
Why We Should Abolish the Electoral College

And How to Do It



LWVs of Illinois, Wilmette, Deerfield/Lincolnshire,
La Grange Area, Oak Park-River Forest,
Arlington Heights/Mt. Prospect/Buffalo Grove,
Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area, Glenview/Glencoe,
Highland Park/Highwood, Northwest Lake
County, and Roselle/Bloomingtondale.



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

Nonpartisan political organization.

Informed and active participation in government.

Increase understanding of public policy issues.

Education and advocacy.





LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

**The League of Women
Voters believes that the Electoral
College should be abolished in favor
of a direct popular vote.**

Why did the framers of the Constitution
create the Electoral College?

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They did not want federal legislators selecting the president.

- Limit corruption and concentration of power
- Independence between the executive and legislative branches

Why not direct election by the people?

- Poor communication might lead to ill-informed population.

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- Enslaved people would count as “three-fifths of a person” in determining number of electors.
- “The second choice of many but the first choice of few.”

What did the framers intend?

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- Most intended for the selection of the president to be based on the popular wishes of the citizenry.
- But also expected the electors to exercise their own discretion. (When they have done so, the people have been displeased.)

None of the framers' concerns are relevant today

- Information is widely available to citizens.
- Congressional selection of the President is not under consideration.
- The people do not want electors exercising their own discretion (and electors almost never do).

Why Abolish the Electoral College?

One-person, one-vote is fundamental to democracy.



Resizia



Recognize These States?



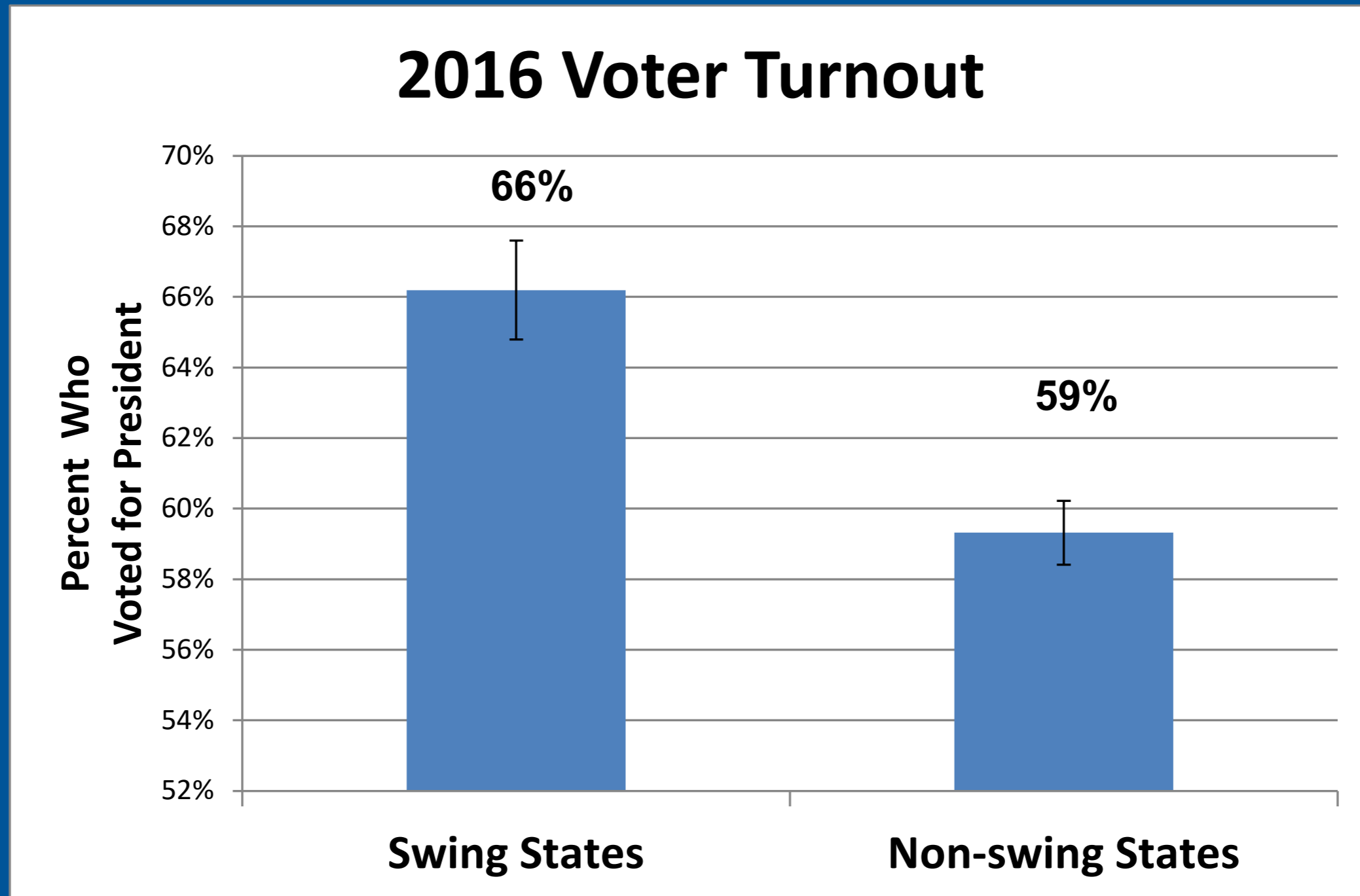
Does modern media make this irrelevant?



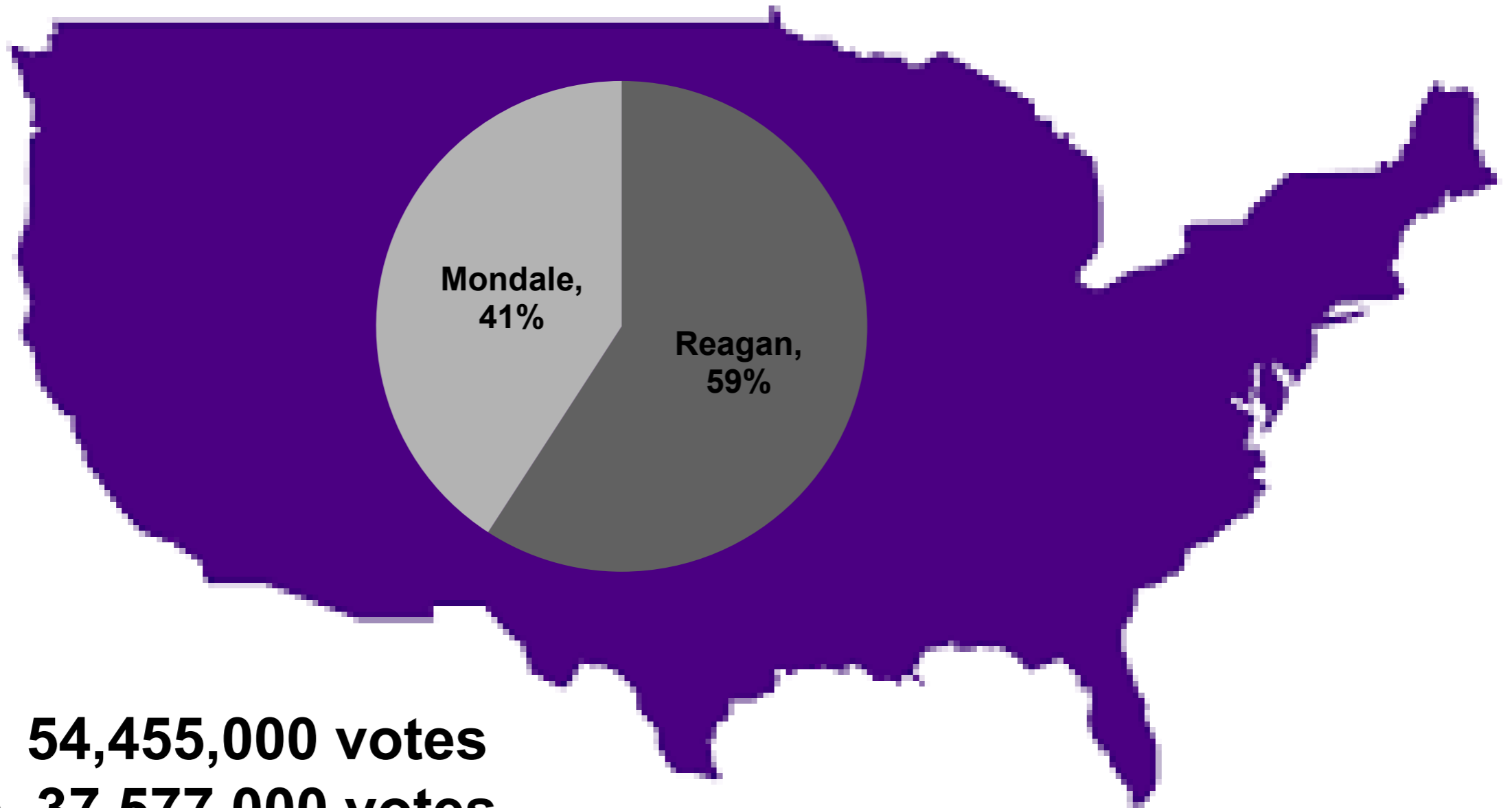
Why Bother Voting?



