

Why Should We Abolish the Electoral College?

What did the framers of the Constitution intend?

- Avoid selection of president by Congress, to maintain independence between the branches.
- Help bridge information gap across large distances with limited communication.
- Presidential choice should be based on the popular wishes of the citizenry.
- But electors could exercise discretion in case of “poor choice” by the people (not borne out in practice).
- Not a well-thought-out system: “The second choice of many but the first choice of few.”

None of the founders' original concerns remain relevant today.

The Electoral College is an imperfect system that is damaging to our democracy.

- Puts the choice of president in the hands of voters in only a few so-called “swing states.”
- Decreases participation in our democracy.
- Polarizes our electorate into “red” and “blue.”
- Has resulted five times in a presidential winner who did not receive a majority of the votes.

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FACT

Without the Electoral College, our presidents would be chosen by just a few large states.

Election by popular vote would mean every person is equally represented, regardless of where they live. We no longer would be voting by state, but by person.

Smaller states need the Electoral College to ensure their interests are represented.

There is no coherent “small state” interest that needs protecting by the Electoral College. The representatives of small states do not vote as a bloc in Congress, and their citizens do not vote as a bloc for president. Presidential candidates have not focused their campaigns on any supposed “small state” issues. The Electoral College actually diminishes the representation of the residents of larger states.

The Electoral College protects the rights of the minority from the tyranny of the majority.

The Courts and the Senate protect the rights of minority groups. The president is supposed to represent the interests of all Americans. This means one person, one vote.

Abolishing the Electoral College will mostly benefit Democratic candidates.

This system can, and has, affected both parties. This is a non-partisan issue.

How Do We Abolish the Electoral College?

- ✓ A constitutional amendment has been introduced in Congress many times. We need to introduce it again, and pass it. This means contacting our legislators repeatedly and persistently.
- ✓ The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC) is an acceptable interim solution. States agree to apportion their electoral votes to whomever wins the national popular vote.
- ✓ Assigning electors proportionate to each state’s popular vote would likely result in no candidate receiving a majority of electoral votes, which would send the decision to the House of Representatives. Not an acceptable solution.