

McKinley Elementary School

Grade 5

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Class Size: 25 Students

We believe that the Electoral College system for selecting the president of the United States should be eliminated. The Electoral College is a system in which a body of people representing the states of the U.S, formally cast votes for the election of the president and vice president. The system was created to solve problems with the election process in 1787. We do not face the same issues in 2016.

One of the issues in 1787 was that everyday citizens were not well educated about the presidential candidates. Because citizens did not have information to make a knowledgeable decision, members of Congress wanted to select the President themselves. However, other legislators thought that the people should elect the president. As a result of the different ideas, a compromise was made; the Electoral College and the popular vote would be used to elect the president.

In 2016, potential voters have access to unlimited information about presidential candidates and can make an educated decision. Therefore, there is no need for the Electoral College. The Electoral College allows states with larger populations to cast more votes for the presidential candidate. Under this system, more populous states have more of a say as to who is elected than less populated states. Citizens from less populated states are made to feel that their vote does not matter or count. In addition, it is possible for the winner of a presidential election to be announced before all American citizens have cast their votes.

Because there are four generalized time zones in the United States, presidential winners have often been determined before voting polls have officially closed in the Pacific Time Zone. Voters in the westernmost part of the country, such as those in Alaska, might feel like their votes

don't count. Alaska gets three electoral votes, but if one presidential candidate has already earned 270 electoral votes before the votes were counted in Alaska, those votes really didn't matter. No one wants to feel like their vote doesn't count. That is why our country should switch to a popular vote so that every vote matters.

The 2000 presidential election is a perfect example of how the above scenario can happen. Republican candidate George W. Bush received 50,456,062 popular votes and Democratic candidate Al Gore earned 50,996,582 votes. Al Gore won the popular vote for the election. However, Al Gore received 266 electoral votes while Bush received 271 electoral votes. Therefore, George W. Bush won the election because of the Electoral College. Al Gore won 540,520 more popular votes, yet, he lost. The Electoral College proved more powerful than the people's voice.

Why bother voting at all? Because the current system to elect the president is not fair, the electoral system needs to be amended to reflect a modern civilization. This will give the power back to the people.