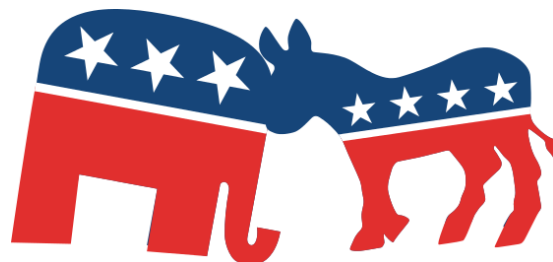


THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE



Every four years it seems the **Electoral College** becomes a lightning rod of controversy and confusion. The popular vote does not elect the president – and in some cases the person with the most votes did not win! One such case happened in 2000, where Al Gore won the popular vote, but George Bush won the **electoral votes**.

The Electoral College was developed to give each state a voice in the election. States are given a proportionate number of votes in the Electoral College based on their population (this number happens to be the same as the number of Congressmen in each state). Electors pledge to vote for the candidate that wins the popular vote in the state and awards them ALL of the state's electoral votes – with exceptions in Maine and Nebraska! If a candidate collects a total of 270 electoral votes they are the winner. Most modern critics believes that states that are “swing” or “battleground” states have a disproportionate influence on the election.

Many have wondered happen if a better system exists. One alternative that has been proposed is that instead of a winner take all system, what if the Electoral Votes were split by the percentage of the popular vote that the candidate won? **Consider the results of the Pennsylvania example.**

Pennsylvania – 20 Electoral Votes	
Republican	60%
Democrat	40%

- Using the Electoral College, the Republican would get 20 electoral votes.
- Using the Alternative, the Republican earns 12 electoral votes (60% of 20) and the Democrat earns 8 electoral votes (40% of 20).

Some believe this is more accurate, but the big question is would it change the results of the election? To put this research question to the test, data will be used from the 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2008 Presidential Elections. In groups of four, choose one election each and determine if the new alternative yields a different result.

Year	Candidate	Total Electoral Votes	Electoral Votes using Alternative Method	Difference
1996	D – Bill Clinton	379		
	R – Bob Dole	159		
2000	D – Al Gore	266		
	R – George W. Bush	271		
2004	R – George W. Bush	286		
	D – John Kerry	251		
2008	D – Barack Obama	365		
	R – John McCain	173		
2012	D – Barack Obama	332		
	R – Mitt Romney	206		
2016				

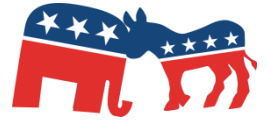
2012 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS



State	EV	Obama	Romney	O EV	R EV
<u>Alabama</u>	9	38.4%	60.7%		
<u>Alaska</u>	3	41.3%	55.3%		
<u>Arizona</u>	11	44.1%	54.2%		
<u>Arkansas</u>	6	36.9%	60.5%		
<u>California</u>	55	59.3%	38.3%		
<u>Colorado</u>	9	51.2%	46.5%		
<u>Connecticut</u>	7	58.4%	40.4%		
<u>Delaware</u>	3	58.6%	40.0%		
<u>D. C.</u>	3	91.4%	7.1%		
<u>Florida</u>	29	50.0%	49.1%		
<u>Georgia</u>	16	45.4%	53.4%		
<u>Hawaii</u>	4	70.6%	27.8%		
<u>Idaho</u>	4	32.6%	64.5%		
<u>Illinois</u>	20	57.3%	41.1%		
<u>Indiana</u>	11	43.8%	54.3%		
<u>Iowa</u>	6	52.1%	46.5%		
<u>Kansas</u>	6	37.8%	60.0%		
<u>Kentucky</u>	8	37.8%	60.5%		
<u>Louisiana</u>	8	40.6%	57.8%		
<u>Maine</u>	4	56.0%	40.9%		
<u>Maryland</u>	10	61.7%	36.6%		
<u>Massachusetts</u>	12	60.8%	37.6%		
<u>Michigan</u>	16	54.3%	44.8%		
<u>Minnesota</u>	10	52.8%	45.1%		
<u>Mississippi</u>	6	43.5%	55.5%		

