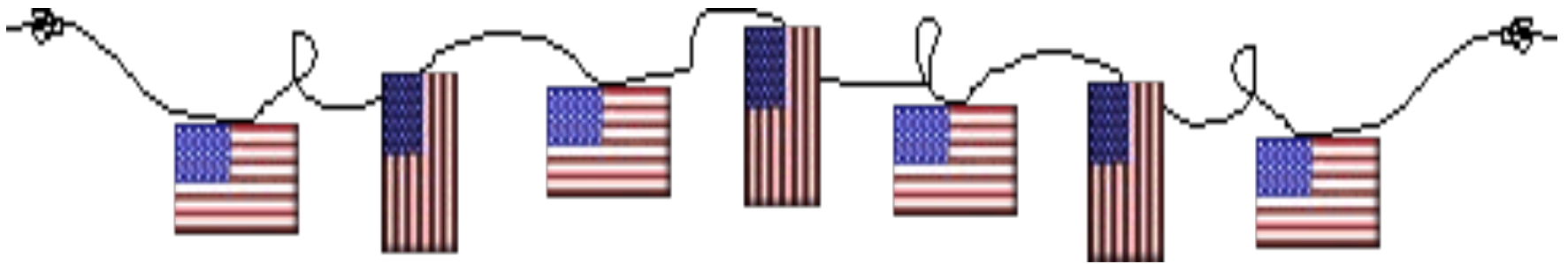


TODAY

- 1) Map Review
- 2) Republican Candidate Introduction
- 3) Electoral College Discussion

HW: Find at least 3 issues your candidate has with other candidates' platform (only the 5 we are currently discussing). You should be able to discuss this from your candidate's perspective without notes.

This is preparation for your final debate.



What is Electoral College?

Objectives:

- Be able to explain importance of the Electoral College and its function.**
 - Why was it created**
 - How does the Electoral College affect Presidential Campaigns**

What do they have in common?



Andrew Jackson



Al Gore

Did you get it right?

- They both won the popular vote in a Presidential election but did not go on to become the President.



1824

- Popular Vote

Andrew Jackson 43%

John Q. Adams 30.5%

Electoral Vote

Jackson 102 votes

Adams 82

- ✓ Adams elected by House of Representatives when Jackson did not receive a majority of the Electoral votes

1876

- Popular Vote

Samuel Tilden 51%

R. B. Hayes 48%

Electoral College

Tilden 184

Hayes 185

Winner: **Hayes**

1888

- Popular Vote

Grover Cleveland	48.5 %
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Benjamin Harrison	47.8 %
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- Electoral College

Cleveland	168
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Harrison	233
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Winner: **Harrison**

2000

- Popular Vote

Albert Gore	48.7%
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George W. Bush	48.5%
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- Electoral College

Gore	266
------	-----

Bush	271
------	-----

Winner: **Bush**

Why did this happen?



- Americans do not pick the President by direct ballot.
- Technically, they only select electors.
- These electors form what is called the Electoral College (it's the Electors who officially elect the President).

What is it?



- The Electoral College was created by the Founding Fathers.
- It was established by Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution.



ARTICLE II

Section 1



“Electors will determine the president and vice-president.”

Why was Electoral College created?



People were not knowledgeable enough to select a President. (Poor communications)
This was a check that gave the states a voice in choosing the President, the objective was to maintain regional balance.

KANYE 2020???!?!?





How many electoral college votes are there?

