
CREATED JUNE 2020 | UPDATED MAY 2023 | FOR
KS(BBP)

APR. 2024

ONE PERSON, ONE VOTE

National Popular Vote

Honoring the Will of the People



NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE TASK FORCE

LWVUS

Agenda

How We Elect the US President

Problems & Solutions

National Popular Vote (NPV) proposal

League of Women Voters' Position

Where LWV stands

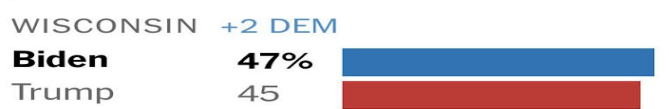
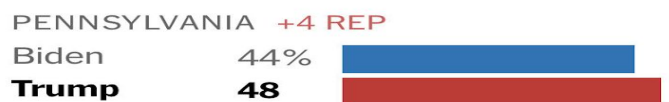
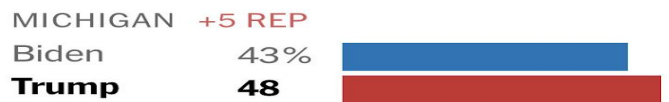
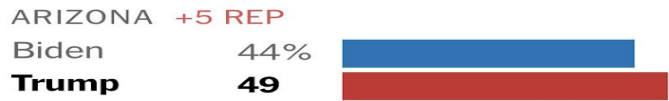
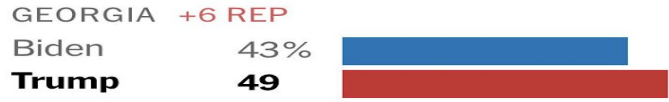
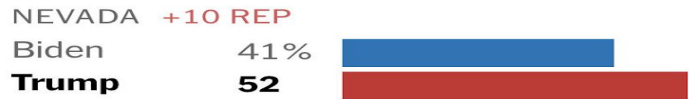
Why LWV supports the national popular vote

What needs to be done?

See more updates: [Times/Siena Poll](#) 6h ago

Trump Is Ahead in Five of Six Swing States

Margins are calculated using unrounded figures.



Based on New York Times/Siena College polls of 3,662 registered voters from Oct. 22 to Nov. 3 • By Ashley Wu and Molly Cook Escobar



Across the six battlegrounds — all

Something Is Seriously Wrong With Our Elections

WINNERS INTO LOSERS

In two of the past five presidential elections, the candidate with fewer voters became US president

EMPHASIS ON SWING STATES

Candidates spend majority of their time and resources in a handful of battleground states

VOTER TURNOUT

Voters in most states feel like their vote doesn't matter at all

Electing the US President

The Electoral College

- Group of 538 people who elect the President and Vice President
- Each state has a number of **electors** equal to their seats in Congress
- Candidates need a majority (**270**) votes to win

The Electoral College was created in 1787 for slaveholders in the south

A compromise to give Southern states more power in Presidential elections based on counting enslaved people as “3/5” of a free person.



“

"It seems now to be pretty well understood that the real difference of interests lies not between the large and small but between the northern and southern states. The institution of slavery and its consequences form the line of discrimination."

**James Madison, July 14, 1787
(source: National Archives)**

Kansas' Number of Electors



2
Senators

+



4 Representatives

= 6 Electors

Choosing Electors

Winner Takes All

- Prior to the 1800s, state legislatures appointed electors
- In 1830, States began enacting laws allowing citizens to vote in Presidential election, **adopting a “state winner”-take-all method of selecting electors**
 - 48 states + Washington DC use this method
 - 2 (Maine & Nebraska) do not

Problems

- Candidate with the most votes may not win
- Votes are not equal
- Most states are passed over by campaigns
- Will of the people can be ignored