State	EV	Obama	Romney	O EV	R EV
<u>Missouri</u>	10	44.3%	53.9%		
<u>Montana</u>	3	41.8%	55.3%		
<u>Nebraska</u>	5	37.8%	60.5%		
<u>Nevada</u>	6	52.3%	45.7%		
<u>New Hampshire</u>	4	52.2%	46.4%		
<u>New Jersey</u>	14	58.0%	40.9%		
<u>New Mexico</u>	5	53.9%	43.0%		
<u>New York</u>	29	62.6%	36.0%		
<u>North Carolina</u>	15	48.4%	50.6%		
<u>North Dakota</u>	3	38.9%	58.7%		
<u>Ohio</u>	18	50.1%	48.2%		
<u>Oklahoma</u>	7	33.2%	66.8%		
<u>Oregon</u>	7	54.5%	42.7%		
<u>Pennsylvania</u>	20	52.0%	46.8%		
<u>Rhode Island</u>	4	62.7%	35.5%		
<u>South Carolina</u>	9	44.0%	54.6%		
<u>South Dakota</u>	3	39.9%	57.9%		
<u>Tennessee</u>	11	39.0%	59.5%		
<u>Texas</u>	38	41.4%	57.2%		
<u>Utah</u>	6	24.9%	72.8%		
<u>Vermont</u>	3	67.0%	31.2%		
<u>Virginia</u>	13	50.8%	47.8%		
<u>Washington</u>	12	55.8%	41.7%		
<u>West Virginia</u>	5	35.5%	62.3%		
<u>Wisconsin</u>	10	52.8%	46.1%		
<u>Wyoming</u>	3	28.0%	69.3%		

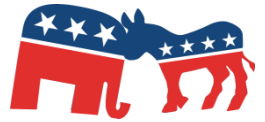
2008 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS



State	EV	Obama	McCain	O EV	M EV
<u>Alabama</u>	9	38.74%	60.32%		
<u>Alaska</u>	3	37.89%	59.42%		
<u>Arizona</u>	10	44.91%	53.39%		
<u>Arkansas</u>	6	38.86%	58.72%		
<u>California</u>	55	60.94%	36.91%		
<u>Colorado</u>	9	53.66%	44.71%		
<u>Connecticut</u>	7	60.59%	38.22%		
<u>Delaware</u>	3	61.91%	36.93%		
<u>D. C.</u>	3	92.46%	6.53%		
<u>Florida</u>	27	50.91%	48.10%		
<u>Georgia</u>	15	46.90%	52.10%		
<u>Hawaii</u>	4	71.85%	26.58%		
<u>Idaho</u>	4	35.91%	61.21%		
<u>Illinois</u>	21	61.85%	36.74%		
<u>Indiana</u>	11	49.85%	48.82%		
<u>Iowa</u>	7	53.93%	44.39%		
<u>Kansas</u>	6	41.55%	56.48%		
<u>Kentucky</u>	8	41.15%	57.37%		
<u>Louisiana</u>	9	39.93%	58.56%		
<u>Maine</u>	4	57.71%	40.38%		
<u>Maryland</u>	10	61.92%	36.47%		
<u>Massachusetts</u>	12	61.80%	35.99%		
<u>Michigan</u>	17	57.33%	40.89%		
<u>Minnesota</u>	10	54.06%	43.82%		
<u>Mississippi</u>	6	43.00%	56.17%		

State	EV	Obama	McCain	O EV	M EV
<u>Missouri</u>	11	49.23%	49.36%		
<u>Montana</u>	3	47.11%	49.49%		
<u>Nebraska</u>	5	41.60%	56.53%		
<u>Nevada</u>	5	55.15%	42.65%		
<u>New Hampshire</u>	4	54.13%	44.52%		
<u>New Jersey</u>	15	57.14%	41.61%		
<u>New Mexico</u>	5	56.91%	41.78%		
<u>New York</u>	31	62.88%	36.03%		
<u>North Carolina</u>	15	49.70%	49.38%		
<u>North Dakota</u>	3	44.50%	53.15%		
<u>Ohio</u>	20	51.38%	46.80%		
<u>Oklahoma</u>	7	34.35%	65.65%		
<u>Oregon</u>	7	56.75%	40.40%		
<u>Pennsylvania</u>	21	54.47%	44.15%		
<u>Rhode Island</u>	4	62.86%	35.06%		
<u>South Carolina</u>	8	44.90%	53.87%		
<u>South Dakota</u>	3	44.75%	53.16%		
<u>Tennessee</u>	11	41.79%	56.85%		
<u>Texas</u>	34	43.63%	55.39%		
<u>Utah</u>	5	34.22%	62.24%		
<u>Vermont</u>	3	67.46%	30.45%		
<u>Virginia</u>	13	52.63%	46.33%		
<u>Washington</u>	11	57.34%	40.26%		
<u>West Virginia</u>	5	42.51%	55.60%		
<u>Wisconsin</u>	10	56.22%	42.31%		
<u>Wyoming</u>	3	32.54%	64.78%		

