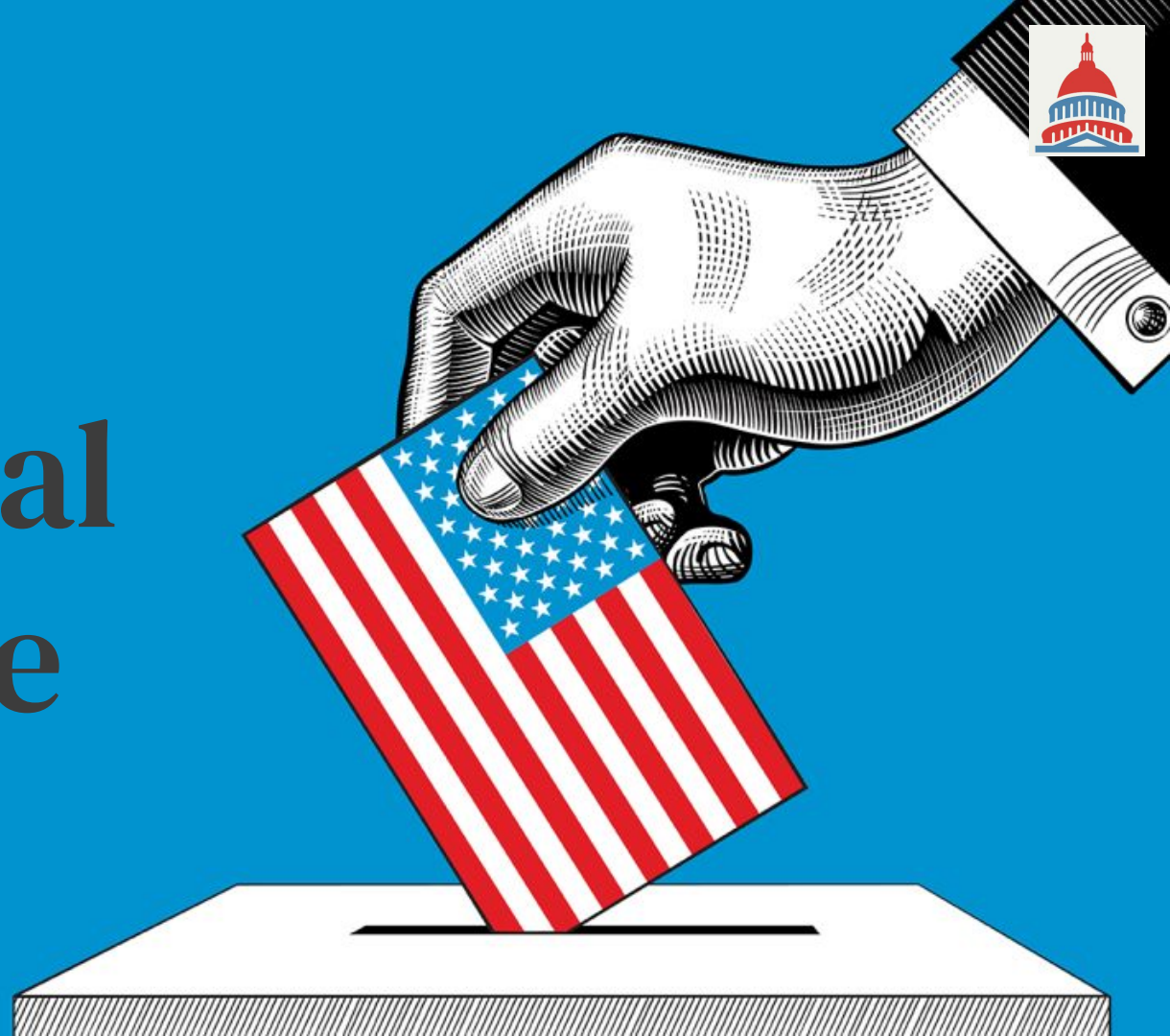




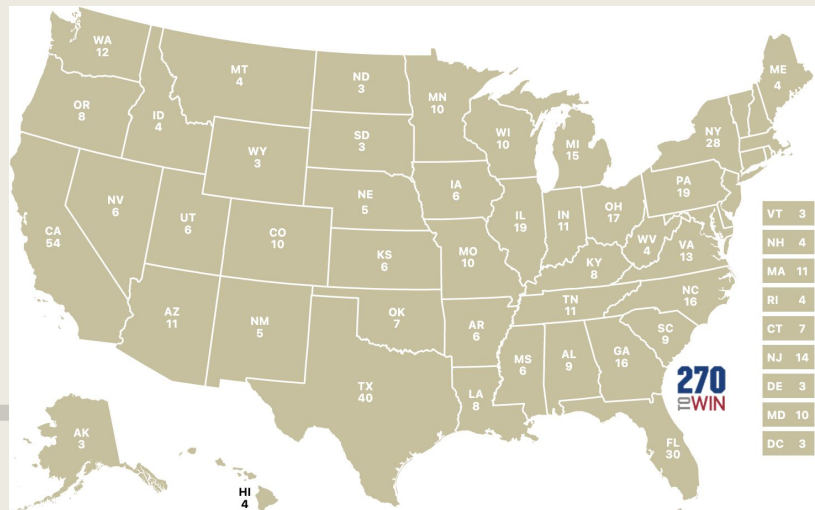
The Electoral College





Background

- Citizens don't vote for president, Electors vote for president in the EC
- 538 Electors divided out by state
 - # of senators + # of representatives = electors
- The winner of the popular vote in each state gets all the electors in that state (except in Nebraska and Maine)
 - NE & ME divide up Electoral votes based on who won the popular vote in each Congressional District





Who are Electors and How Are They Chosen?

- Varies by state, in general state parties chose party officials, state lawmakers, and party activists
 - Each presidential candidate gets their own electors
 - Cannot currently be in Congress
- Are Electors bound by the state popular vote?
 - 32 states & D.C. require, by law, for electors to follow the popular vote
 - Other states have fines for going “faithless” while others throw out the vote of a vogue Elector
- 99% of Electors follow the state popular vote





Pros

- Prevents demagogue from getting in power
 - Demagogue is a leader who relies on people's emotions and prejudices to get into power as opposed to using rational argument
 - Founding Fathers feared that an uneducated population could fall prey to this kind of person
 - National campaign
 - Gives voting power to smaller states
 - Candidates have to campaign in every state versus only going to bigger states or swing states
-



Cons

- Electoral college does not respond to the will of the people, undemocratic
 - In two elections of the 21st century, the candidate who lost the popular vote became president (Trump in 2016 and Bush in 2000)
- Enforces two party system which deprives people of choice since they are forced to choose the lesser of two evils
 - In 1992 Ross Perot (third party candidate) won 19% of the popular vote but 0 electoral votes
- Because of the way electors are distributed, it leads to smaller states getting more electors
 - Votes in these states literally mean more than votes in bigger states