The Electoral College Decreases Voter Turnout

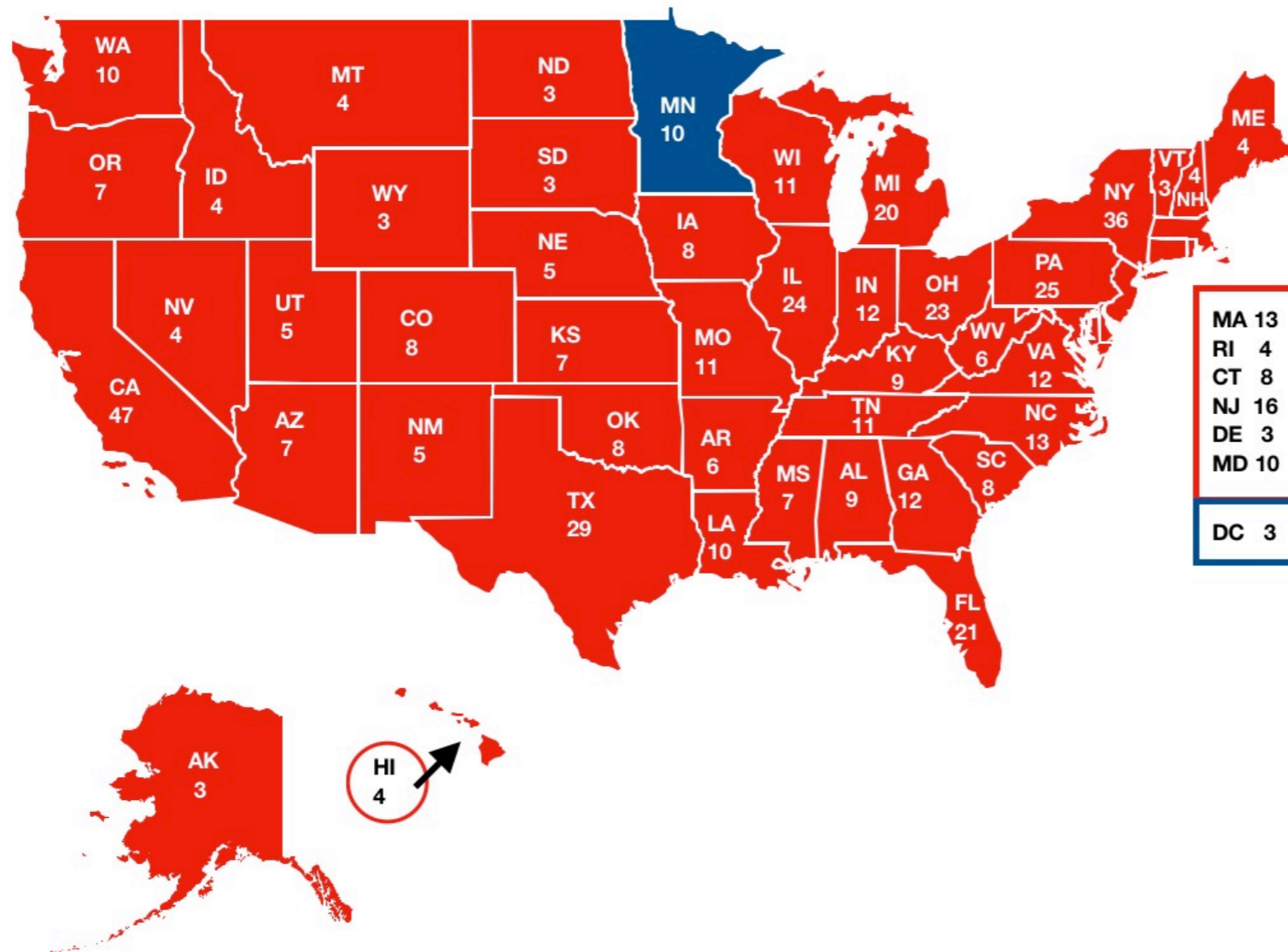


A United Vote: 1984

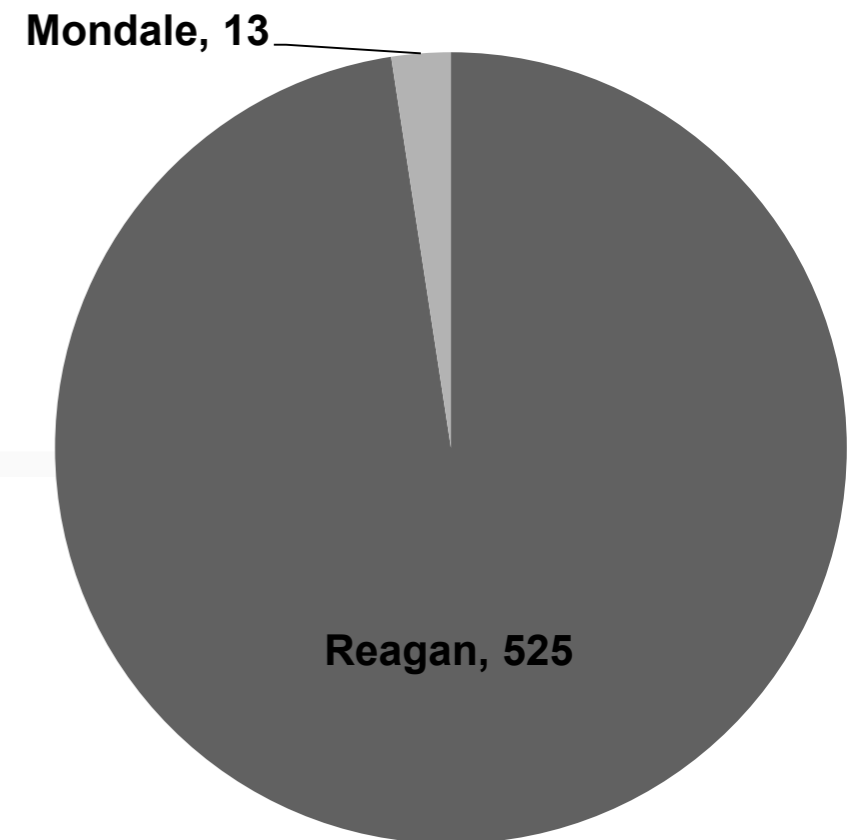


Reagan 54,455,000 votes
Mondale 37,577,000 votes

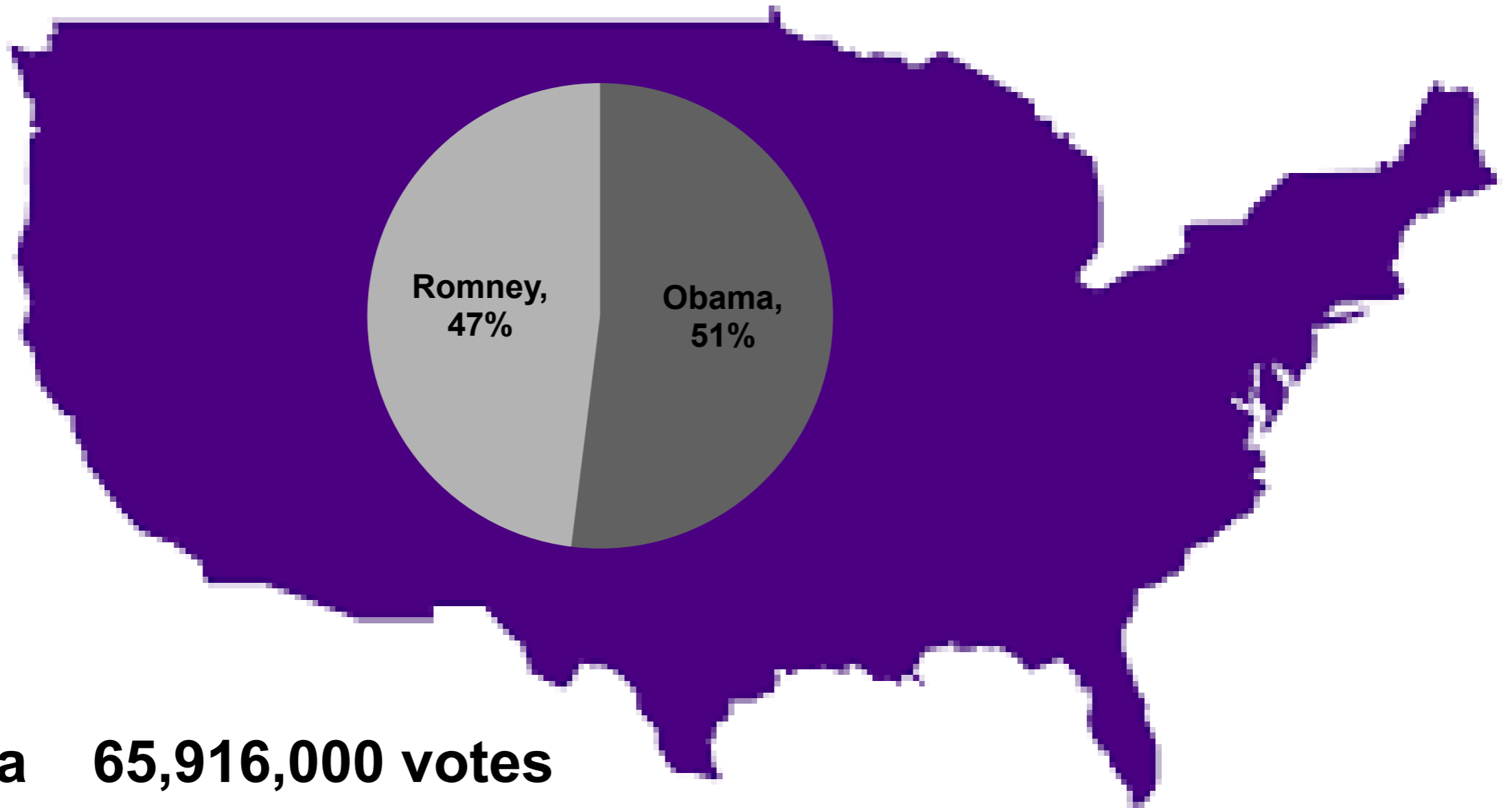
A Divided Vote: 1984



Electoral College Totals:
Reagan 525
Mondale 13

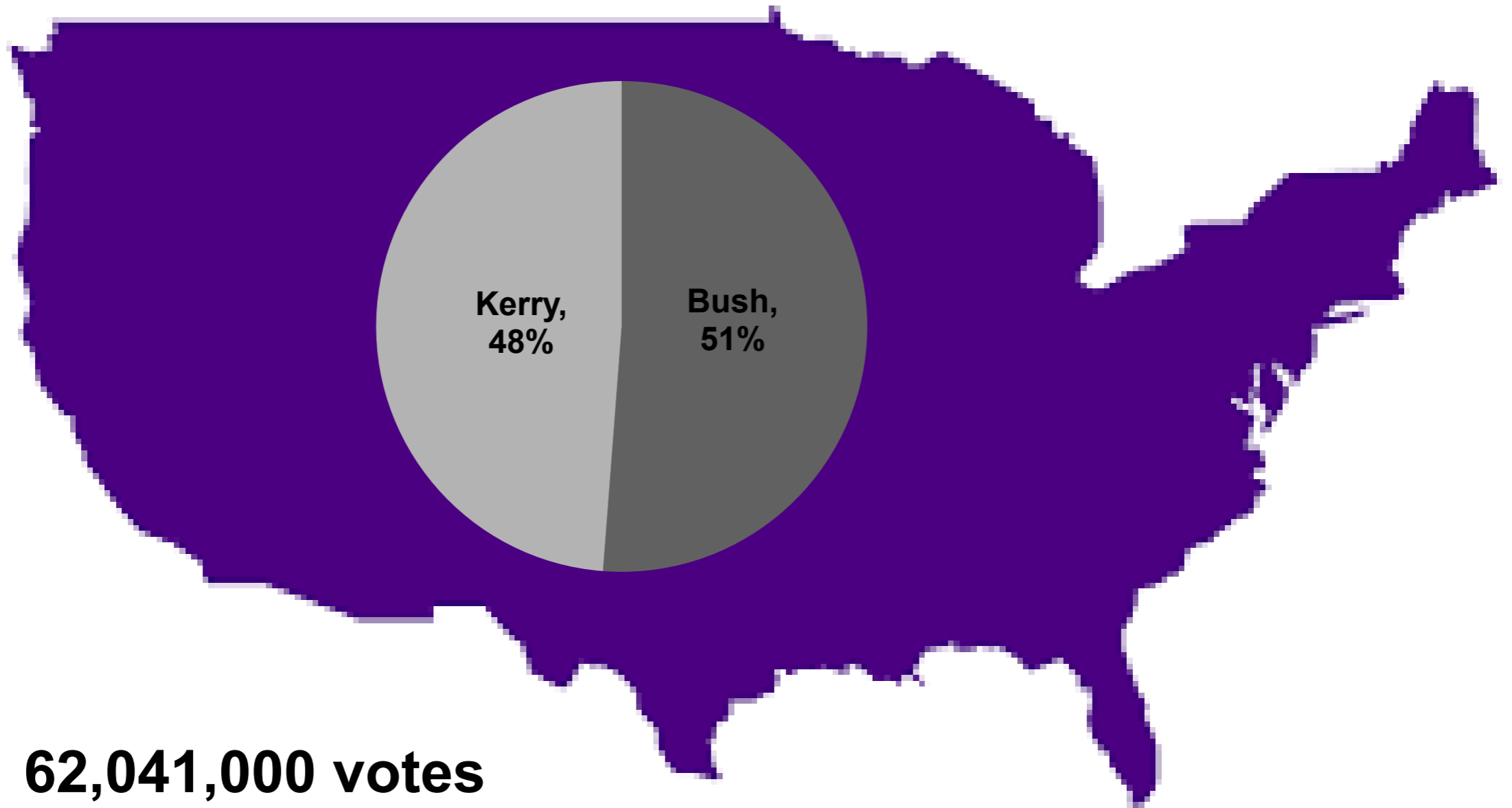


A United Vote: 2012



Obama 65,916,000 votes
Romney 60,934,000 votes

A United Vote: 2004



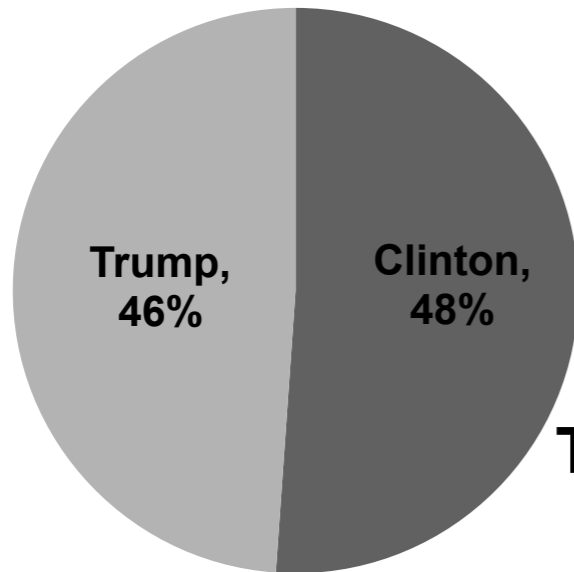
Bush 62,041,000 votes
Kerry 59,028,000 votes

A United Vote