EC - Turns Losers into Winners

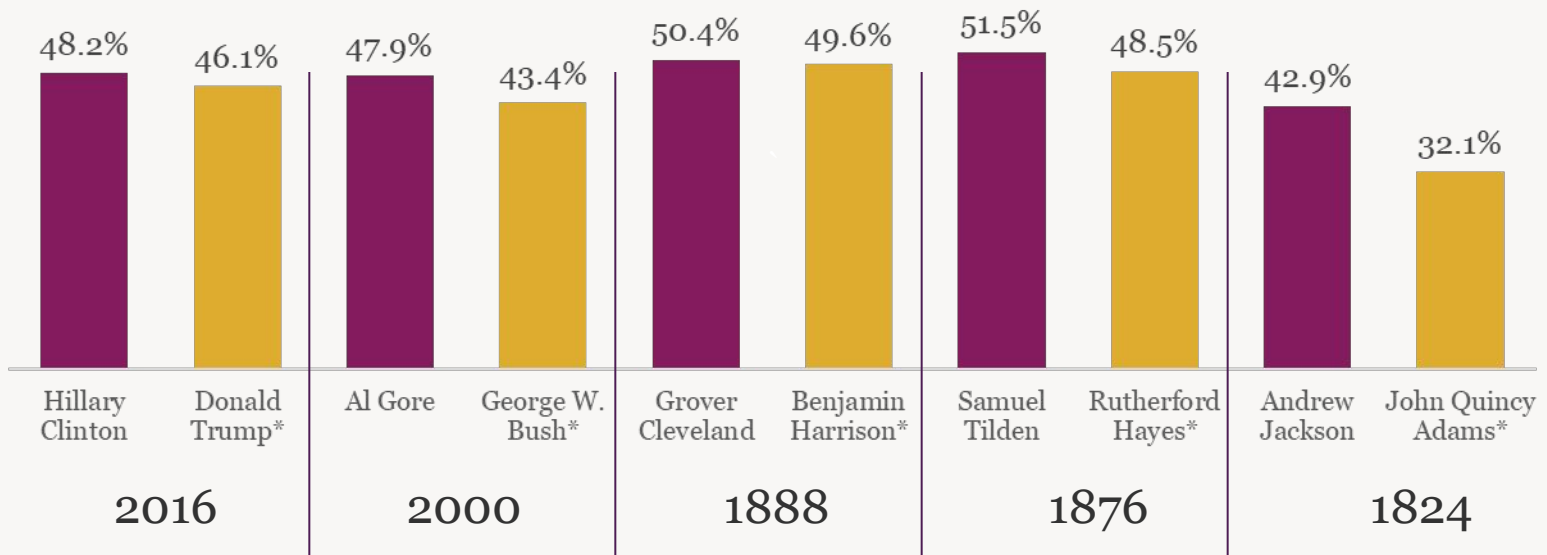
PROBLEM: ELECTORAL COLLEGE

- Allows a candidate with fewer votes from the people to win the Presidency.

SOLUTION: POPULAR VOTE

- Ensures that the candidate with the most votes from the people becomes the President.

Popular Vote %



* Elected via Electoral College

Data Source: Federal Elections Commission

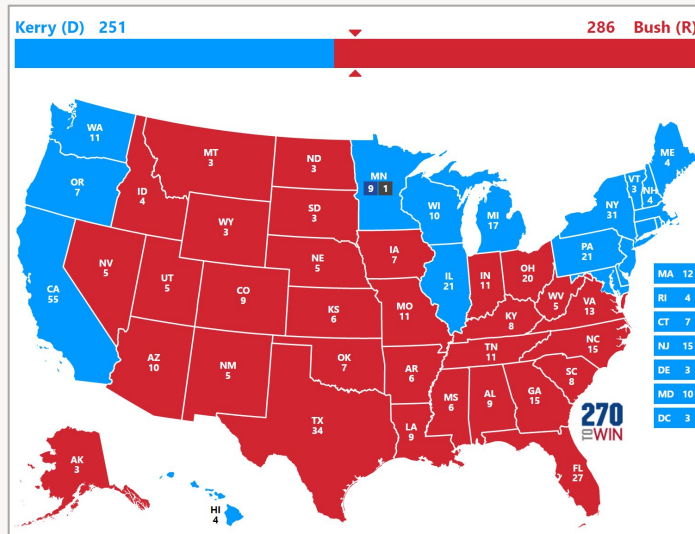
Close Call-Missing Another Divergent Election

MYTH

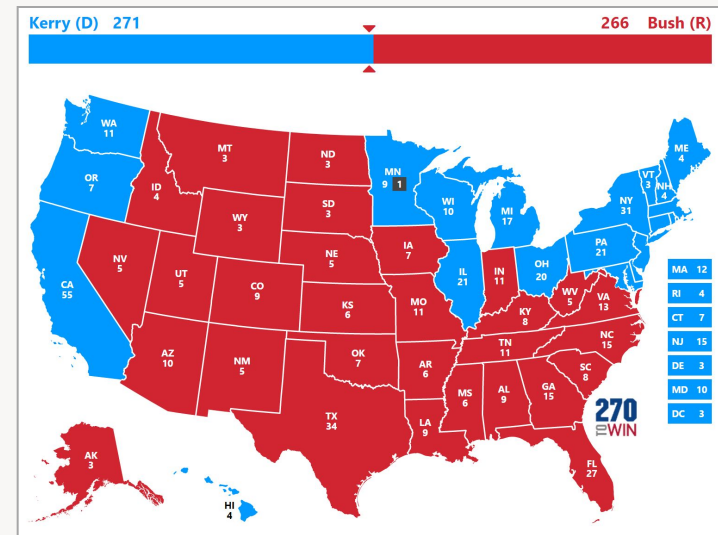
- Abolishing the Electoral College will only benefit candidates from the Democratic Party

FACT

- The Electoral College can hurt both Democratic and Republican candidates. This is a non-partisan issue.



