

# The Electoral College

"We need the Electoral college Because asking the People to select a President is like asking a Blind man to choose colors." - Virginia Delegate to the constitutional convention

WHY DO WE HAVE IT, EVEN THOUGH THEY DON'T HAVE A MASCOT OR A FOOTBALL TEAM?

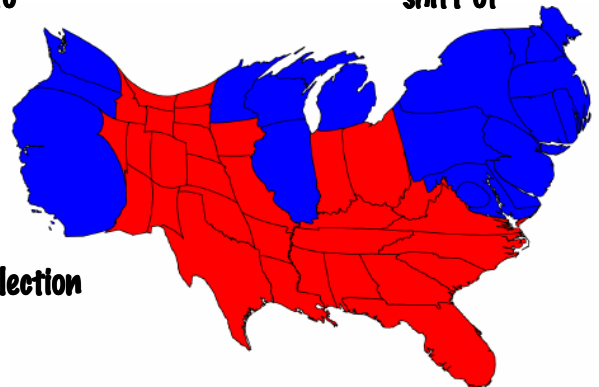
## HISTORICAL RATIONALE (FROM CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION)

- ☞ Poor - common people would lack information essential to being an
- ☞ Desire to have " " people select the President - fear that commoners would be swayed by
- ☞ Compromise between those wanting and those wanting to elect the President

## ALLOTMENT OF ELECTORAL VOTES TO STATES:

- ☞ # of Electoral votes = (therefore based on )
- ☞ Every state has at least votes; has 3 votes, too, as a result of Amendment
- ☞ has the most votes ( )
- ☞ Total # of votes: (= 100 Senators + 435 voting Representatives + D.C. 3)
- ☞ Implication of people moving from " " to " " - shift of electoral votes to

(states proportionate to electoral vote distribution)



## SELECTION OF ACTUAL ELECTORS:

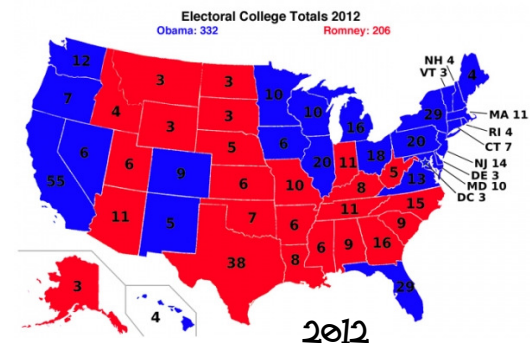
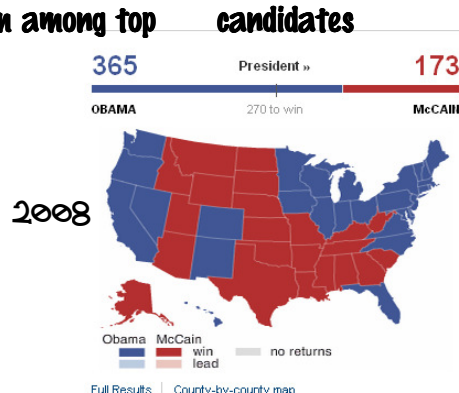
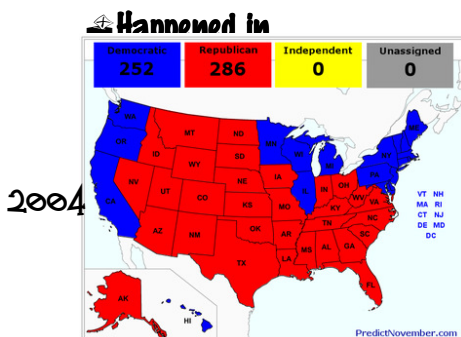
- ☞ Each party develops a "slate" of electors prior to general election

## WINNING ELECTORAL VOTES

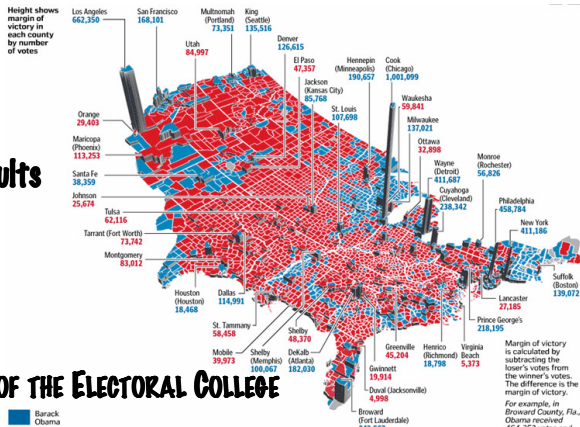
- ☞ Candidates with a of popular votes in a given state receive the of that state's electoral votes (a system) - except Maine & Nebraska to cast ballots, which are
- ☞ Electors meet in their respective state capitals in

## WINNING THE ELECTION

- ☞ Candidates must receive a of electoral votes ( ) to win
- ☞ If no majority is won (which the Founders thought would happen failure to anticipate ), then:
  - ☞ selects POTUS from among top candidates
  - ☞ Each state has
  - ☞ selects VP from among top candidates



## 2008 Results by County



## CRITICISMS OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

- 🏛️ POTUS can be selected with only a strong (B. Clinton)
- 🏛️ POTUS can win Electoral College without winning (2000) – winner-take-all distorts
- 🏛️ Chance of “faithless electors” – electors not required by federal law to vote as their states voted states proportionally
- 🏛️ CA 1:600,000 (therefore Const. amendment abolishing EC)
- 🏛️ If election goes to HOR, states votes has same voting power as CA with 55 electoral votes
- 🏛️ Inhibits development of – in 1992, Perot won 19% of popular vote but 0% of electoral vote since did not win any states outright

## ALTERNATIVES TO THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

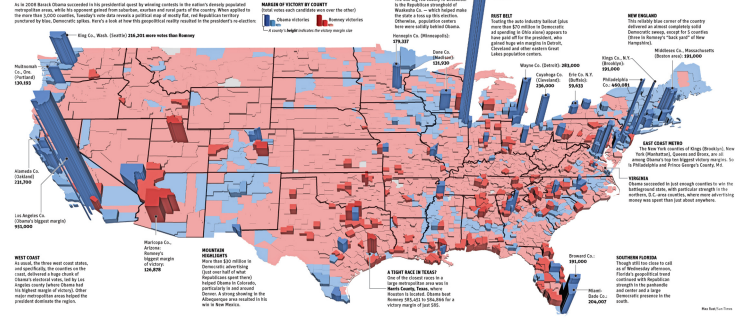
- 🏛️ election system – EC remains, but elimination of feature
- 🏛️ : candidate who wins congressional district wins gets “bonus” electoral votes (Senate seat votes)
- 🏛️ Keep electoral votes but abolish

## WHY HASN'T IT BEEN ABOLISHED/ALTERED ALREADY?

- 🏛️ /reluctance to
- 🏛️ Difficulties in
- 🏛️ Opposition from
- 🏛️ Opposition from
  - 🏛️ Their current concentration in their favored candidates under current system
  - 🏛️ Reflection of republican government

## 2012 Results by County

### PLAYING THE MARGINS



of popular votes, especially with presence of

(1824, 1876, 1888,

within states

– WY has 1 vote per ~166,666 people;

– WY with 3 electoral

– in 1992, Perot won 19% of popular vote but 0% of electoral vote since did not win any states outright

gives them clout to “tip the scales” toward

– separation of power, checks & balances,