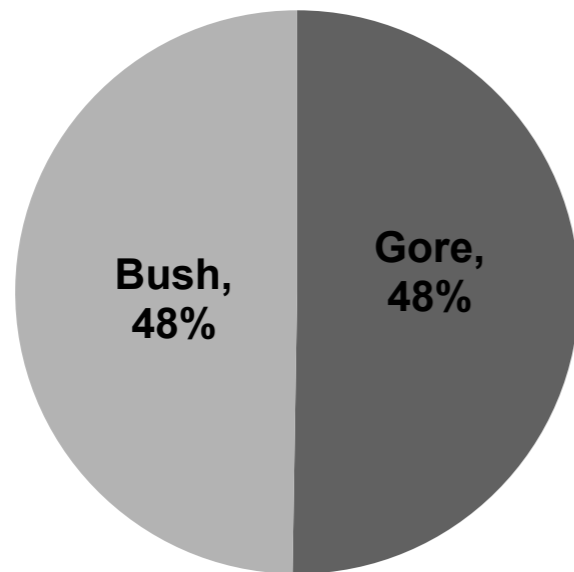


An Inaccurate Vote

The popular vote winner has lost the presidency five times.



2016:
Trump (62,980,000 votes)
over
Clinton (65,845,000 votes)



2000:
Bush (50,456,000 votes)
over
Gore (51,000,000 votes)

1824:
Adams over Jackson

1876:
Hayes over Tilden

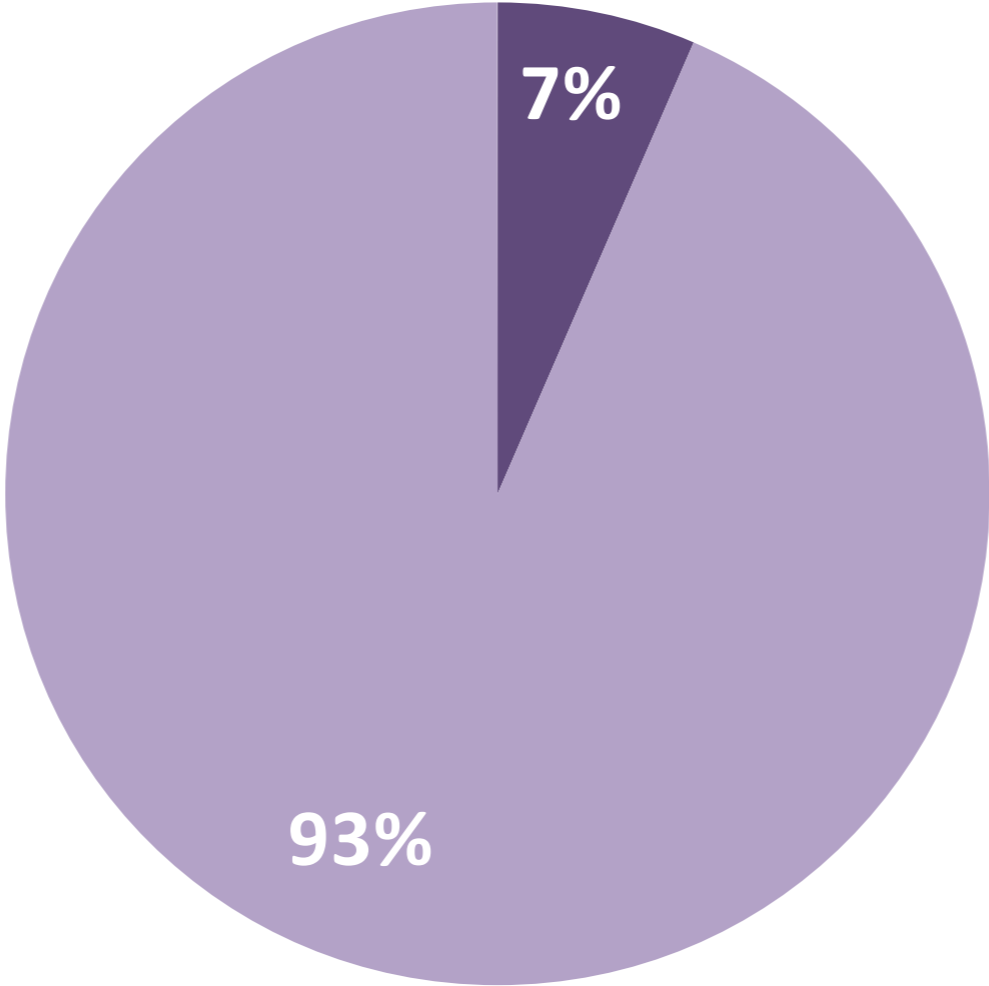
1888:
Harrison over Cleveland

BUSTLING THE MYTHS

Myth #1

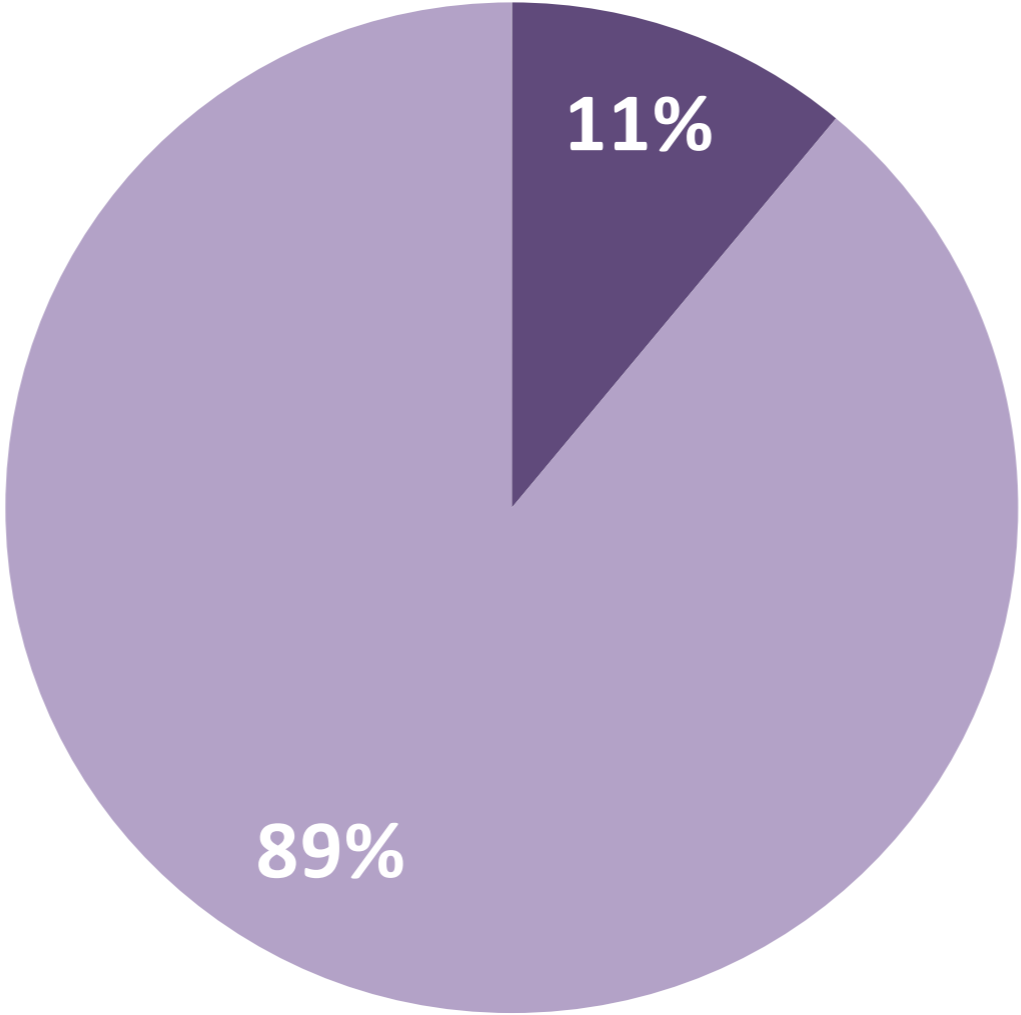
Without the Electoral College, our presidents would all be chosen by a couple of big states like California, New York, and Texas.

