



# Electoral College vs. Direct Popular Vote

## Annotation Station

○ Circle words you don't know, and take a moment to find the definition.

Highlight in **YELLOW** phrases that confuse you. Use context clues to try and figure out their meaning.

Highlight in **BLUE** items you find most important.

☆ Star the items that make you wonder and wish to explore further.

## Electoral College

### Pros

- All states are represented and involved in the process of selecting the president
- Supports two-party system
- Outcome generally known on the day after Election Day
- Electors are voted upon by the people
- Electoral College has been in place since the ratification of the Constitution in 1788
- Maintains federalism
- Protects small states from being overpowered by large states

### Cons

- May provide too much power to swing states
- May impact or suppress voter turnout in non-battleground states
- May not represent the will of the people, because it is not one vote for each person
- Candidate can win the popular vote but not the presidency
- System allows for faithless electors
- May cause a decrease in voter turnout due to safe states
- Minimizes the impact of third parties/minority voices
- Not all votes count the same (for example, in 2020, a vote in Wyoming was worth 3.6 times more than a vote in California)



## Direct Popular Vote

### Pros

- Represents the will of the people as a direct election
- Candidates would be encouraged to campaign in all states, not just battleground states
- Could open chances up for a minor party and independent candidates
- Using a direct popular vote would remove the political controversy that is connected to the Electoral College.
- May increase voter turnout because all votes are worth the same

### Cons

- Could be a very complicated process if a recount is required
- May make states with smaller populations feel as if they have less say in an election
- Could make campaigning more challenging for candidates trying to visit all states
- It would require a constitutional amendment to abolish the Electoral College