

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

FUNCTION: **ELECTS THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES**

The Founding Fathers (writers of the Constitution) did not believe the average American citizen was intelligent enough to make a wise choice for President. They decided that ELECTORS should have this power. They expected the Electors to be well educated. They were supposed to vote for the most able person.

We still have electors today. HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT EXPECTED TO USE THEIR OWN JUDGMENTS. THEY ARE EXPECTED TO VOTE FOR WHICHEVER CANDIDATE IS CHOSEN BY THE MAJORITY OF VOTERS IN THEIR STATE. They usually carry out the wishes of the people in the state (although legally they do not have to).

Each state has as many electors as the total number of its Senators and Representatives.

$$\begin{array}{rclclcl} E & = & S & + & R \\ E & = & 2 & + & R \end{array}$$

There are a total of 538 electoral votes in the U.S. A candidate needs a MAJORITY of these to become President. That is _____ votes.

$$538 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} + \underline{\hspace{2cm}} + \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

The candidate who receives the most people's votes (popular votes) in a state, RECEIVES ALL OF THE ELECTORAL VOTES OF THAT STATE.

There is a possibility of a tie at 269 votes each, or a third candidate further splitting the vote. If this happens, the House of Representatives casts votes for the presidency with each state getting one vote. This has happened twice in our nation's history:

1800 Election: Thomas Jefferson vs. **Aaron Burr**
(became pres.) (became VP)

1824 Election: John Q. Adams vs. **Andrew Jackson** vs. **Henry Clay**
(84 Electoral) (99 Electoral) (49 Electoral)
(Became Pres.)

Furthermore, it is a possibility for a candidate to win the Popular Vote nationally, but lose the Electoral College vote and thus lose the presidency. This happens when a candidate wins large states but by a small margin. This has happened four time in our nation's history and most recently in 2000 between George W. Bush and Al Gore.

PROPOSED REMEDIES:

- 1. Just count the popular votes**
- 2. Divide the Electoral Votes in each state in proportion to the people's votes in that state.**

**However, it would take a _____
to change this system!!**

Looking at the electoral map:

Electoral College votes are based upon population.

How does our country determine its population?

How often?

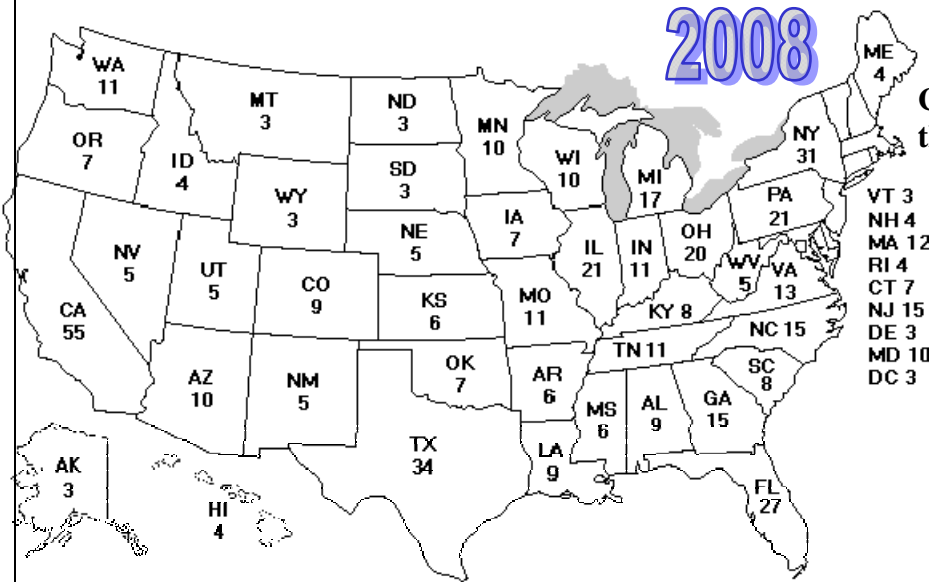
Why is the electoral vote breakdown different between 2008 and 2012?