**Contribution to the total vote if each state voted 60-40%
all for the same candidate and we elected the president by
national popular vote**



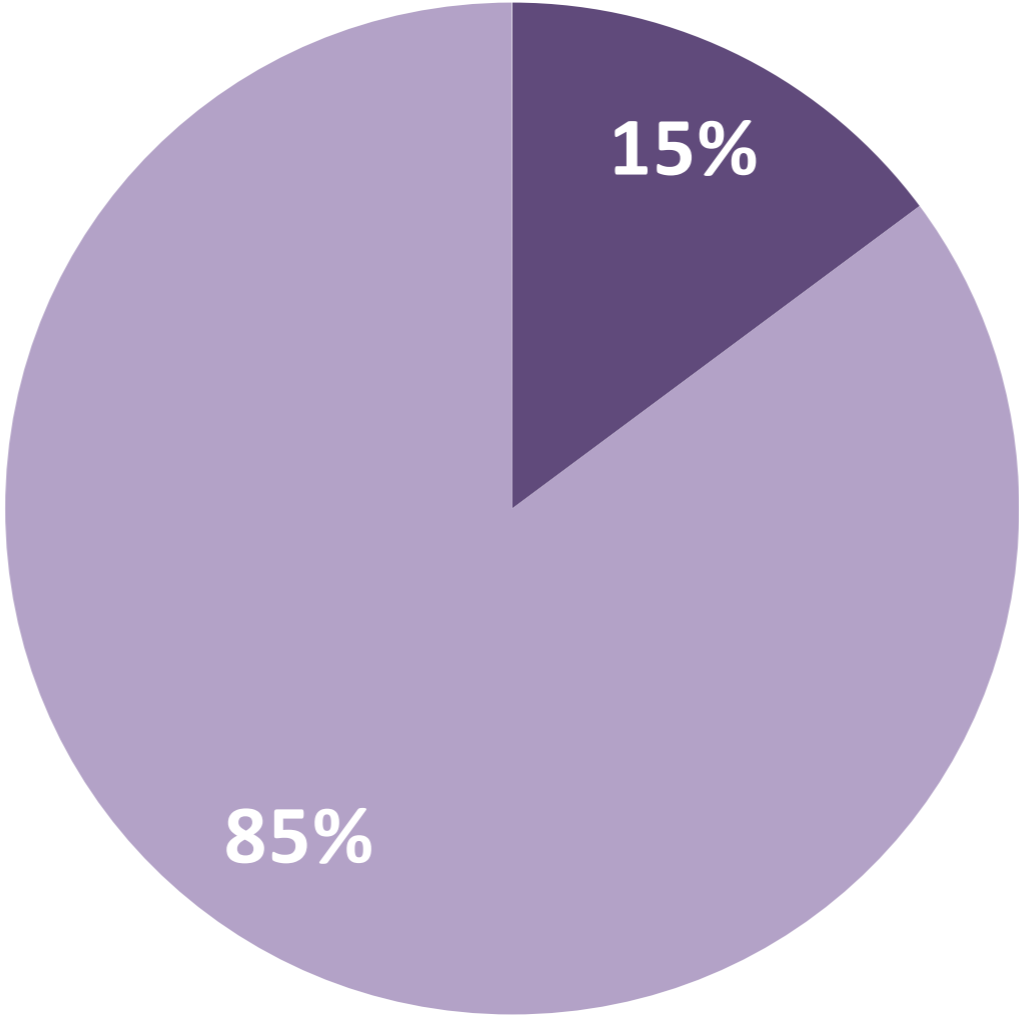
CA

**Contribution to the total vote if each state voted 60-40%
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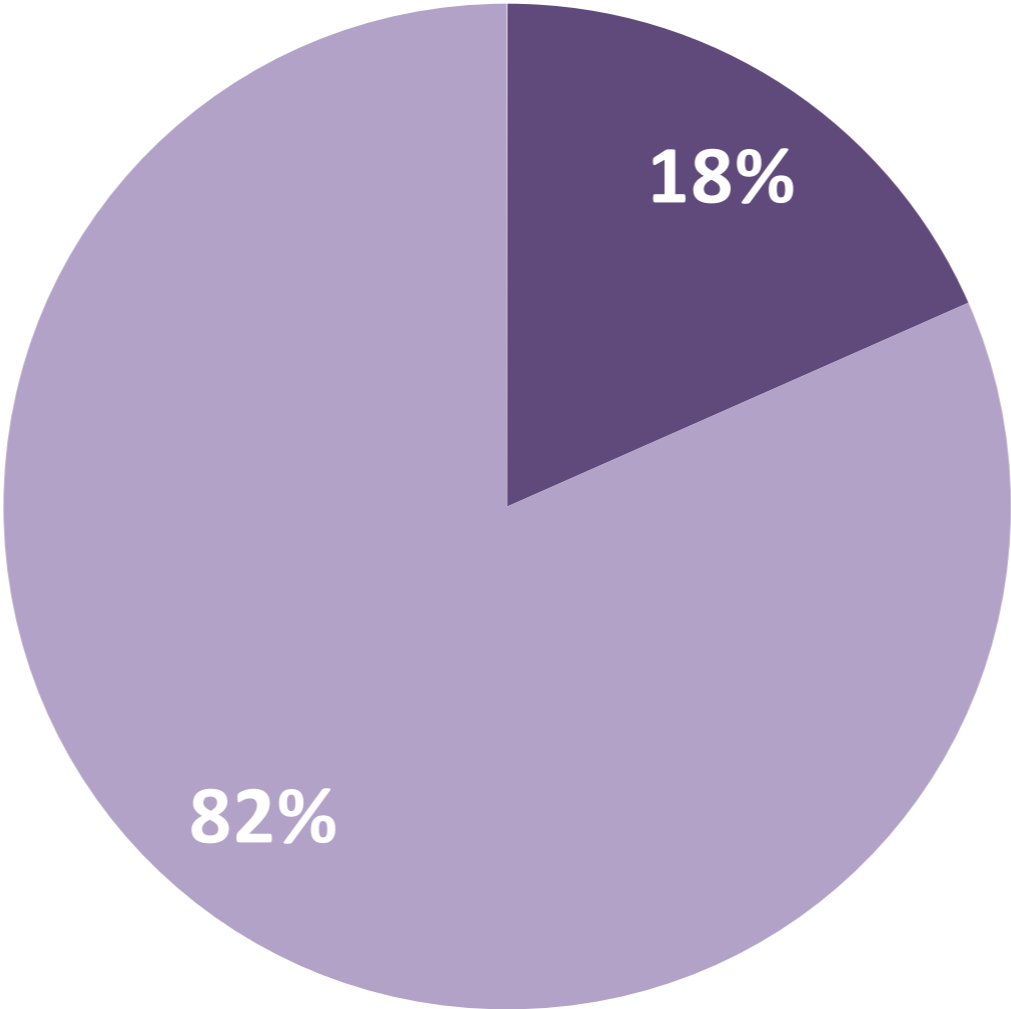
**CA
TX**

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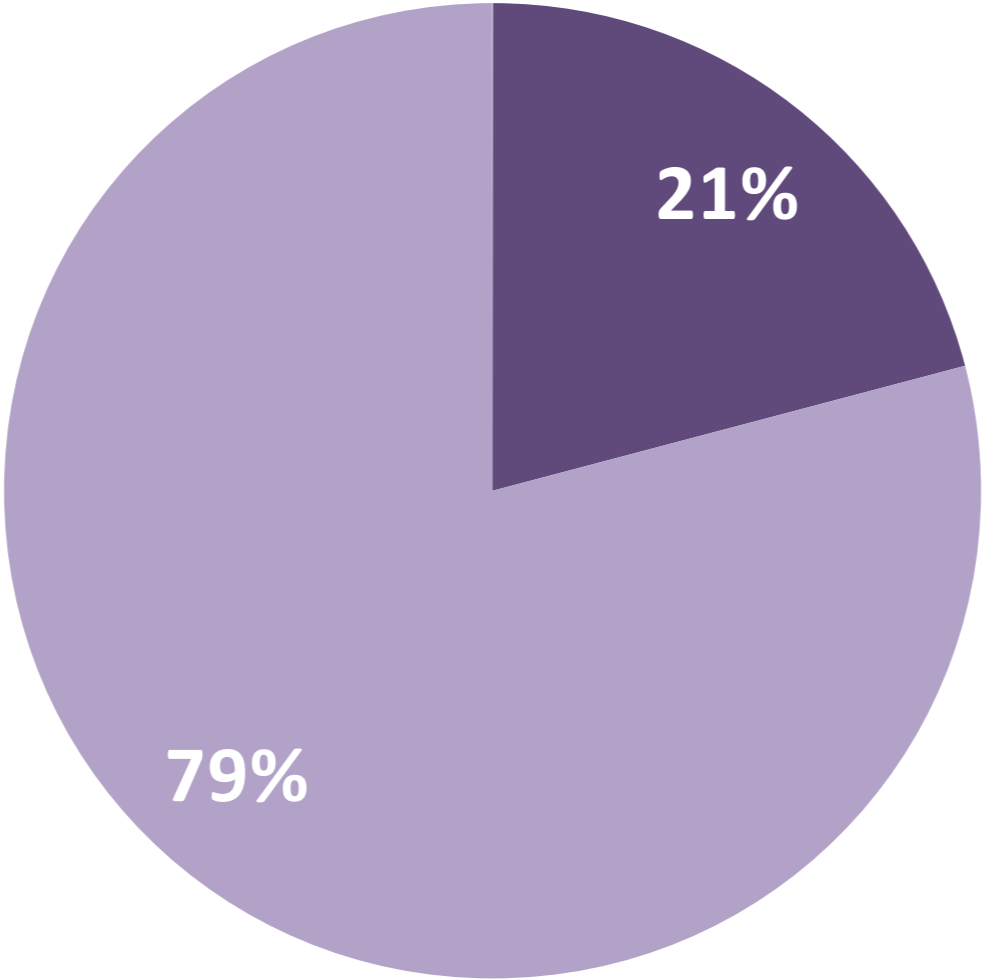
**CA
TX
FL**

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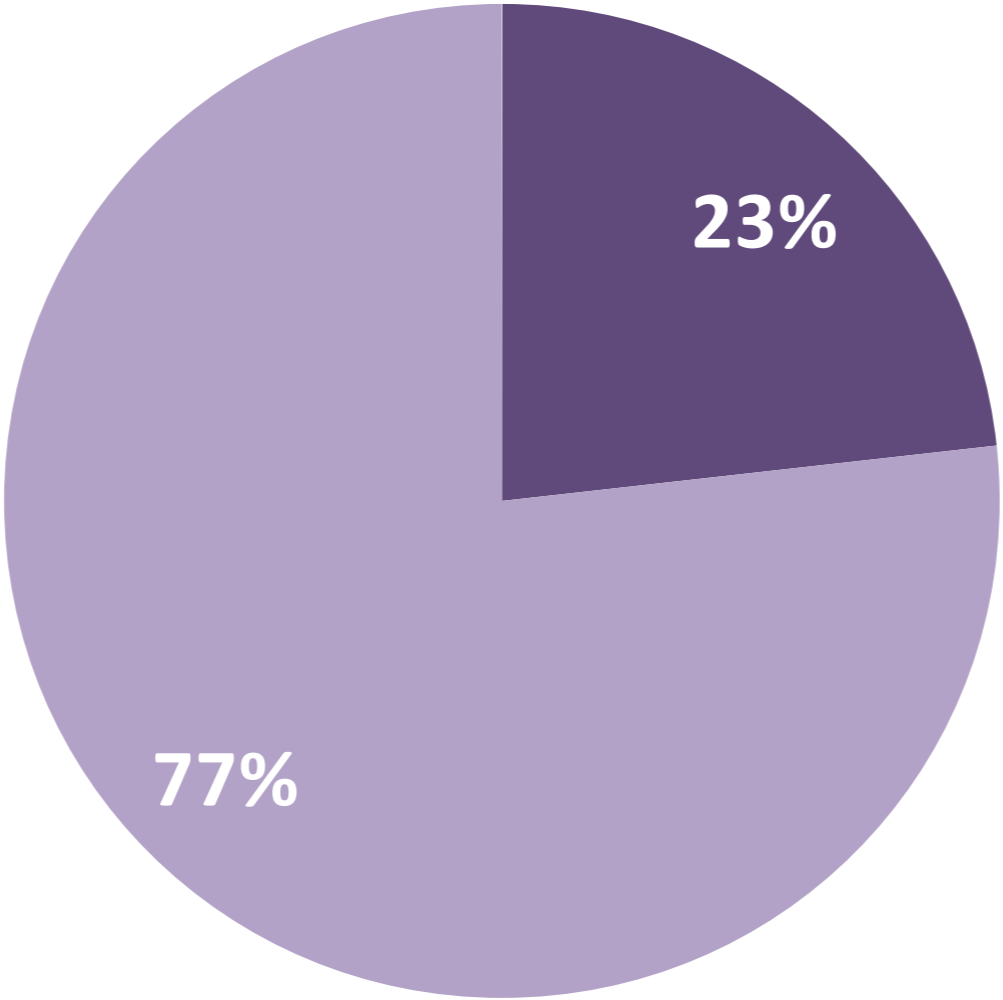
**CA
TX
FL
NY**