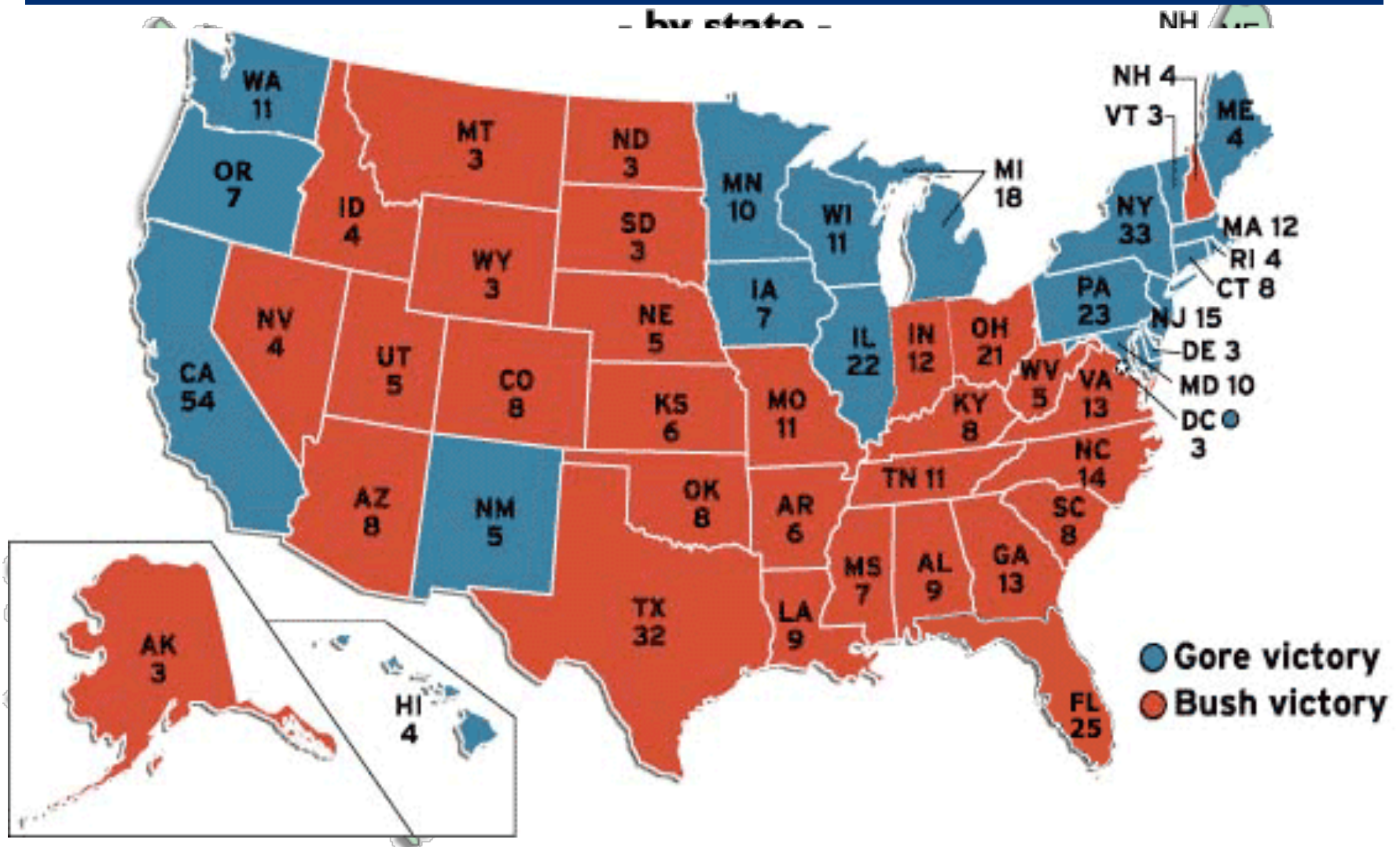
- The total electoral vote of 538
 - based on 100 senators, 435 representatives for the 50 states
- The 23rd Amendment gave Washington, DC 3 electoral votes.
- The Presidential Election should be viewed as 51 separate elections each with a “winner take all” system since the candidates compete in 50 states and DC for electoral votes.

270 to win!

- To win a candidate must get a majority of 538 votes or 270.
- Each state is represented in the Electoral College according to their total number of members of Congress.



On your copy of the map below, imagine you are running for President with limited money and can only focus on a few states, where are you going to focus your campaign?



So how many electors are there?



- Each state is allocated a number of electors.
 - Every 10 years Census is taken
 - Determines how many representatives each state gets.
- This helps determine how many each state receives.

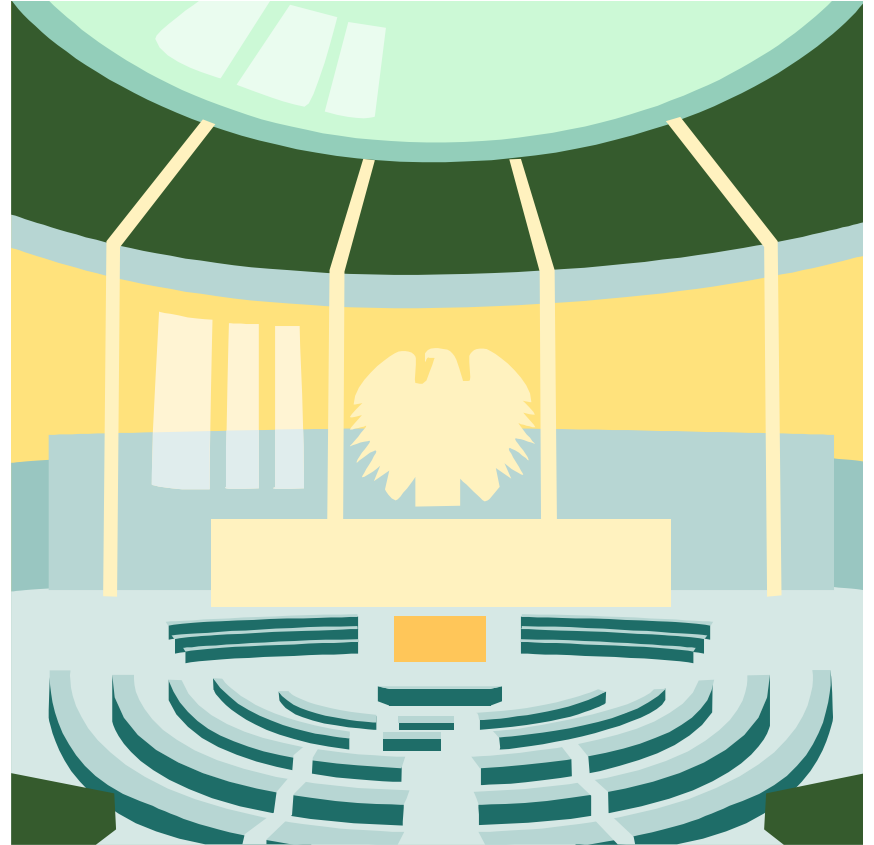


How many electors does each state have?

