



# THE FLIP SIDE

Student Edition

March 16, 2020

## Would Our Democracy Be Hurt or Helped by Amending the Electoral College?

The Electoral College was implemented on September 6, 1787. It was created to eliminate uninformed voting that may come with the popular vote. [“Every State is allocated a number of votes equal to the number of senators and representatives in its U.S. Congressional delegation”](#) A nominee must receive half of the votes, 270, in order to be elected as the president of the United States. It is debated that the Electoral College is outdated, and should be amended to create more equality for each state.



### From the Left

The left side, majorly democrats, believe that the electoral college holds a lot of bias. Since the number of representatives from each party is not taken into consideration, the voting may be skewed.

### From the Right

Republicans generally support the electoral college because, in recent years, the electoral college has voted in their favor. They also say that it gives each state an equal representation.

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“As Democrats have done well in highly populated states, the winner-take-all method to award electoral votes continues to produce large benefits for them. California, New York, Illinois, Texas and Florida alone account for 171 electoral votes. The addition of six more reliably Democratic states (Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maryland, New Jersey, Oregon, and Washington) total 232 electoral votes, leaving Democrats just 38 votes shy of an Electoral College majority.”

**Robert Alexander, [CNN Opinion](#)**

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“Consider that state legislatures are technically responsible for picking electors, and that those electors could always defy the will of the people. Back in 1960, segregationists in the Louisiana legislature nearly succeeded in replacing the Democratic electors with new electors who would oppose John F. Kennedy. (So that a popular vote for Kennedy would not have actually gone to Kennedy.) In the same vein, “faithless” electors have occasionally refused to vote for their party’s candidate and cast a deciding vote for whomever they please. This year [2004], one Republican elector in West Virginia has already pledged not to vote for Bush; imagine if more did the same.”

**Bradford Plumer, [Mother Jones](#)**

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“Safe states are states that have historically proven to always vote in

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“Furthermore, just like the Senate, the Electoral College gives smaller states a larger voice in comparison to bigger states. We see even in our modern day how many popular vote republics, whether with Catalonia in Spain, Northern Italy, or other regional separatist movements across the world how pure democracy often leads smaller regions to feel isolated, powerless and eventually oppressed.”

**Erich Reimer, [Fox News Opinion](#)**

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“Plato’s “Republic” heavily influenced Madison and the other framers to devise a Constitution that protected the minority. Plato held that the ideal, i.e., just, form of government was one in which power was shared correctly between workers, warriors, and rulers. Madison held that the ideal, i.e., American, form of government was one in which power was shared correctly between judges, lawmakers, and rulers. Inspired as it is, our Constitution protects the minority while preserving the best of democracy: we the people elect representatives to run the government (republic) and we do so by majority vote (democracy). Ergo, this is a democratic republic. Ergo, an Electoral College.”

**Donna Carol Voss, [The Federalist](#)**

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“America now suffers from a political paradox: This is one of the most

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favor of the candidate of a particular party. Safe states for Republicans include Texas, Arizona, Georgia, Tennessee and Indiana, amongst others. Safe states for Democrats include New York, California, Maryland, Illinois and Washington, amongst others. Swing states are states that have historically maintained equal support for the candidates of both parties, and are viewed as crucial in deciding the outcome of an election. Swing states include Florida, Ohio, New Hampshire, Virginia and Colorado. Therefore a Republican's vote in Maryland really doesn't matter and a Democrat's vote in Texas is worthless. However, if you are a resident of a swing state, say Florida for example, your vote is marginally more significant than the vote of an individual in a safe state. This is because under an Electoral College voting process, an individual vote is only as valuable as its ability to influence the majority vote of a state. Why? Because you are not casting a direct vote for President; the electors are. And in 48 states plus the district of Columbia, the citizen's majority vote determines which candidate will receive all the electoral votes from their state."

**Tyler Lewis, [HuffPost](#)**

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partisan times in American history, but the parties have never been weaker. Abolishing the Electoral College would make parties even weaker by further incentivizing populist politicians to work outside the system to cultivate celebrity and cults of personality."

**Jonah Goldberg, [The New York Post Opinion](#)**

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“If you are someone who is an independent and wants choices in the presidential race other than Democrat or Republican, ending the Electoral College removes a major impediment for an independent presidential candidacy. It is much easier for an independent to win the popular vote than it is for that candidate to win the Electoral College.”

**Matthew Dowd, [abcNEWS](#)**

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“Electoral College opponents blast the system as outdated, archaic and unnecessary, but their criticisms reflect a misunderstanding of the Founders’ objectives as they drafted our Constitution. The Founders sought to create a constitutional structure that would allow Americans to be self-governing, despite the imperfections of human nature. They knew that people can be selfish, greedy and too ambitious. They knew that power corrupts. Their constitutional system of checks and balances — including the state-by-state presidential election process — was designed to protect against these human flaws.”

**Tara Ross, [USA Today Opinion](#)**

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“The issue in two cases the court agreed on Jan. 17 to hear — one from Washington state and one from Colorado — is whether individual members of the electoral college are free to vote for whomever they please, or whether states may pass laws requiring them to cast votes for the candidate to whom they pledged their votes prior to the election. Such laws exist in 29 states and the District, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures; they conform to the widespread public expectation, developed over centuries of common practice, that each state’s electoral votes will go to the winner of its popular vote.”

**Editorial Board, [The Washington Post](#)**

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“The Electoral College encourages prospective presidents to craft strategies to appeal to more people in more states, or suffer the consequences. A salient example from 2016 is Wisconsin, which had voted Democratic since 1988. Donald Trump visited the state six times during the campaign and won there by less than one percent. Hillary Clinton, who assumed Wisconsin was in the bag, never showed up once.”

**Chris Farrell, [The Daily Caller Opinion](#)**

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“A majority of U.S. adults (58%) say the Constitution should be amended so the presidential candidate who receives the most votes nationwide wins, while 40% prefer to keep the current system in which the candidate who receives the most Electoral College vote wins the election. Support for amending the Constitution has increased slightly since the period immediately following the 2016 election. In a November 2016 CNN/ORC survey, roughly half of adults (51%) favored amending the Constitution to eliminate the Electoral College. And in a March 2018 Pew Research Center survey, 55% favored taking this step. The current level of support for eliminating the Electoral College is nearly the same as in 2011, when 62% favored amending the Constitution. However, partisans’ attitudes on this question have grown further apart since the 2016 election, with Republicans becoming more supportive of the current system.”

**Andrew Daniller, [The Pew Research Center](#)**

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“The electoral college is what gives more Americans the power to select the president. As I’ve written numerous times over the years, the electoral college allows the people of each state to select who they want as president. America has 51 individual popular votes (each state and the District of Columbia). Electoral votes allow the people of each separate state to choose their president. The national popular vote is a meaningless statistic because it is skewed by California, New York, and Texas.”

**Ashe Schow, [The Daily Wire](#)**

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**On the bright side...**

['Golden Unicorn' Puppy With Adorable Name Has One Ear in the Middle of Her Head](#)

**Mirror UK**