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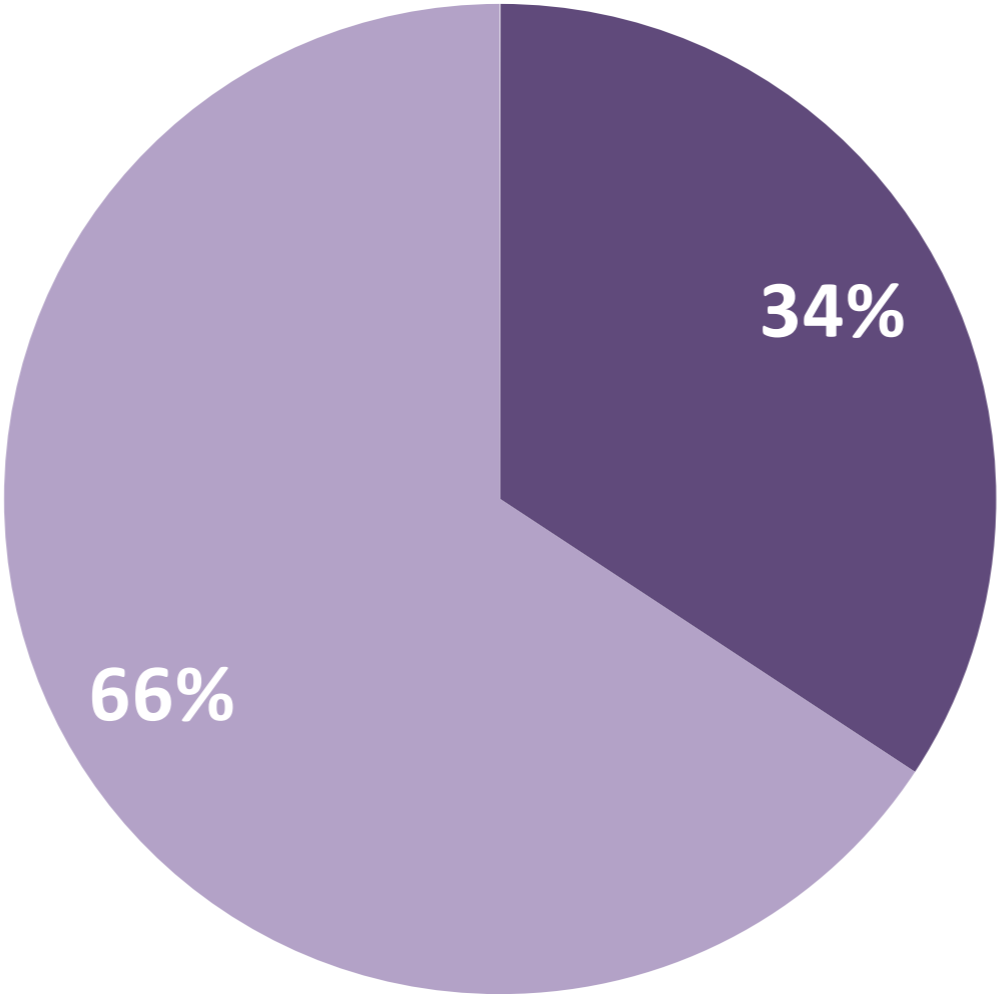
**CA
TX
FL
NY
PA**

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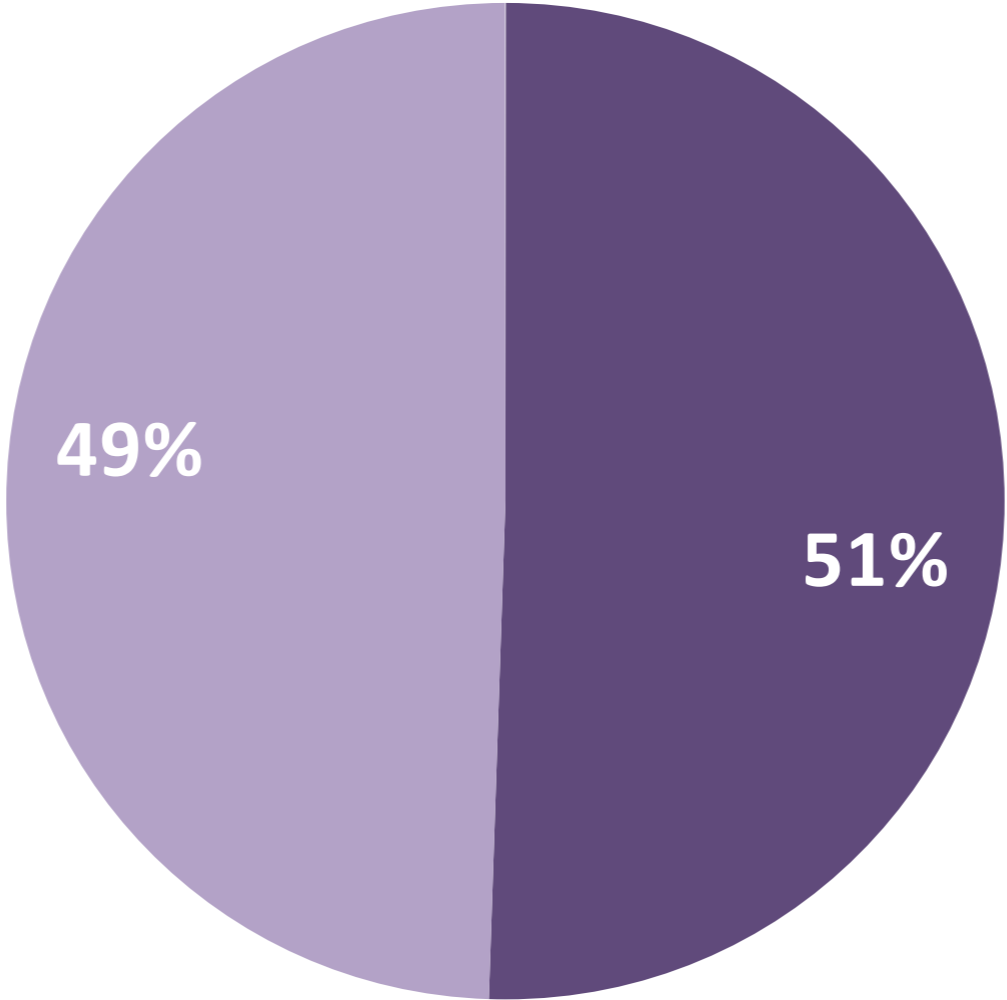
**CA
TX
FL
NY
PA
IL**

**Contribution to the total vote if each state voted 60-40%
all for the same candidate and we elected the president by
national popular vote**



**CA
TX
FL
NY
PA
IL
OH
MI
NC
GA
NJ
VA**

**Contribution to the total vote if each state voted 60-40%
all for the same candidate and we elected the president by
national popular vote**



- CA WA
- TX MA
- FL TN
- NY IN
- PA AZ
- IL MO
- OH WI
- MI MD
- NC CO
- GA MN
- NJ SC
- VA AL
- KY LA
- OR

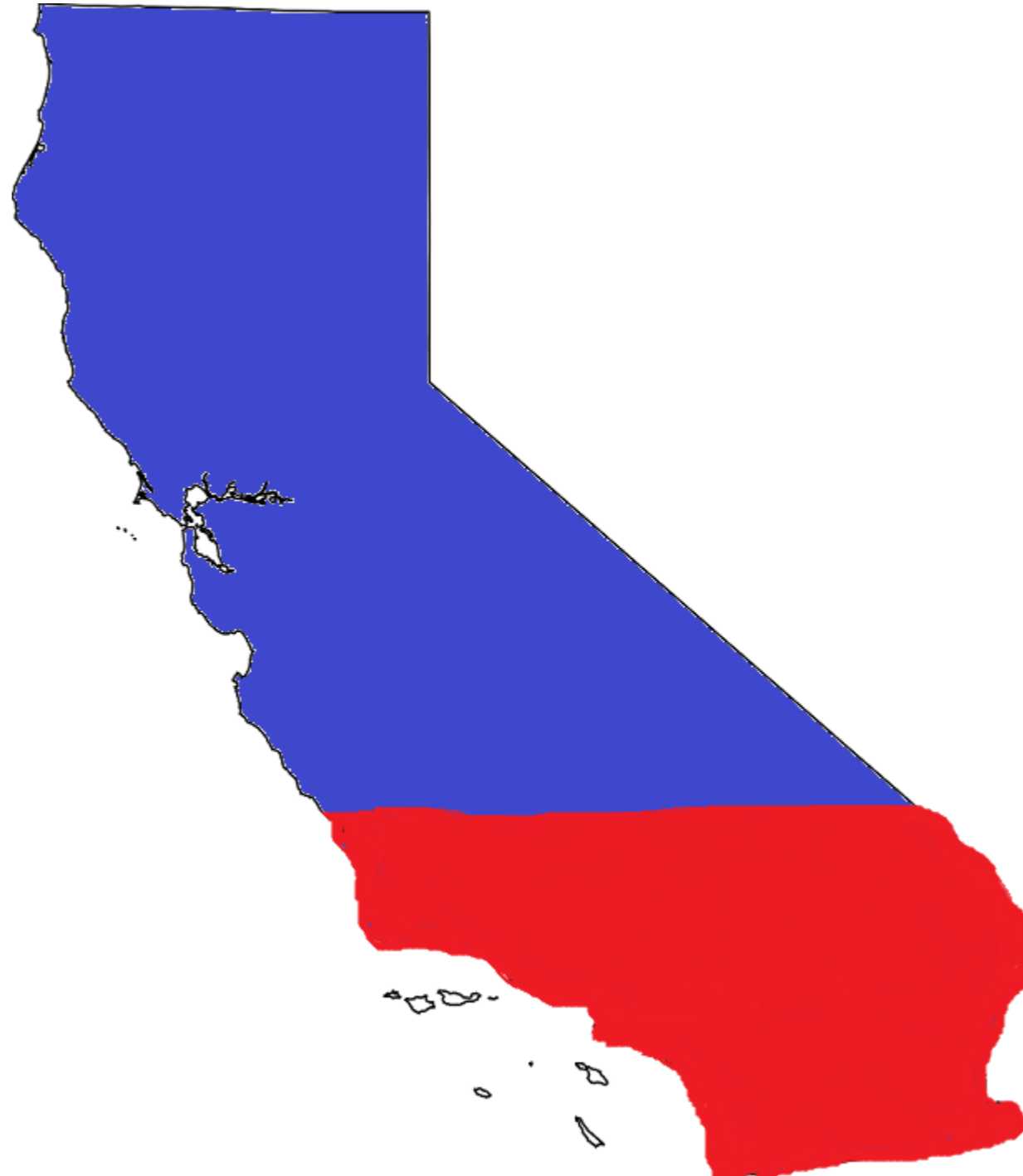
**Would need 27 states to get to 51%
IF they all voted for the SAME candidate
by a 20-POINT margin!**