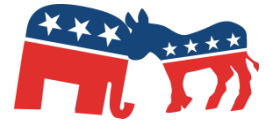
2004 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS



State	EV	Bush	Kerry	B EV	K EV
<u>Alabama</u>	9	62.46%	36.84%		
<u>Alaska</u>	3	61.07%	35.52%		
<u>Arizona</u>	10	54.87%	44.40%		
<u>Arkansas</u>	6	54.31%	44.55%		
<u>California</u>	55	44.36%	54.31%		
<u>Colorado</u>	9	51.69%	47.02%		
<u>Connecticut</u>	7	43.95%	54.31%		
<u>Delaware</u>	3	45.75%	53.35%		
<u>D. C.</u>	3	9.34%	89.18%		
<u>Florida</u>	27	52.10%	47.09%		
<u>Georgia</u>	15	57.97%	41.37%		
<u>Hawaii</u>	4	45.26%	54.01%		
<u>Idaho</u>	4	68.38%	30.26%		
<u>Illinois</u>	21	44.48%	54.82%		
<u>Indiana</u>	11	59.94%	39.26%		
<u>Iowa</u>	7	49.90%	49.23%		
<u>Kansas</u>	6	62.00%	36.62%		
<u>Kentucky</u>	8	59.55%	39.69%		
<u>Louisiana</u>	9	56.72%	42.22%		
<u>Maine</u>	4	44.58%	53.57%		
<u>Maryland</u>	10	42.93%	55.91%		
<u>Massachusetts</u>	12	36.78%	61.94%		
<u>Michigan</u>	17	47.81%	51.23%		
<u>Minnesota</u>	9	47.61%	51.09%		
<u>Mississippi</u>	6	59.44%	39.75%		

State	EV	Bush	Kerry	B EV	K EV
<u>Missouri</u>	11	53.30%	46.10%		
<u>Montana</u>	3	59.07%	38.56%		
<u>Nebraska</u>	5	65.90%	32.68%		
<u>Nevada</u>	5	50.47%	47.88%		
<u>New Hampshire</u>	4	48.87%	50.24%		
<u>New Jersey</u>	15	46.24%	52.92%		
<u>New Mexico</u>	5	49.84%	49.05%		
<u>New York</u>	31	40.08%	58.37%		
<u>North Carolina</u>	15	56.02%	43.58%		
<u>North Dakota</u>	3	62.86%	35.50%		
<u>Ohio</u>	20	50.81%	48.71%		
<u>Oklahoma</u>	7	65.57%	34.43%		
<u>Oregon</u>	7	47.19%	51.35%		
<u>Pennsylvania</u>	21	48.42%	50.92%		
<u>Rhode Island</u>	4	38.67%	59.42%		
<u>South Carolina</u>	8	57.98%	40.90%		
<u>South Dakota</u>	3	59.91%	38.44%		
<u>Tennessee</u>	11	56.80%	42.53%		
<u>Texas</u>	34	61.09%	38.22%		
<u>Utah</u>	5	71.54%	26.00%		
<u>Vermont</u>	3	38.80%	58.94%		
<u>Virginia</u>	13	53.68%	45.48%		
<u>Washington</u>	11	45.64%	52.82%		
<u>West Virginia</u>	5	56.06%	43.20%		
<u>Wisconsin</u>	10	49.32%	49.70%		
<u>Wyoming</u>	3	68.86%	29.07%		

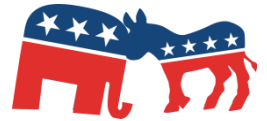
2000 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS



State	EV	Gore	Bush	G EV	B EV
<u>Alabama</u>	9	41.59%	56.47%		
<u>Alaska</u>	3	27.67%	58.62%		
<u>Arizona</u>	8	44.67%	50.95%		
<u>Arkansas</u>	6	45.86%	51.31%		
<u>California</u>	54	53.45%	41.65%		
<u>Colorado</u>	8	42.39%	50.75%		
<u>Connecticut</u>	8	55.91%	38.44%		
<u>Delaware</u>	3	54.96%	41.90%		
<u>D. C.</u>	3	85.16%	8.95%		
<u>Florida</u>	25	48.84%	48.85%		
<u>Georgia</u>	13	42.98%	54.67%		
<u>Hawaii</u>	4	55.79%	37.46%		
<u>Idaho</u>	4	27.64%	67.17%		
<u>Illinois</u>	22	54.60%	42.58%		
<u>Indiana</u>	12	41.01%	56.65%		
<u>Iowa</u>	7	48.54%	48.22%		
<u>Kansas</u>	6	37.24%	58.04%		
<u>Kentucky</u>	8	41.37%	56.50%		
<u>Louisiana</u>	9	44.88%	52.55%		
<u>Maine</u>	4	49.09%	43.97%		
<u>Maryland</u>	10	56.57%	40.18%		
<u>Massachusetts</u>	12	59.80%	32.50%		
<u>Michigan</u>	18	51.28%	46.14%		
<u>Minnesota</u>	10	47.91%	45.50%		
<u>Mississippi</u>	7	40.70%	57.62%		

State	EV	Gore	Bush	G EV	B EV
<u>Missouri</u>	11	47.08%	50.42%		
<u>Montana</u>	3	33.36%	58.44%		
<u>Nebraska</u>	5	33.25%	62.25%		
<u>Nevada</u>	4	45.98%	49.52%		
<u>New Hampshire</u>	4	46.80%	48.07%		
<u>New Jersey</u>	15	56.13%	40.29%		
<u>New Mexico</u>	5	47.91%	47.85%		
<u>New York</u>	33	60.21%	35.23%		
<u>North Carolina</u>	14	43.20%	56.03%		
<u>North Dakota</u>	3	33.05%	60.66%		
<u>Ohio</u>	21	46.46%	49.97%		
<u>Oklahoma</u>	8	38.43%	60.31%		
<u>Oregon</u>	7	46.96%	46.52%		
<u>Pennsylvania</u>	23	50.60%	46.43%		
<u>Rhode Island</u>	4	60.99%	31.91%		
<u>South Carolina</u>	8	40.91%	56.83%		
<u>South Dakota</u>	3	37.56%	60.30%		
<u>Tennessee</u>	11	47.28%	51.15%		
<u>Texas</u>	32	37.98%	59.30%		
<u>Utah</u>	5	26.34%	66.83%		
<u>Vermont</u>	3	50.63%	40.70%		
<u>Virginia</u>	13	44.44%	52.47%		
<u>Washington</u>	11	50.13%	44.56%		
<u>West Virginia</u>	5	45.59%	51.92%		
<u>Wisconsin</u>	11	47.83%	47.61%		
<u>Wyoming</u>	3	27.70%	67.76%		

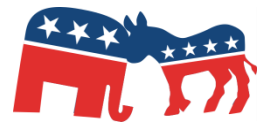
1996 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS



State	EV	Clinton	Dole	C EV	D EV
<u>Alabama</u>	9	43.16%	50.12%		
<u>Alaska</u>	3	33.27%	50.80%		
<u>Arizona</u>	8	46.52%	44.29%		
<u>Arkansas</u>	6	53.74%	36.80%		
<u>California</u>	54	51.10%	38.21%		
<u>Colorado</u>	8	44.43%	45.80%		
<u>Connecticut</u>	8	52.83%	34.69%		
<u>Delaware</u>	3	51.82%	36.58%		
<u>D. C.</u>	3	85.19%	9.34%		
<u>Florida</u>	25	48.02%	42.32%		
<u>Georgia</u>	13	45.84%	47.01%		
<u>Hawaii</u>	4	56.93%	31.64%		
<u>Idaho</u>	4	33.65%	52.18%		
<u>Illinois</u>	22	54.32%	36.81%		
<u>Indiana</u>	12	41.55%	47.13%		
<u>Iowa</u>	7	50.26%	39.92%		
<u>Kansas</u>	6	36.08%	54.29%		
<u>Kentucky</u>	8	45.84%	44.88%		
<u>Louisiana</u>	9	52.01%	39.94%		
<u>Maine</u>	4	51.62%	30.76%		
<u>Maryland</u>	10	54.25%	38.27%		
<u>Massachusetts</u>	12	61.47%	28.09%		
<u>Michigan</u>	18	51.69%	38.48%		
<u>Minnesota</u>	10	51.10%	34.96%		
<u>Mississippi</u>	7	44.08%	49.21%		

