**, not just a **direct democracy**.
 - Delicate balance between states and central government.
- ★ •★ The Electoral College ensures that each state, no matter the size, has a say in the election.
 - Forces the candidates to interact with more than urban cities.



THE CASE FOR RETHINKING THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

- The Electoral College no longer aligns with modern-day ideals of democracy.
- Why can the population elect their governors, but not their presidents?
 - There is no Electoral College at the state level, so there should not be one at the national level.
- There is no need to push for higher voter turnout if the Electoral votes are the same.
 - Claim: without an Electoral College, there would be a higher voter turnout.

THE CASE FOR RETHINKING THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE (CONT.)

- Inconsistencies between the Electoral College and the Popular Vote could be fixed by eliminating the Electoral College.
 - Direct democracy could solve the discrepancies.
- Some solutions like the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact are becoming more popular.
 - The growing agreement shows the want for a more straight-forward system.
- The Country needs to change with the times by eliminating the Electoral College.





THE CASE FOR MODERNIZING THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

- There is a potential middle ground between keeping and eliminating the Electoral College.
- Right now, there is a winner-take-all system.
 - Changing this could make it more fair.
 - It can discourage candidates from focusing primarily on swing states.
- Adopting a Proportional Allocation stance would even out the playing field.
 - Example: 10 electoral votes divided 40% and 60% would give candidates 4 and 6 votes.



Based on the arguments presented,
where do you stand on the issue of the
Electoral College?



QUESTIONS

How many electors are there and how did we come to this number?

-

How do we determine how many electors are distributed to each state?

-

What are some criticisms of the Electoral College?

-

What are some benefits?

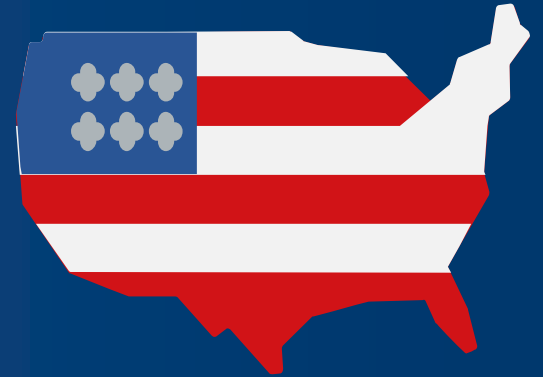
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What are safe states?

-

What are swing states?

-



THANKS

Do you have any question?

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