Fact:

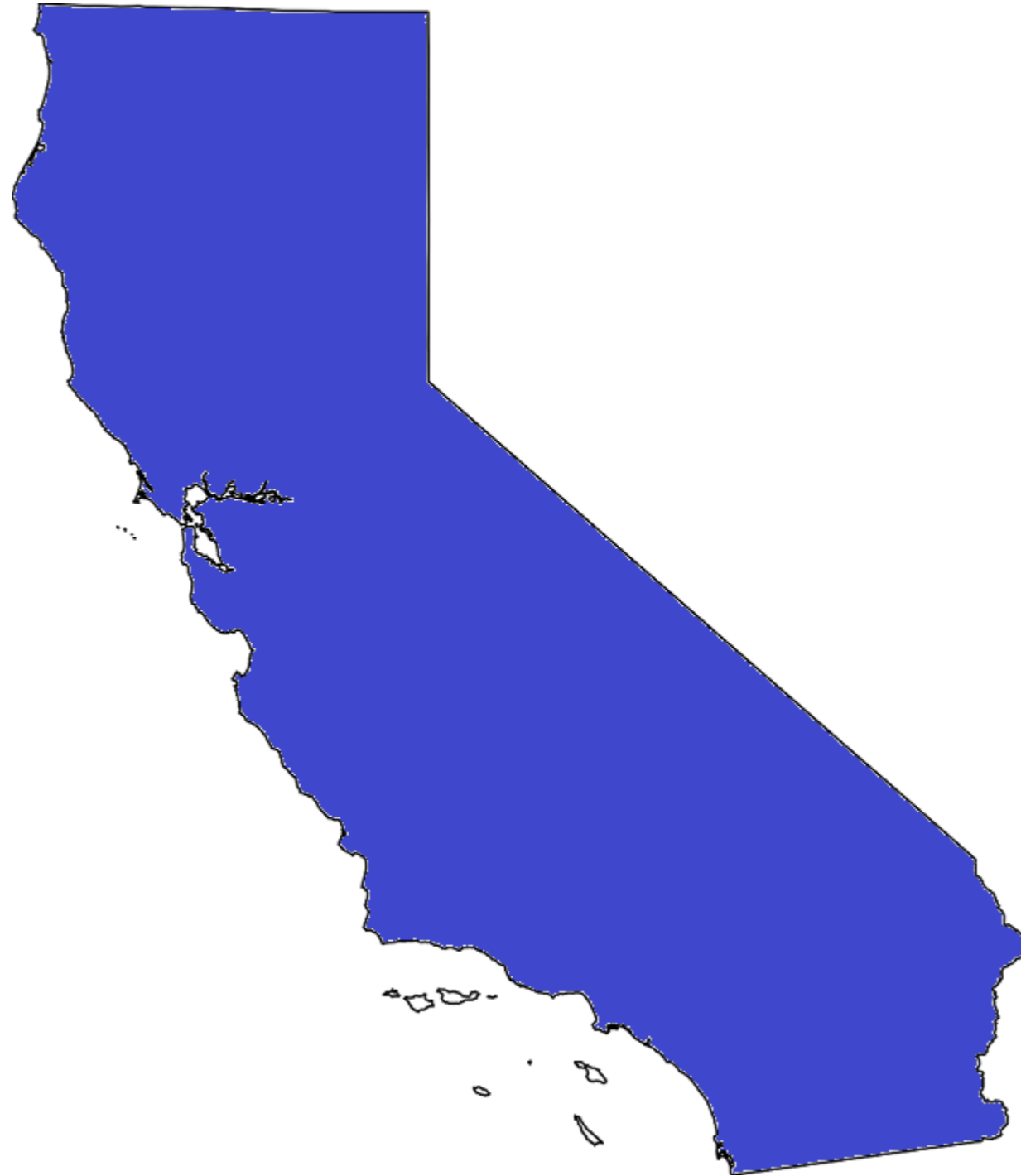
Votes from ALL states would be necessary to win the presidency.

Election by popular vote means all votes count.

32% of California Voters Chose Trump in 2016



But the Electoral College Erased Them from the Total



National Popular Vote by *Person*, Not by *State*



Myth #2

Smaller, less populated states need the protection of the Electoral College to ensure their interests are represented by the President.

Fact:

There is no coherent “small state” or “large state” interest that needs protecting. All of our states have diverse interests.

All of our states have diverse interests

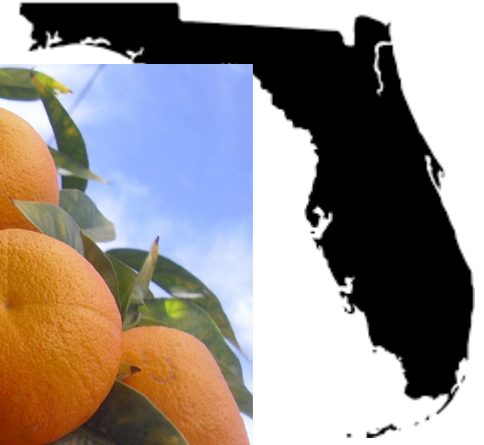


Natalie Maynor

Most farmers live in large states



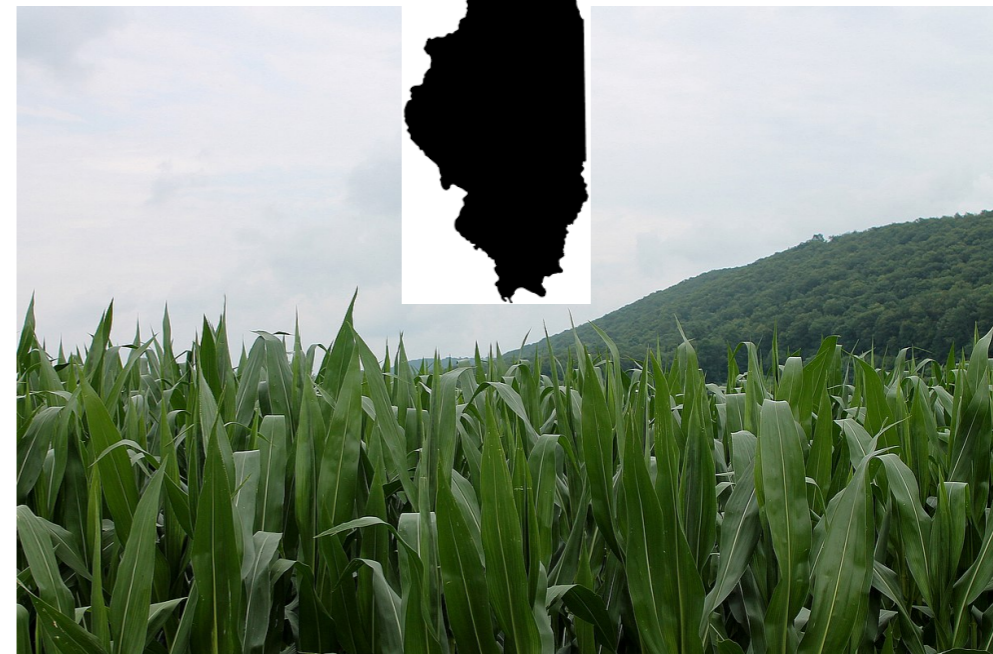
Billy Hathorn



Mohamed AmaroChan



Terrie Miller



Jakec

Our political interests cross state lines.