2016



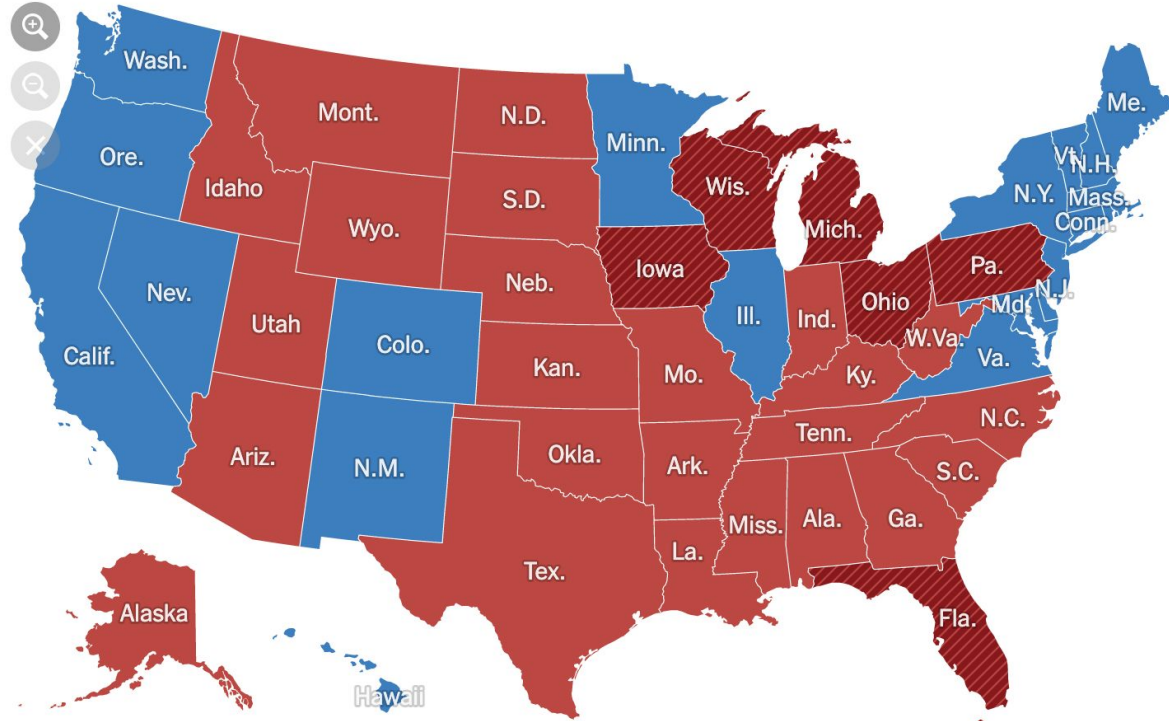
232 Hillary Clinton

✓ Donald J. Trump 306

65,853,625 votes (48.0%)

270 to win

62,985,106 votes (45.9%)



2000



Popular vote

50,456,002

50,999,897

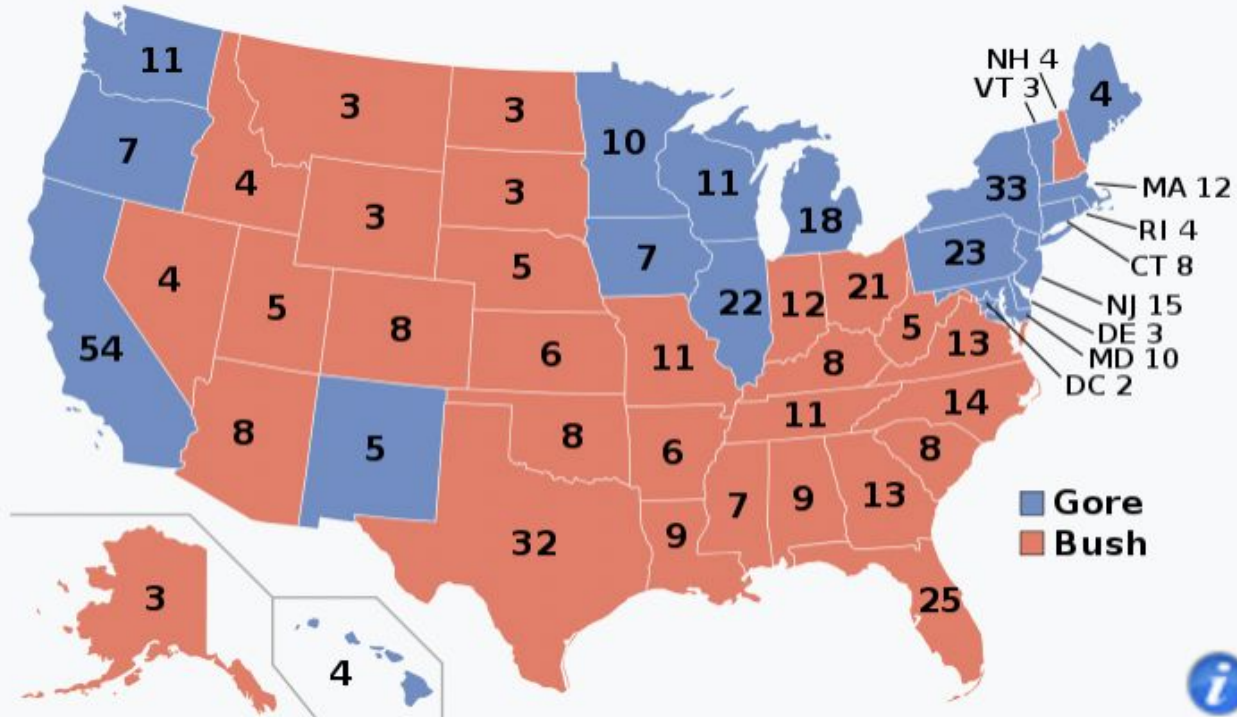
Percentage

47.9%

48.4%

Bush

Gore





54 electoral votes / 39.03 million people
1 electoral vote / 722,777 people

3 electoral votes / 581,381 people
1 electoral vote / 193,793





Why should the way we vote for president differ from the way we vote for every other public office in the US?



**Should states with
smaller populations get
more power?**



**Does the electoral college
misrepresent the will of the
majority voters?**



**Without the Electoral College,
would fly-over states be
neglected?**



Should the Electoral College be abolished?



Have any questions, comments, or concerns?
Email us at
contact@youthpoliticalactivismcoalition.org
