

Abolishing the Electoral College and other changes in our election systems

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Below are articles, books and videos concerning the topics of this study group. All are optional, although if you dip into the literature, some are recommended.

Before our first class, it would be useful to read the Wikipedia entry on the Constitutional Convention.

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_Convention_\(United_States\)](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_Convention_(United_States))

We are committed to looking at 2 specific changes: abolishing the electoral college and ranked choice voting. The group may decide, by consensus, to look at other issues. I would suggest looking at the Report by the Commission on the Practice of Democratic Citizenship called Our Common Purpose.

<https://www.amacad.org/ourcommonpurpose/report> . This Commission was established by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Abolishing the Electoral College

Population maps of the US

https://www.ranker.com/list/whoa-usa-maps/jtdesaulnier?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=unspeakable_crimes&pgid=222595038158147&utm_campaign=whoa-usa-maps&fbclid=IwAR2wnNJBKsQnhv7ksuplsLNge3paZjifCWsYUrt600vTHuk_D_HfND5qom4

Explanatory

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/electoral-college-has-been-divisive-day-one-180961171/>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2018/11/electoral-college-gives-trump-and-gop-boost/576448/>

Books

The Electoral College Primer. Longley and Peirce (1987)

The People's President- The Electoral College in American History and the Direct Vote Alternative.

Peirce and Longley (1981)

Recommended

Why Do We Still Have the Electoral College?, Keyssar (2020)

RECOMMENDED.

NPR podcast- Throughline, describing history of electoral college.60 minutes, podcast on Oct. 14, 2020

RECOMMENDED

How the Electoral College Works. cSP Grey 4:42 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OUS9mM8Xbbw>

Random articles and videos from the internet on the Electoral College. Find your own and share good ones with the group.

PRO ABOLISHING THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Brookings institute. <https://www.brookings.edu/policy2020/bigideas/its-time-to-abolish-the-electoral-college/>

<https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/abolishing-the-electoral-college-used-to-be-bipartisan-position-not-anymore/>

<https://ericflint.net/information/concerning-the-electoral-college/>

<http://nymag.com/intelligencer/2019/03/why-every-argument-for-preserving-the-electoral-college-is-wrong-warren-cnn.html>

<http://hadleyives.blogspot.com/2016/11/the-electoral-college-is-bad-and-tara.html>

The Electoral College Will Destroy America

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/08/opinion/electoral-college-trump-biden.html?referringSource=articleShare>

<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/the-biggest-argument-for-keeping-the-electoral-college-relies-on-a-myth-2019-09-10>

<https://portside.org/2019-11-17/electoral-colleges-racist-origins>

Books

Presidential Lottery: the Reckless Gamble for our Electoral System, Michener (1969)

Recommended -

Let the People Pick the President, Wegman (2020)

Videos

Recommended

First Past the Post Explained CPG Grey 6:31 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7tWHJfhiyo>

What if the Electoral College is Tied CGP Grey 3:36 minutes

<https://youtu.be/sHEDXzOfENI>

Recommended

The Trouble with the Electoral College- CGP Grey 6:31 minutes

<https://youtu.be/7wC42HgLA4k>

The trouble with the Electoral College revised- CGP Grey 4:43 minutes

<https://youtu.be/G3wLQz-LgrM>

AGAINST ABOLISHING THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/fixgov/2016/11/29/two-cheers-for-electoral-college/>

<https://americanmind.org/essays/as-the-electoral-college-goes-so-goes-the-constitution/>

Safeguard: How the electoral System Works- Amazon Prime

Books

Enlightened Democracy, The Case for the Electoral College . Ross. (2004)

Securing Democracy: Why We Have an Electoral College(with introduction by Mitch McConnell), edited by Gregg II (2001)

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE INTERSTATE COMPACT

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/01/national-popular-vote/604861/>

[NPV Explained CGP Grey 6:34](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUX-frINBJY>

FIXING BUT NOT ABOLISHING THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Books

Presidential Elections and Majority Rule. Foley(2020)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/15/opinion/letters/electoral-college.html?searchResultPosition=1>

RANKED CHOICE VOTING

FairVote website

<https://www.fairvote.org>

The Alternative Vote CGP Grey 4:30

<https://youtu.be/3Y3jE3B8HsE>

Defects in counting Systems Ted talk

https://youtu.be/PaxVCsnox_4

[Recommended](#)

Voting Systems and the Condorcet Paradox. PBS Digital.

<https://youtu.be/HoAnYQZrNrQ>

Voting Paradoxes 9:29

<https://youtu.be/tJag3vuG834>

<https://youtu.be/l8XOZJkozfl>

Single transferable

<https://www.uniteamericainstitute.org/research/ranked-choice-voting>

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2020/10/02/why-ranked-choice-voting-improve-american-elections-yang-weld-column/5877731002/>

Andrew Yang/ Bill Weld

https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=emb_rel_pause&v=8Z2fRPRkWvY

YouTube from Fair Vote 2:10

https://www.rankedchoicevoting.org/universal_rcv_tabulator

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=q6pC5lJirrY>

Represent us- explains 4:10

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=VakPNiBgvh8>

Addresses alleged problems in RCV 10:44

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=HoAnYQZrNrQ>

***** PBS describes 5 ways to count votes

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=AhVR7gFMKNg>

**PBS Arrow's impossibility theorem

<https://youtu.be/gJTppxF3xRI>

Why we have 2 party system. Atlantic