# Electoral College vs. Direct Popular Vote

| Annotation Station | | | | | |
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| ❍ 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. | | | | | |

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| Electoral College | |
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| Pros | Cons |
| * 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 | * 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) |

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| Direct Popular Vote | |
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| Pros | Cons |
| * 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 | * 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 |