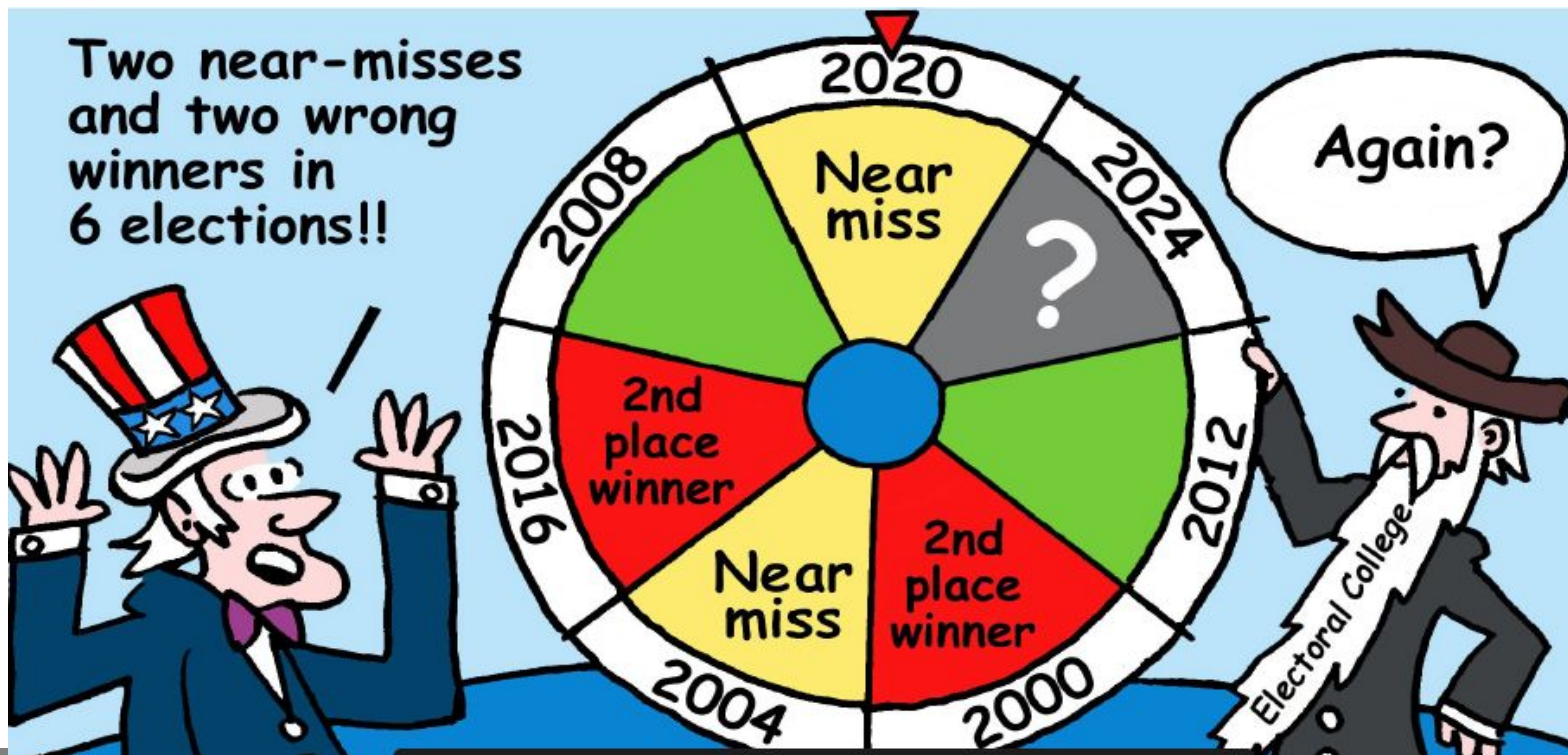
2004 Actual



2004 Altered

2020 Presidential Election

Was it Really a Landslide—or another Electoral College “near miss”



Despite that Biden won almost 7 million more votes than Trump the election was CLOSER than it seemed...

The switch of 21,461 votes in just 3 states
would have given President Trump 37 more Electors – reversing the outcome.

Arizona – 5,229

Georgia – 6,335

Wisconsin – 10,883

MORE ELECTORAL COLLEGE PROBLEMS!

EC = Some Votes Count More Than Others

PROBLEM: ELECTORAL COLLEGE

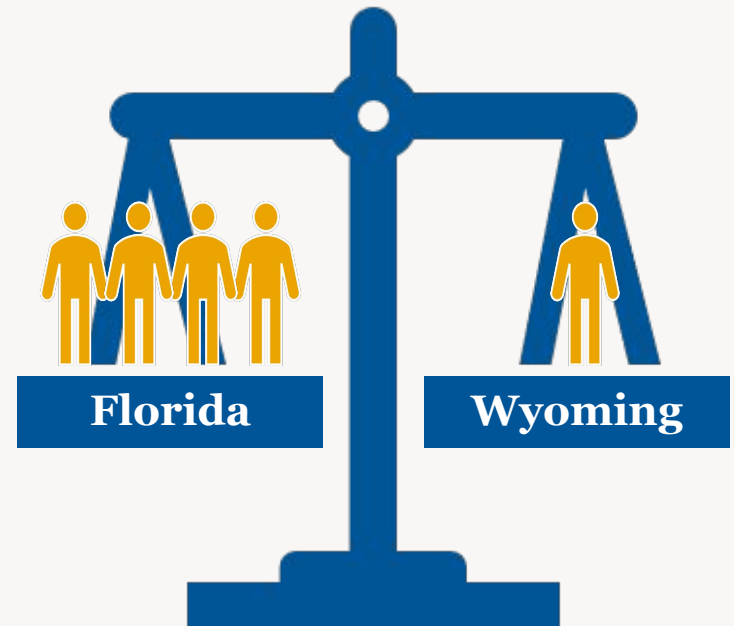
- One person's vote carries more or less weight depending where they live.

SOLUTION: POPULAR VOTE

- One person = one vote, no matter where you live.

All votes not equal

	Wyoming	Florida
Population	576,000	21,538,000
Electoral Votes	3	29
Population per Electoral Vote	192,000	743,000