Rob87438

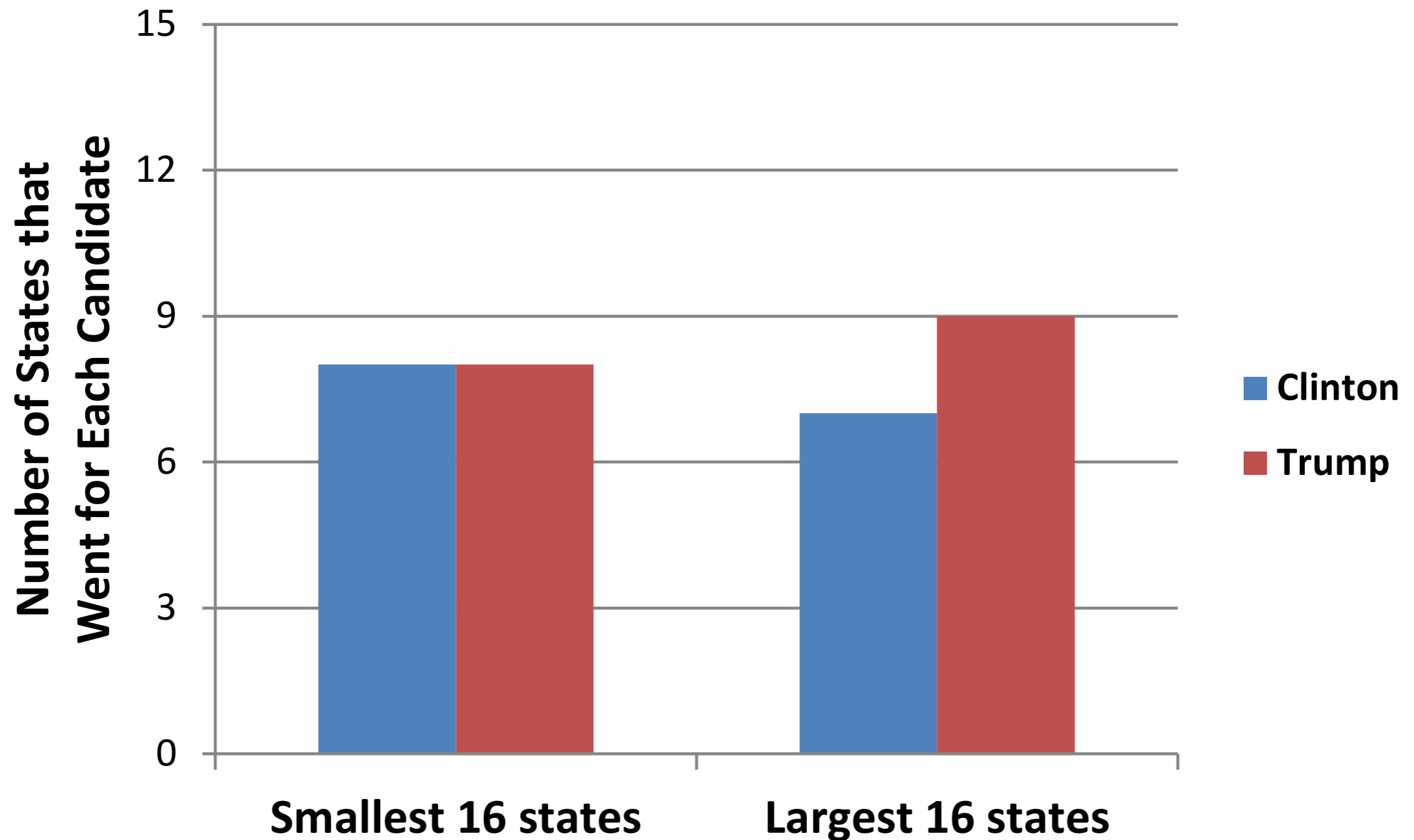


Justin Ormont

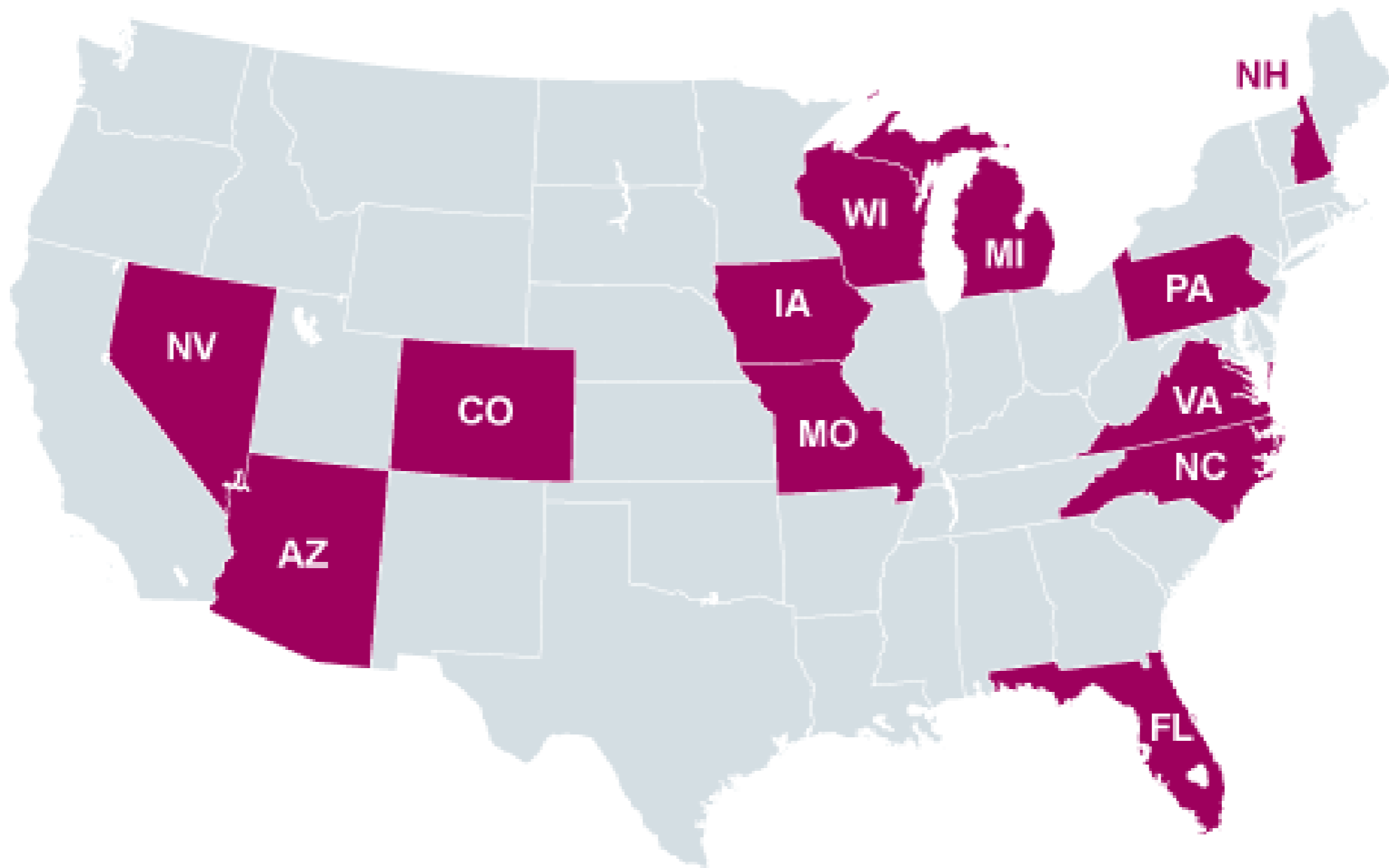


Marion S. Trikosko, U.S. News & World Report Magazine

Small States Do Not Vote as a Bloc



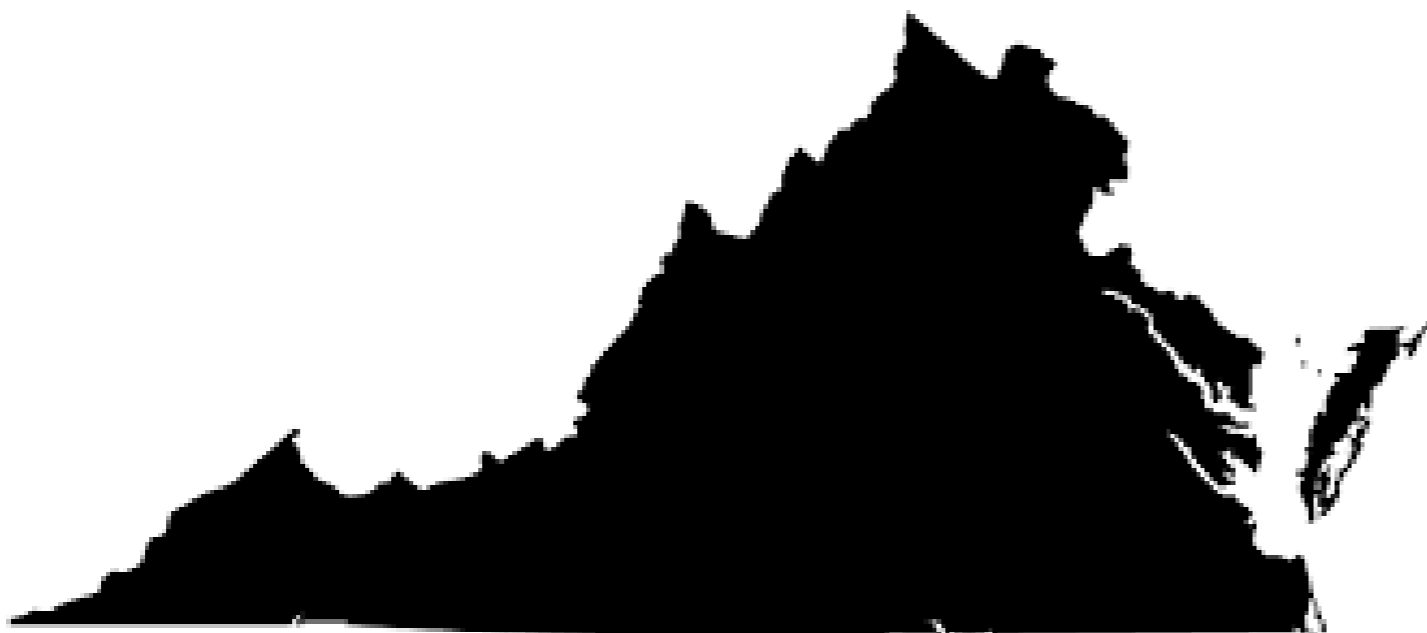
Candidates focus their time in “swing states,”
not small states.



Fact:

Residents of LARGER states lose their rightful representation under the Electoral College.

Virginia has 9x more voters than Delaware...



Virginia has 6,027,262 voters



Delaware has 689,125 voters

...but only gets 4x as many electors.



Virginia gets 13 electors

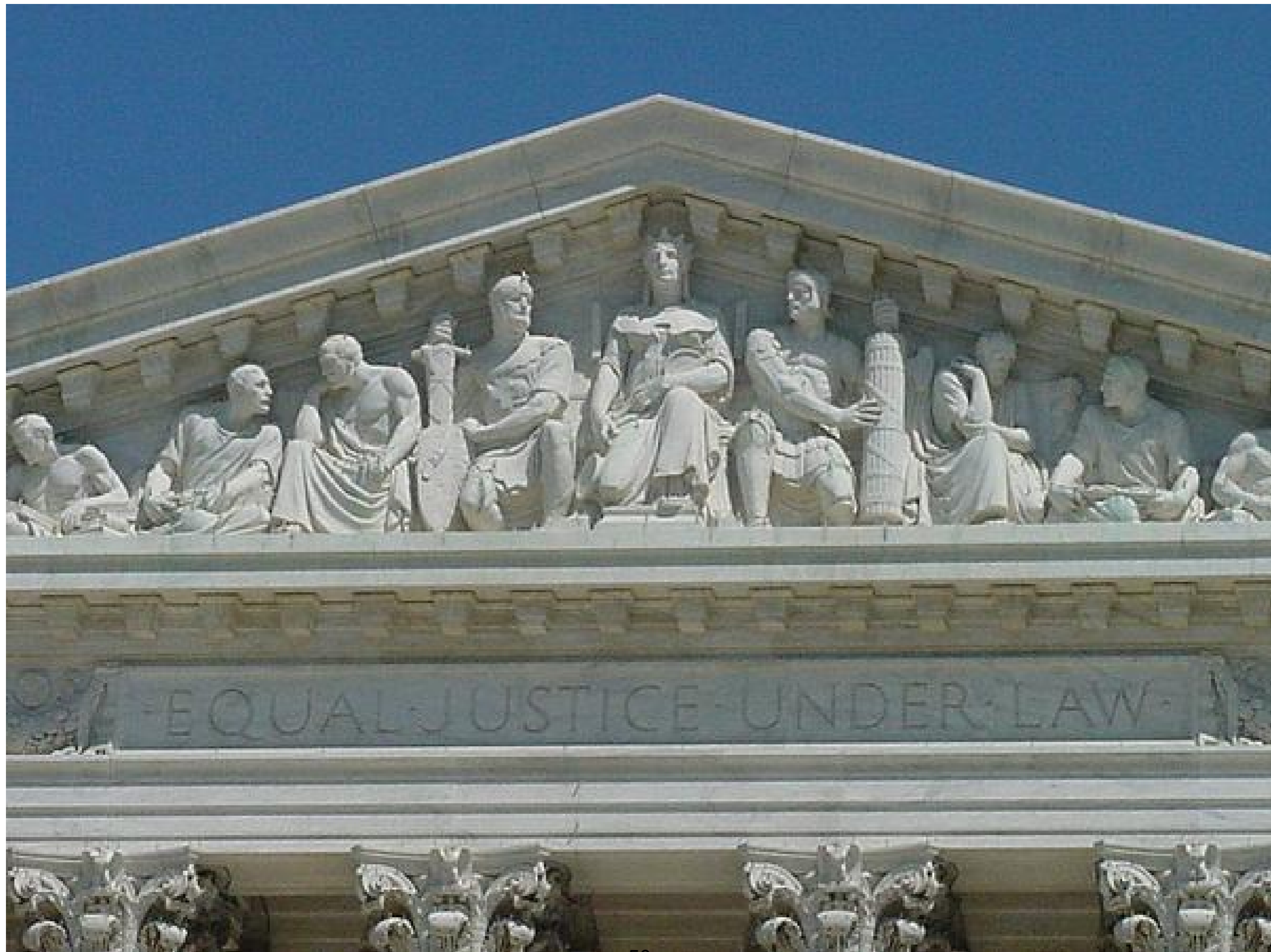


Delaware gets 3 electors

Is this fair?