- The number can change after each census to reflect shifts in population, thus in 2000 Florida had 25 electoral college votes but in 2004 it had 27 votes.
- California, the most populous state, has two senators and 52 representatives. This gives California 54 electoral votes.
- Wyoming, the least populous state, has two senators and 1 representative. This gives Wyoming 3 electoral votes.

Becoming an Elector

- Electors will be appointed by state/political party.
- Electors must be loyal party members.



The two exceptions

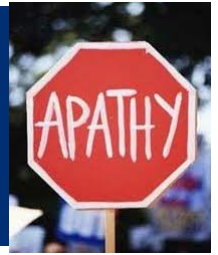


- In Maine and Nebraska the overall state majority vote winner gets the two Senate electoral college votes.
- Each congressional district in the state is given one electoral college vote and the winner of the majority of that district gets the vote.
- Example Nebraska: in 2008, McCain won the two Senate electoral college votes for the overall state and also two of three congressional districts and Obama won the third congressional district.

SOME ISSUES

- Low Voter Turn Out...
- 3rd Party Influence?
- Tactical Voting
- Person with most votes... may not win.
- Votes are not for a candidate, but EC votes.

Why low voter turnout?



- The Electoral College is a winner take all system of deciding who receives a states electoral votes.
- Consequently, if a person gets 50.1% of the popular vote (in a two man race), he get 100% of the electoral votes.
- Therefore, many people feel that their vote does not matter and choose to not vote.

Minor parties

- The Electoral College discourages minor parties because a candidate must have a broad based, national platform to have a chance to gain the highest office.
- Rarely are minor parties financially and politically able to do this.

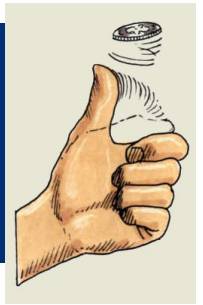


Tactical Voting



- Voters often resort to tactical voting in Presidential elections because the person they truly support cannot win the all of the electoral votes.
- For instance, many people would have preferred Ralph Nader in the 2000 Presidential election but knew that he was not going to win.
- Instead, they often voted for Al Gore because he was the major candidate with the platform closest to Nader.

What if there is a tie?



- If no Presidential candidate gets 270 electoral votes, the US House of Representatives takes a vote to determine the winner (this happened in 1800 & 1824).
- If no Vice Presidential candidates receives enough votes to win, the Senate takes a vote to decide who the winner is (this happened in 1837).

Has this ever happened?

- In the Presidential election of 1836, the election for Vice President was decided in the Senate.
- Martin Van Buren's running mate, Richard M. Johnson, fell one vote short of a majority in the Electoral College.
- Vice Presidential candidates Francis Granger and Johnson had a "run-off" in the Senate under the 12th Amendment, where Johnson was elected 33 votes to 17.

Do Electors have to do they are told to do?

- Electors *have* refused to vote for their party's nominee
 - 1796
 - 1820
 - 1948
 - 1956
 - 1960
 - 1968
 - 1972
 - 1976
 - 1988
 - 2000
 - 2004: an elector from Minnesota voted for John Edwards (twice, President & Vice President)



What are "faithless electors"?



- Electors are under no constitutional or Federal law to vote according to the results of the popular vote in their States.
- Some States, however, require electors to cast their votes according to the popular vote, there are two types:
 - (1) Electors bound by State law
 - (2) Electors bound by pledges to political parties.
- The Supreme Court has held that the Constitution does not require that electors be completely free to act as they choose and therefore, political parties may extract pledges from electors to vote for the parties' nominees.
- Some State laws provide that so-called "faithless electors" may be subject to fines or may be disqualified for casting an invalid vote and be replaced by a substitute elector.
- **No elector has ever been prosecuted for failing to vote as pledged.**

Advantages	Disadvantages
Preserves the federal system-winning individual states is important. Without the EC, state lines mean nothing	Complex system which can be confusing, votes are for the EC not the candidate.
Candidates need to focus on all regions of the nation - States with the smallest populations can have a significant impact on the outcome of the election.	The person with the most votes may not win (see examples at outset of lesson).
Usually produces a clear winner, with voters able to see and understand which states each candidate has won and why.	Encourages low voter turnout
Preserves the two party system	Diminishes third party influence
Extreme parties have little chance of winning any state	Person with most popular votes may not win
Protects minorities	Leads to tactical, insincere voting If there is no majority winner in the EC, the election goes to the H.o.R and there is a loss of separation of powers.