CURRENT SYSTEM

Battleground States

determine who becomes President

- Campaigns **woo** battleground states
- Campaigns **ignore** 70% of US voters

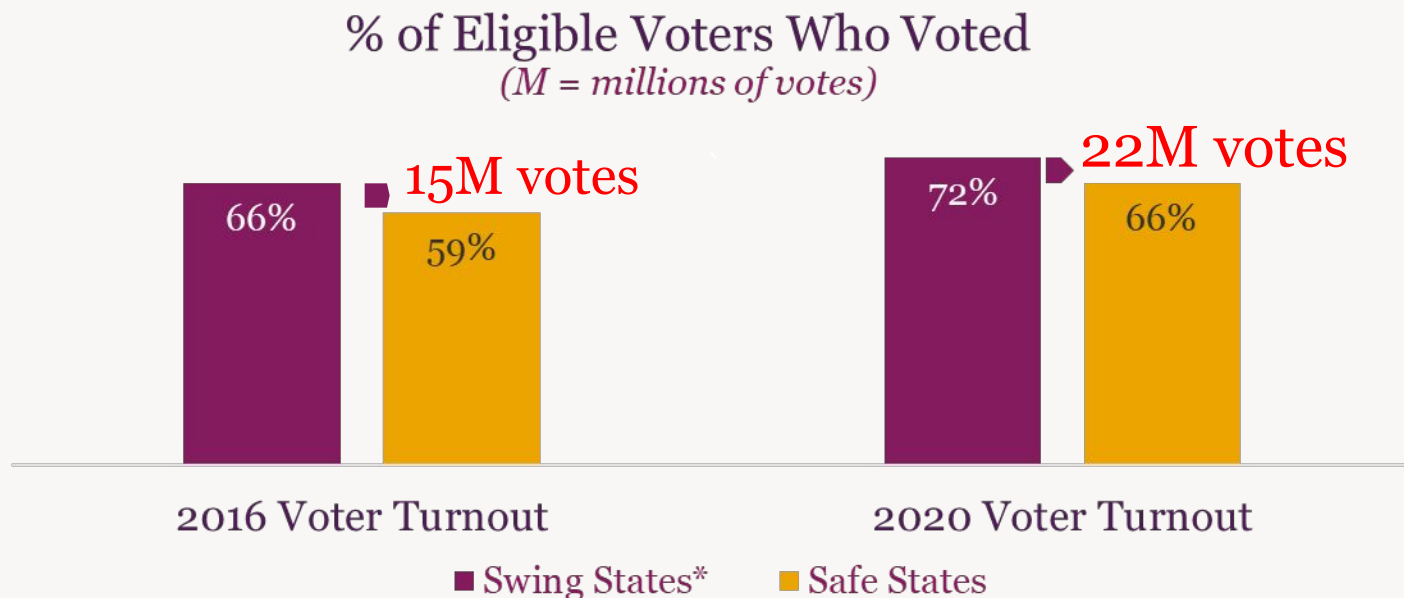
EC - Discourages Voter Participation

PROBLEM: ELECTORAL COLLEGE

- The Electoral College decreases voter turnout in so-called “safe” states.

SOLUTION: POPULAR VOTE

- Increase voter turnout and participation by making every vote count – and count equally.



**Swing states based on Politico reporting*

Data Source: The United States Election Project, Michael P. McDonald, Phd, University of Florida Department of Political Science

EC = Only a Few Swing States Matter

PROBLEM: ELECTORAL COLLEGE

- Focuses candidates' time, money, and policy on a handful of "swing" states. Most states are completely ignored.

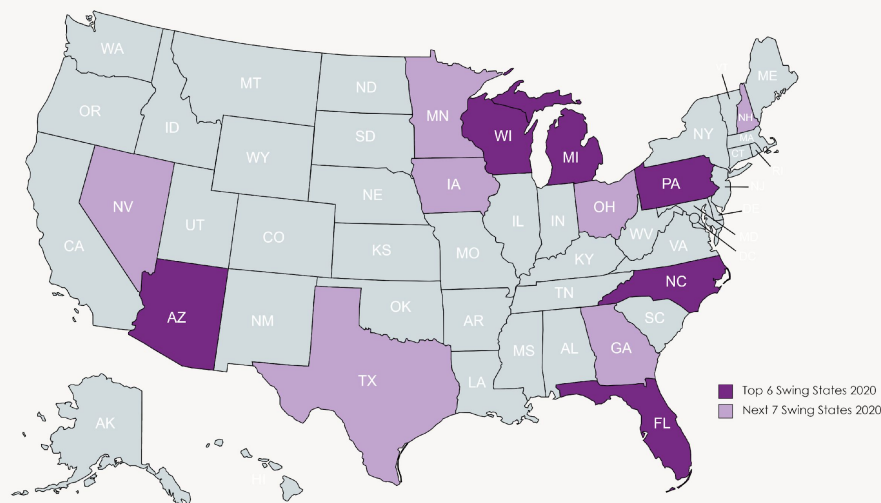
SOLUTION: POPULAR VOTE

- Increase our access to candidates and widen the geographic scope of their campaigns.

Swing States 2020

13 Swing States

% of all US states	25%
% of US population	40%
% of Presidential Campaign Events	98%
% of Presidential TV ad spending	100%



*How should we elect
the President?*

One person, one vote!

Possible Solutions

- Amend US Constitution and abolish the Electoral College – **while possible, very difficult**
- Maintain Electoral College and **improve current system**
 - Stop using winner-takes-all (not in US Constitution)
 - Guarantee winner has most votes
 - Ensure every vote is equal



