

[Name of the Writer]

[Name of Instructor]

[Subject]

[Date]

Electoral College

The Electoral College is the institution that was found for the election of the President through a compromise between a popular vote and by a vote in congress. Much has been said about the benefits and harm of the institution. Many argue either regarding the need or the pointlessness of this institution. Many argue that the Founding Fathers established the Electoral College for a reason and arguments against it are necessary or invalid. However, this institution has problems that cannot be ignored, especially since the election of Donald Trump in 2016. The Electoral College should be abolished since the reasons for its inception are no longer valid, it gives too much power to a few states, and it disregards the will of the people.

Since the Electoral College's inception, rapid changes in technology have given people easy access to credible information. This institution was founded to safeguard the presidency against the votes of people who were either uneducated or uninformed. However, modern technology has ensured that voters can easily access information through social media, and as such, the majority of the people have now become informed citizens. In a report by the RAND Corporation titled *Civic Engagement*, authors cite that technology has enabled people "to have the necessary information and evidence – and the skills to engage critically with these – to make

informed and empowered decisions"¹ (Dubow et al.). Therefore, it is clear that there is no need for an institution dedicated to the protection of the presidency as the people are fully capable of making informed decisions on their own.

Furthermore, the issue of giving power to a few states must be considered as well. The Electoral College is responsible for giving too much power to certain states known as the "swing states." As a result, presidential candidates win the presidency by the votes of a few states via the Electoral College. According to the article *The System Calls for Popular Vote to Determine Winner* by PBS, "Since their nominating conventions in July, Donald Trump, and Hillary Clinton have made more than 90% of their campaign stops in just 11 so-called battleground states"² (PBS). Depicting unfair ways by which the two candidates were participating in the election of 2016. The 11 swing states get all the attention while the rest of the country is left behind.

Also, it must be noted that the Electoral College disregards the will of the people. The popular vote is the system that decides the will of the people, as present in democratic nations. However, voting at the Electoral College ensures that the President that the people do not choose can get elected easily. This was seen in the 2016 elections when Hillary Clinton won the popular vote and was chosen by the people, but the Electoral College chose to make Donald Trump the President. In an article titled *Electoral College: The people who ultimately pick the US president*, Sam Cabral from BBC states that several "faithless-electors" are responsible for defying the will

¹ Dubow, Talitha, et al. *Civic Engagement: How Can Digital Technology Encourage Greater Engagement in Civil Society?* RAND Corporation, Aug. 2017. www.rand.org, <https://www.rand.org/pubs/perspectives/PE253.html>

² PBS. "This System Calls for Popular Vote to Determine Winner." *PBS NewsHour*, 6 Nov. 2016, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/system-calls-popular-vote-determine-winner>.

of the people by voting for "the other side" ³(BBC). Thus, it is clear that the Electoral College is not a democratic institution and has no place in America.

To conclude, it can be stated that the Electoral College must be abolished due to many reasons. First, the reasons for the establishment of the institution are no longer valid. Second, it empowers certain states with too much power while the others are left behind. Lastly, it defies the will of the people and is thus an undemocratic institution. Thus, looking at the reasons listed above, it can be stated that the Electoral College creates many problems for the country and is no longer necessary in the United States. Therefore, its abolishment makes sense in the current political environment.

³ BBC. "Electoral College: The People Who Ultimately Pick the US President." *BBC News*, 13 Dec. 2020. *www.bbc.com*, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-55153807>

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