

Good Riddance to the Electoral College



For **228** years and **56** presidential elections, the highest office in the land has been decided through a system known as the Electoral College. However, the Framers of the Constitution, geniuses as they were, failed to foresee the rapid population growth and varied populace distributions throughout the country.

The Electoral College is a flawed, outdated system in need of abolition and replacement with a popular vote.

The Electoral College takes the power away from the single American voter, putting it instead into the hands of pre-determined electors. The problem that arises is that the electors have no legal obligation to cast their votes the same way as the individual voters in their respective state have.

Furthermore, an Electoral College system distorts the idea of the one-person, one-vote principle. Due to electoral votes, a voter in a swing state theoretically holds more power than a voter in a solidly red or blue state, morphing the idea of a complete democracy in which all voters are equal.

Not only does the Electoral College manipulate voter weighting, it is also possible for the loser of the national popular vote to become the winner of the final election, thus claiming the presidency although failing to claim the most votes.

The Electoral College system twists the campaign-

ing process, due to the fact that each candidate will write off roughly 40 states they know they won't win or won't lose. This leaves a handful of swing states, which incentivizes candidates to value the vote of a single voter in a toss-up state compared to a single voter in a solid-blue or solid-red state more. This further promotes the notion that individual voters are weighted differently and are, inherently, unequal.

Third Party candidates also offer a problem in an Electoral College system. Although carrying almost no weight nationally, alternative candidates have the opportunity to significantly alter the results of a presidential election due to influences in individual states, potentially earning enough votes to take away a state away from a major party candidate.

The Electoral College is an outdated, impractical system that is no longer necessary or effective in modern times. Shifting to a pure popular vote would ensure that each vote is weighted equally, return the power of electing public officials back to the individuals, and reduce the chance that an insignificant third party candidate can consequently alter the outcome of the national election.

We need to abolish the unnecessary Electoral College, and replace it with an equal popular vote election system.

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