The League's Position is Unique

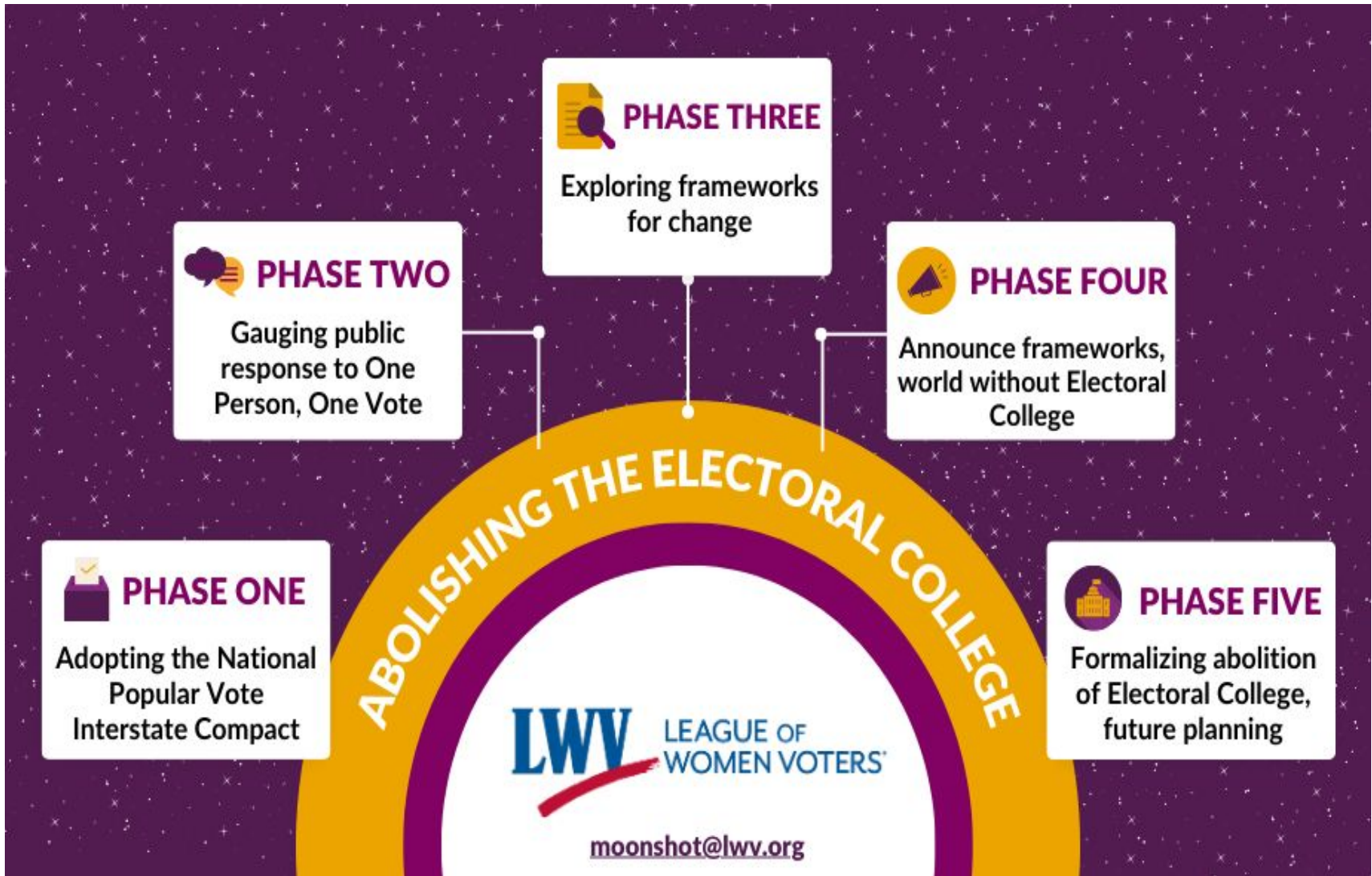
FOR MORE THAN 48 YEARS...

LWV has supported abolishing the Electoral College... **and we still do!**

FOR OVER 10 YEARS...

We have supported the National Popular Vote (NPV) Plan as a method to make every vote equal **until the Electoral College is abolished**

NPV plan itself depends on the Electoral College, thus honoring the tradition. LWV supports the NPV plan as a practical path to ensure the presidency to the candidate with the most votes in all 50 states + DC



National Popular Vote (NPV) Interstate Compact

Would guarantee
Presidency to the
candidate who receives
the most popular votes
across **in the entire
Nation!**)



Q: Is the current way the President and Vice President are elected required by the US Constitution?

A: It is NOT!

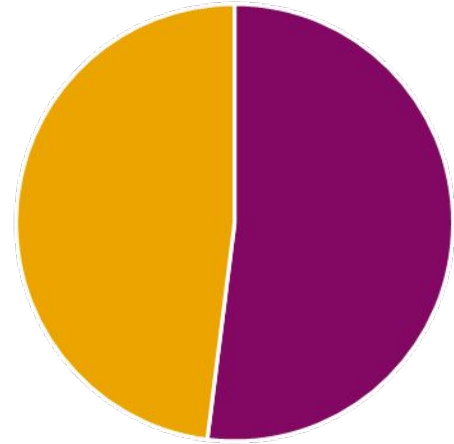
*“Each State shall appoint,
in such Manner as the
Legislature thereof may
direct, a Number of
Electors...”*

US Constitution

Article 2, Section 1

National Popular Vote Interstate Compact

- Activation happens when signing states total **270 electoral votes**
- NPV plan awards all of a state's electoral votes to the winner of the national popular vote-the **TOTAL from ALL 50 states + DC**