State	EV	Clinton	Dole	C EV	D EV
<u>Missouri</u>	11	47.54%	41.24%		
<u>Montana</u>	3	41.23%	44.11%		
<u>Nebraska</u>	5	34.95%	53.65%		
<u>Nevada</u>	4	43.93%	42.91%		
<u>New Hampshire</u>	4	49.32%	39.37%		
<u>New Jersey</u>	15	53.72%	35.86%		
<u>New Mexico</u>	5	49.18%	41.86%		
<u>New York</u>	33	59.47%	30.61%		
<u>North Carolina</u>	14	44.04%	48.73%		
<u>North Dakota</u>	3	40.13%	46.94%		
<u>Ohio</u>	21	47.38%	41.02%		
<u>Oklahoma</u>	8	40.45%	48.26%		
<u>Oregon</u>	7	47.15%	39.06%		
<u>Pennsylvania</u>	23	49.17%	39.97%		
<u>Rhode Island</u>	4	59.71%	26.82%		
<u>South Carolina</u>	8	43.85%	49.89%		
<u>South Dakota</u>	3	43.03%	46.49%		
<u>Tennessee</u>	11	48.00%	45.59%		
<u>Texas</u>	32	43.83%	48.76%		
<u>Utah</u>	5	33.30%	54.37%		
<u>Vermont</u>	3	53.35%	31.09%		
<u>Virginia</u>	13	45.15%	47.10%		
<u>Washington</u>	11	49.84%	37.30%		
<u>West Virginia</u>	5	51.51%	36.76%		
<u>Wisconsin</u>	11	48.81%	38.48%		
<u>Wyoming</u>	3	36.84%	49.81%		

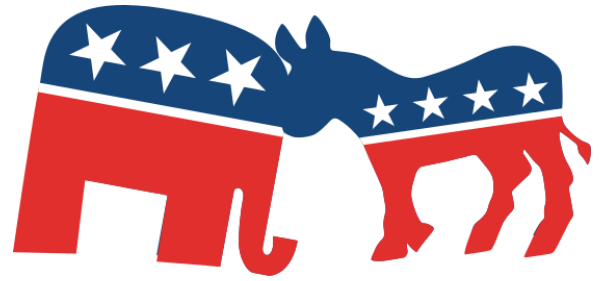
2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS



State	EV	Obama	Romney	O EV	R EV
<u>Alabama</u>	9				
<u>Alaska</u>	3				
<u>Arizona</u>	11				
<u>Arkansas</u>	6				
<u>California</u>	55				
<u>Colorado</u>	9				
<u>Connecticut</u>	7				
<u>Delaware</u>	3				
<u>D. C.</u>	3				
<u>Florida</u>	29				
<u>Georgia</u>	16				
<u>Hawaii</u>	4				
<u>Idaho</u>	4				
<u>Illinois</u>	20				
<u>Indiana</u>	11				
<u>Iowa</u>	6				
<u>Kansas</u>	6				
<u>Kentucky</u>	8				
<u>Louisiana</u>	8				
<u>Maine</u>	4				
<u>Maryland</u>	10				
<u>Massachusetts</u>	12				
<u>Michigan</u>	16				
<u>Minnesota</u>	10				
<u>Mississippi</u>	6				

State	EV	Obama	Romney	O EV	R EV
<u>Missouri</u>	10				
<u>Montana</u>	3				
<u>Nebraska</u>	5				
<u>Nevada</u>	6				
<u>New Hampshire</u>	4				
<u>New Jersey</u>	14				
<u>New Mexico</u>	5				
<u>New York</u>	29				
<u>North Carolina</u>	15				
<u>North Dakota</u>	3				
<u>Ohio</u>	18				
<u>Oklahoma</u>	7				
<u>Oregon</u>	7				
<u>Pennsylvania</u>	20				
<u>Rhode Island</u>	4				
<u>South Carolina</u>	9				
<u>South Dakota</u>	3				
<u>Tennessee</u>	11				
<u>Texas</u>	38				
<u>Utah</u>	6				
<u>Vermont</u>	3				
<u>Virginia</u>	13				
<u>Washington</u>	12				
<u>West Virginia</u>	5				
<u>Wisconsin</u>	10				
<u>Wyoming</u>	3				

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE FOLLOW UP



Use the research from the Alternative Method to inform your answers to the following questions.

1. Using the Alternative Method, which election had the biggest change as a result? Did any result in a different winner?
2. In general, did the results get closer or farther apart?
3. In the Electoral College System, the President must win a minimum of 270 electoral votes. Using the Alternative Method, did a candidate reach that minimum in each election?
4. After analyzing the results, do you feel the Electoral College is an adequate way of electing the President?
5. Suppose the United States could rethink their entire election process, what do you think would be the best way to elect the President? Please support your ideas and explain clearly.