

Electoral College Analysis

Background Information:

1. How many Electors does each state have in the Electoral College?
2. What determines how many Electors each state has?
3. How are Electors awarded within the Electoral College?
4. Why do “safe” states exist? What is a “battleground” state?
5. List five significant “battleground” states.
6. How many total Electors are in the Electoral College? How many Electoral College votes does a presidential candidate need to win the election?
7. How is the president selected if no candidate wins a majority in the Electoral College?
8. When is the Electoral College election?

Every State a Swing Questions:

9. The Republican presidential candidate has now lost how the national popular vote in _____ of the last seven presidential elections (including 2016).
10. One theory explaining these losses is the fact that Republican candidates tend to what in the general election?
11. A second theory explaining these losses is the difficulty of reconciling policy positions taken during the _____ election with policy positions being taken in the _____ election.

12. The author of the article blames the series of Republican losses on what feature of presidential elections?
13. How does the author respond to critics who insist that the presidential election process not be changed or criticized because the U.S. Constitution and the Framers established it?
14. How does the winner-take-all system impact campaigning?
15. How does the winner-take-all system impact voter turnout?
16. How does the winner-take-all system impact partisanship and polarization?
17. What does the author insist would be the outcome of reforming the Electoral College to a proportional system?
18. How could Electoral College reforms be implemented? What does the author recommend?
19. What do you think about the Electoral College? Should the winner-take-all system be reformed? Do you feel like your vote counts? Do you resent that your vote is worth less than someone's vote in a small state?