Majority of 538 votes



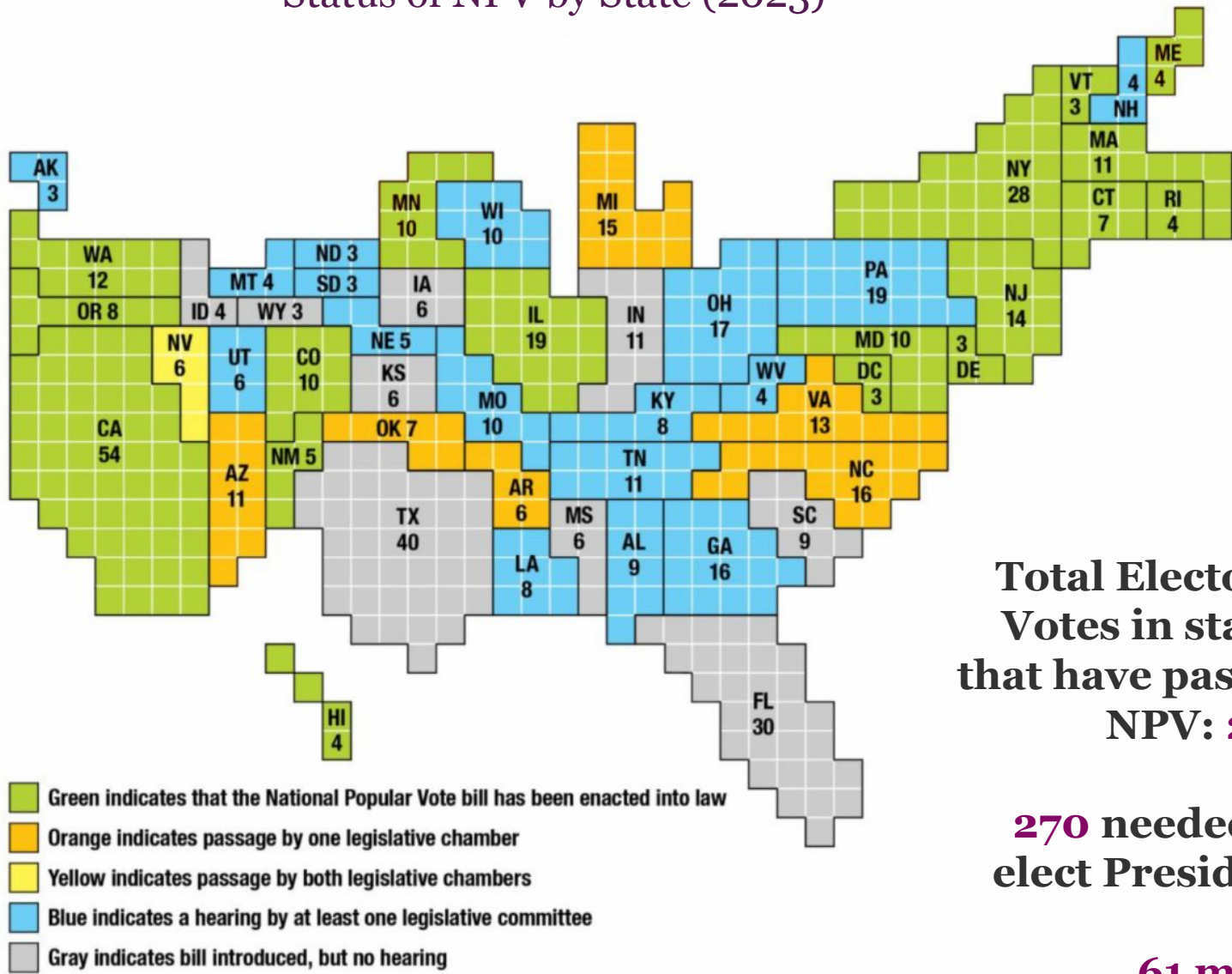
270 TO WIN

NPV Proposal

- Enables **all states** to be battleground states
- **Respects the rights of state legislatures** to replace winner-take-all laws
- **Aligns with US Constitution** and maintains integrity of Electoral College



Status of NPV by State (2023)



**Total Electoral
Votes in states
that have passed
NPV: 209**

**270 needed to
elect President**

**61 more
Electoral Votes
needed to
activate NPV**

LWV & National Popular Vote

For more than 48 years, LWV has favored direct election of the US president by national popular vote.

- Support NPV Compact as one acceptable way to achieve direct popular vote for the election of president *until the abolition of the Electoral College*



Why LWV Supports National Popular Vote Plan

Every Vote is Equal

NPV honors state's rights while making sure...

1. All votes in all states should, and will, count the same
2. Winner is the candidate who wins the most votes
3. Encourages greater voter turnout

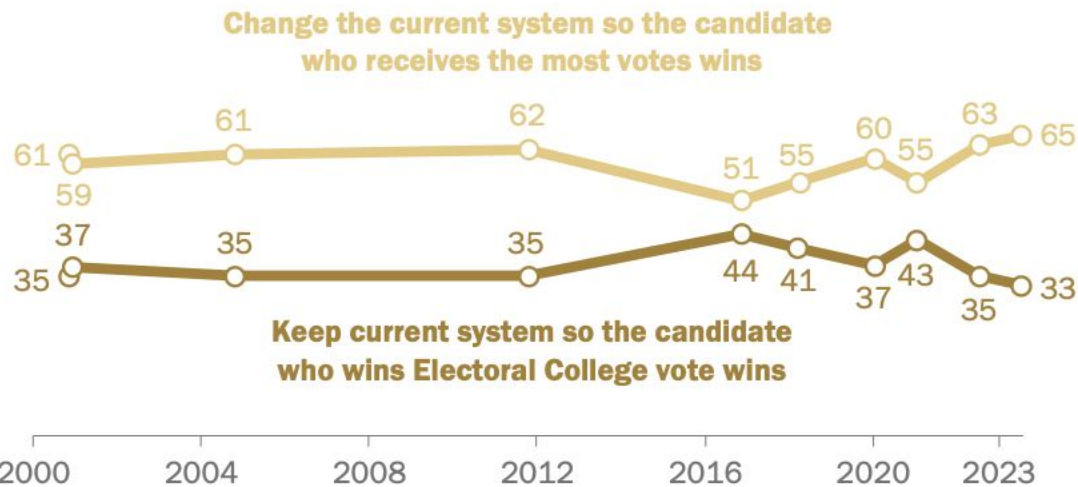
Who wants to see state “winner take all electors” replaced with National Popular Vote?

Most Americans!



By about 2 to 1, Americans want popular vote, not Electoral College, to decide who is president

Thinking about the way the president is elected in this country, would you prefer to ... (%)



Note: Data prior to 2020 comes from telephone surveys. Data for 2016 is from CNN; data for 2000-2011 is from Gallup. Prior to 2020, the question asked about "amending the Constitution." Read methodological note on question wording for details. No answer responses are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Summary: National Popular Vote Plan

- ***Guarantees*** candidates with the most popular votes nationwide wins
- ***Gives*** every vote equal value
- ***Ensures*** all states are competitive
- ***Honors*** the will of the people
- ***Works within*** Electoral College, preserving the tradition
- ***Does not*** require a constitutional amendment

Quere: If a 3rd (or 4th) party candidate wins one or more “winner take all” states, thereby taking those states’ electoral votes, what untoward result could occur?

