# 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 adirect election
* Candidates would be encouraged to campaign in all states, not justbattleground 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
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