According to the 2012 map, what are the top ten states in the Electoral College?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

What is the least amount of states a candidate can win in order to win the presidency?

Which states?

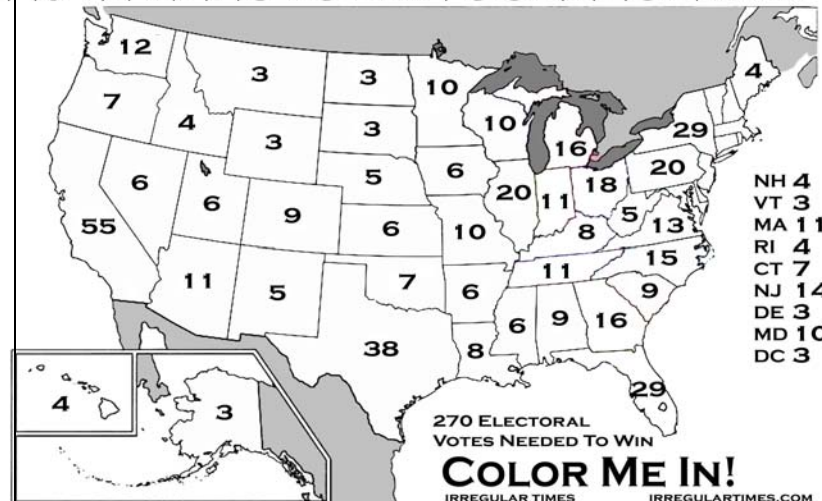


Compare the 2008 Electoral College Map and the 2012 Electoral College Map.

1. How many states lost Electoral College votes (in other words lost votes in the House) (in even other words lost population)?

2. What are the states that lost votes and how many votes did they lose each?

2012 ELECTORAL COLLEGE MAP



3. How many states gained Electoral College votes?

4. What are the states that gained votes and how many each?

The Electoral System

- A. If you were given the number of Representatives and Senators in a state, how would you find the number of Electoral Votes that the state has?
Write a mathematical formula to show this and using this formula, solve the following problems.

Formula:

- | | | |
|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. New York | 29 Reps & 2 Senators | _____ Electoral Votes |
| 2. Ohio | 18 Reps & 2 Senators | _____ Electoral Votes |
| 3. Indiana | 9 Reps & 2 Senators | _____ Electoral Votes |

- B. If you were given the NUMBER OF ELECTORAL VOTES in each state, how would you find the number of Representatives which that state has in the House of Representatives? Write a formula to show this. Using that formula, solve the following problems.

Formula:

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Florida | 27 Electoral Votes, | _____ Representatives |
| 2. Virginia | 13 Electoral Votes, | _____ Representatives |
| 3. Michigan | 17 Electoral Votes, | _____ Representatives |

In both of the following cases tell who won the overall election. In each case, list the total number of PEOPLE'S (Popular) votes which each candidate received and the total number of Electoral votes that each received.

Case #1

New York _____ 33 Electoral Votes for the state

Candidate A 20,000 people's votes

Candidate B 19,000 people's votes

New Mexico _____ 5 Electoral Votes for the state

Candidate A 3,000 people's votes

Candidate B 8,000 people's votes

Nevada _____ 4 Electoral Votes for the state

Candidate A 2,000 people's votes

Candidate B 6,000 people's votes

Candidate A **Total People's votes** _____ **Total Electoral Votes** _____

Candidate B **Total People's votes** _____ **Total Electoral Votes** _____

THE WINNER _____

Case #2

Texas _____ 32 Electoral Votes for the state

Candidate A 20,000 people's votes

Candidate B 15,000 people's votes

North Carolina _____ 14 Electoral Votes for the state

Candidate A 10,000 people's votes

Candidate B 15,000 people's votes

Georgia _____ 13 Electoral Votes for the state

Candidate A 11,987 people's votes

Candidate B 10,899 people's votes

Candidate A **Total People's votes** _____ **Total Electoral Votes** _____

Candidate B **Total People's votes** _____ **Total Electoral Votes** _____

THE WINNER _____