What You Can Do Now

Organize

- Identify state & local ally organizations for sharing information.
- Activate supporters.
- In non-compacting states, reach out to friends or members to inform about NPV plan.
- Take part in the Abolish EC committee.

Educate

- Enroll in “Electoral College 101” training.
- Write LTE’s to local newspaper.
- Present to civic & social groups, colleges & universities, etc. (Slides available.)
- Distribute info brochures in your community.

Advocate

- Observe “Abolish Electoral College Day” on January 6th. (Tentative)
- Watch for LWV “Action Alerts.”
- **Adopt another state-** phone /text bank for NPV plan (if your state already part of compact).

Q&A

Electoral College Myth – BIG States

MYTH

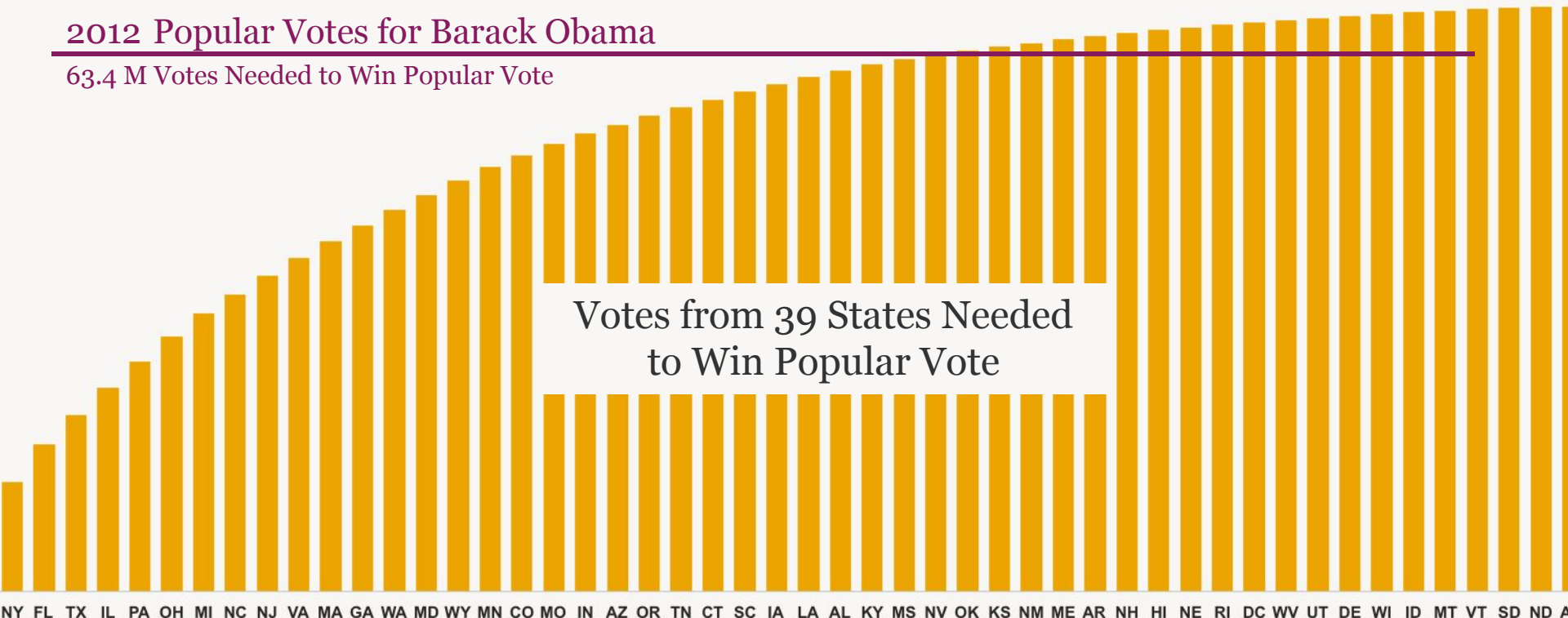
- Without the Electoral College, our Presidents would be chosen by a few big states, like California and New York

