

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Voting and Fairness

The Electoral College is an important part of U.S. elections, but not everyone agrees on whether it is the fairest way to choose a president. While some believe it helps represent all states, others think it makes some votes count more than others. The way people view the Electoral College affects how they feel about democracy and fair representation in the United States.

### Does Every Vote Count the Same?

In a direct democracy, every person's vote would count the same, no matter where they live. But in the United States, the Electoral College means that some states have more influence in choosing the president than others. This happens because each state gets a number of electors based on its population, but every state gets at least three, even if it has a small population. This means smaller states have more power per voter compared to bigger states. Some people think this system is unfair because a candidate can win the presidency without winning the most votes nationwide, which has happened several times in history.

### How the Electoral College Shapes Elections

Because of the way electoral votes are counted, candidates spend most of their time campaigning in swing states—states where the race is close. Some people feel this is unfair because voters in “safe states,” which almost always vote for the same party, don't get as much attention from candidates. People in these states may feel that their vote does not really matter in the election.

Others argue that the Electoral College makes sure all parts of the country have a voice. If only the popular vote decided the election, candidates might only focus on big cities and ignore rural areas. This system helps balance power between large and small states.

### Different Views on Fairness

People who support the Electoral College say it protects smaller states and prevents one region from having too much control. They believe it helps keep elections fair by making sure candidates appeal to a wide variety of voters.

People who disagree with the system believe that democracy should be based on one person, one vote, meaning the candidate with the most votes nationwide should always win. They argue that every vote should count equally, no matter where a person lives.

Even though opinions on the Electoral College are different, most people agree that democracy should be fair and represent the people's choice. The debate over the Electoral College continues, shaping how Americans think about elections and fairness in government.