FACT

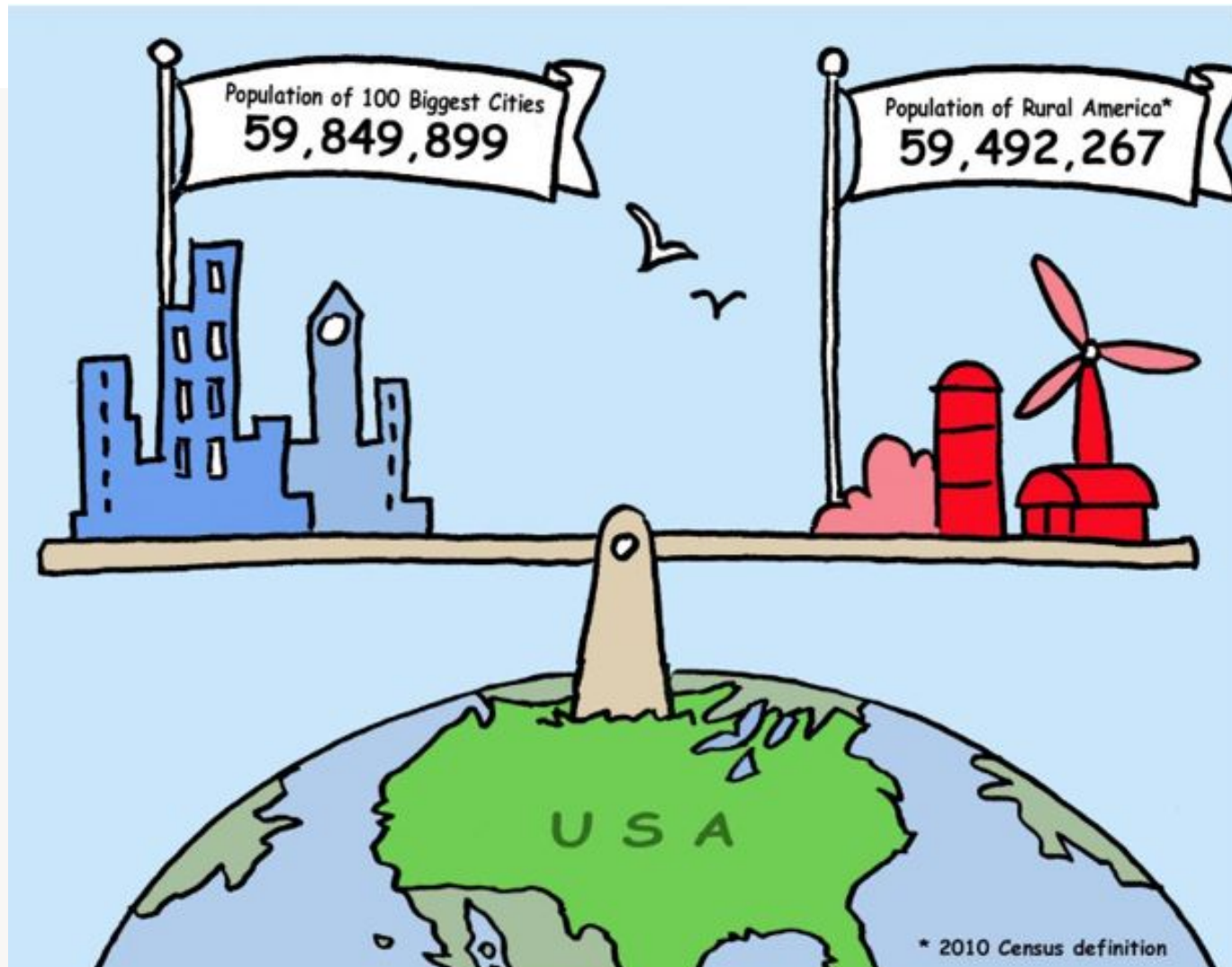
- Votes from MOST or ALL states would be needed to win the Presidency by a popular vote.

2012 Popular Votes for Barack Obama

63.4 M Votes Needed to Win Popular Vote



Electoral College Myth – Big Cities



Picture Courtesy of National Popular Vote Inc.

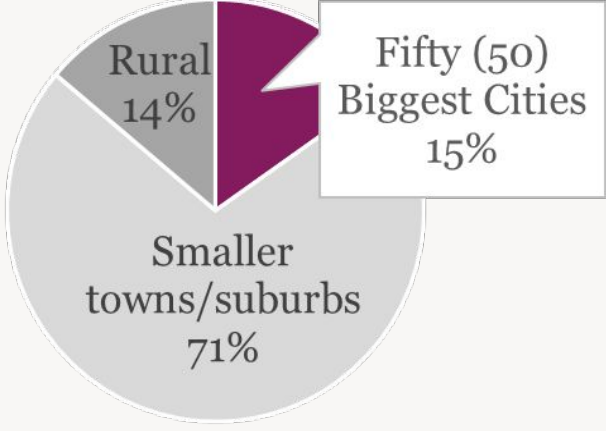
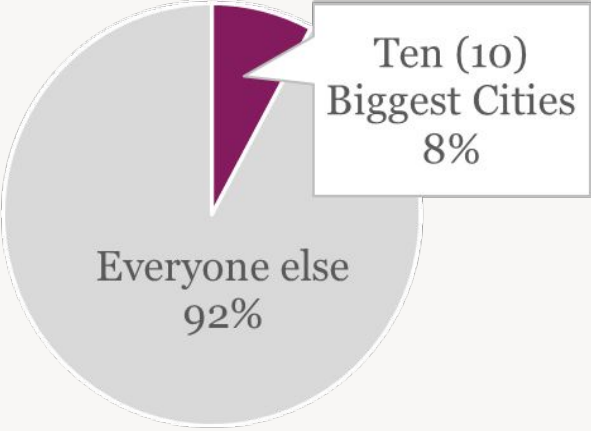
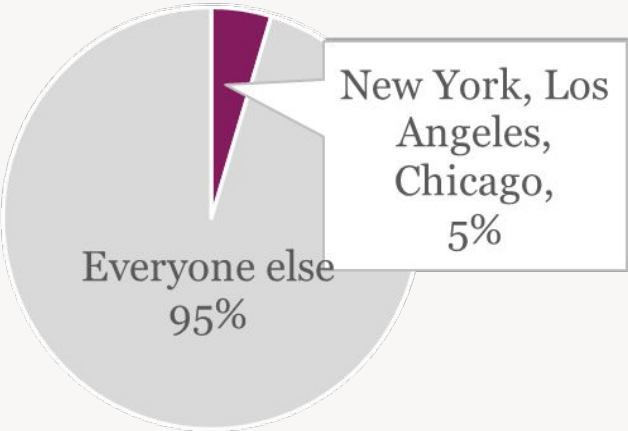
Electoral College Myth

MYTH

- Without the Electoral College, our Presidents would be chosen by a few big cities, like New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago.

FACT

- There aren't enough people living in New York City, Los Angeles and Chicago — or even in the 50 biggest cities — to choose the President on their own.



One is the Loneliest Number!



LWVWI NPVIC Presentation 8.19