Myth #3

The Electoral College protects the rights of the minority from the tyranny of the majority.





Carol Highsmith

Fact:

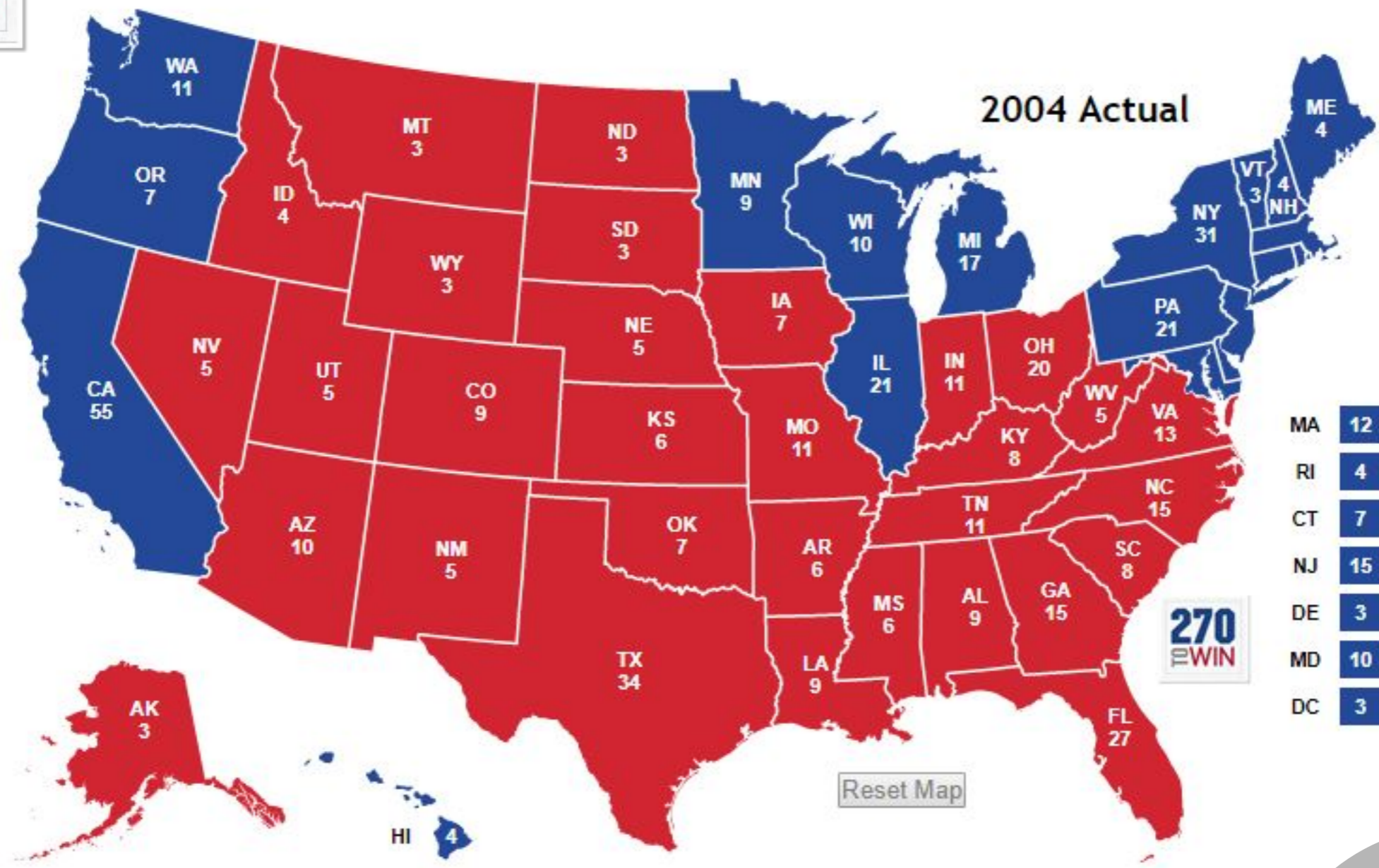
The rights of minority groups are protected by the Courts and the Senate.

Myth #4

Abolishing the Electoral College will mostly benefit Democratic candidates.

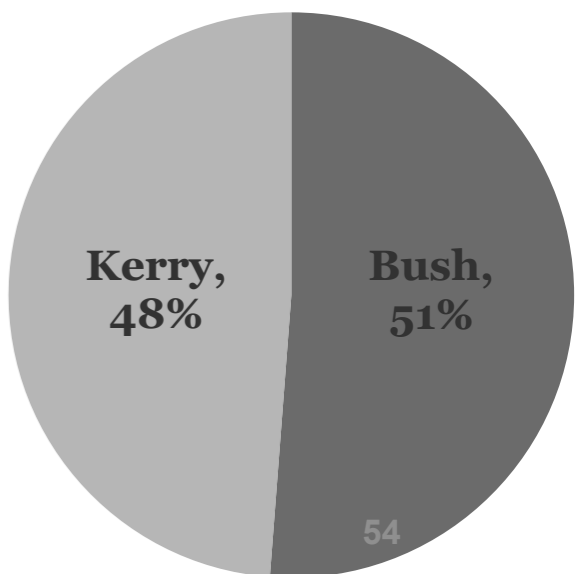
270
TO WIN

286 ✓ Bush (R) **251** Kerry (D) Undecided 0



**Winner:
George Bush**

Bush received 3.01 million more votes than Kerry

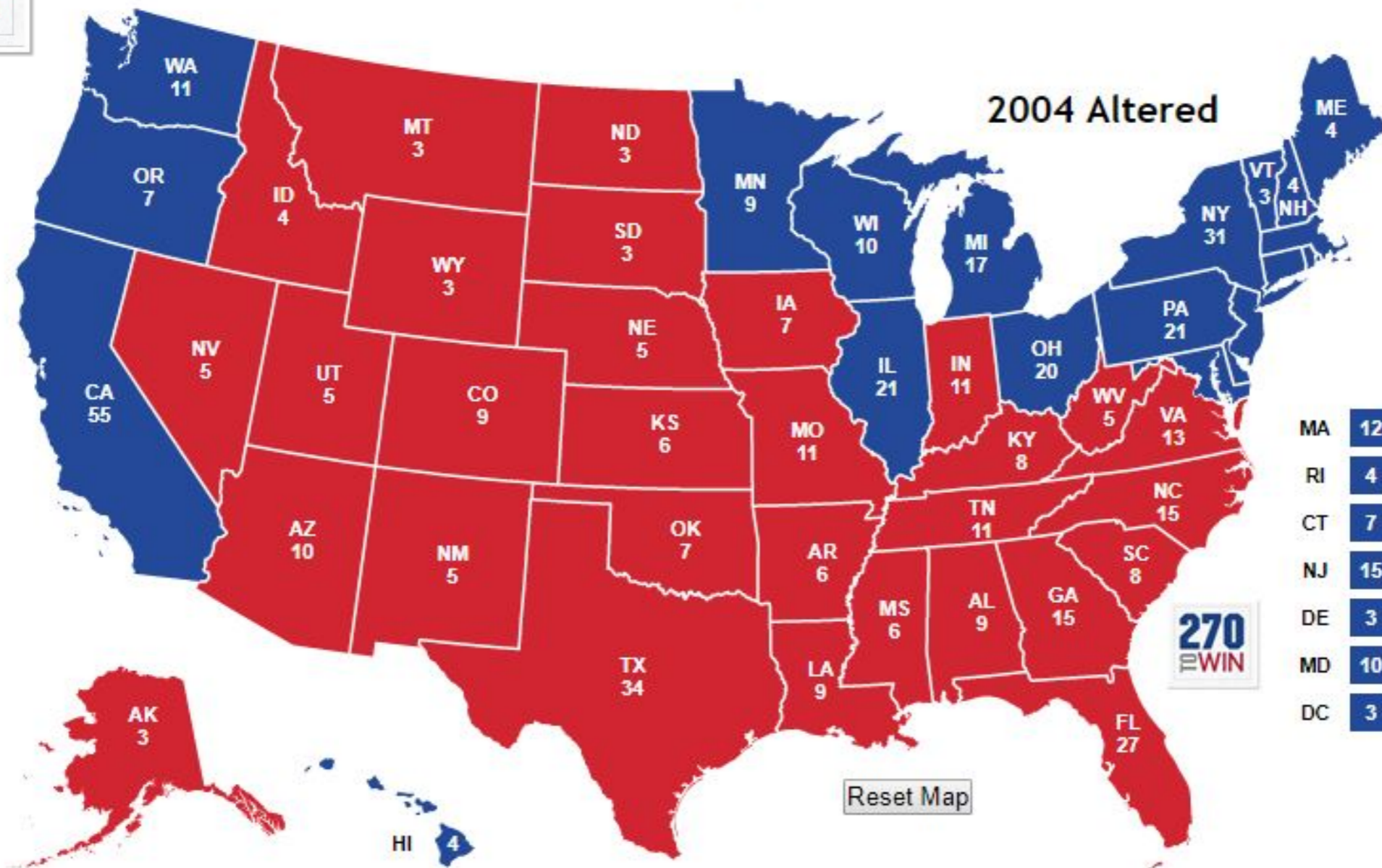


270
TO WIN

266
Bush (R)

271
✓ Kerry (D)

Undecided 0

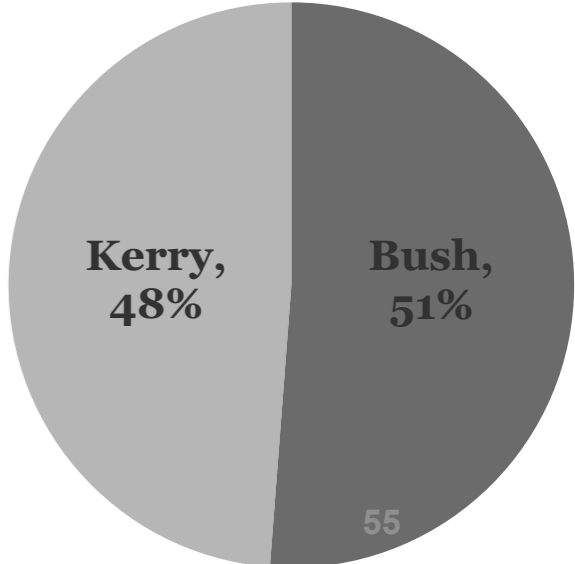


- MA 12
- RI 4
- CT 7
- NJ 15
- DE 3
- MD 10
- DC 3

Reset Map

**Winner:
John Kerry**

Bush received 2.95 million more votes than Kerry



**Voters of both parties feel
their votes do not count.**



Fact:

The Electoral College can, and has, hurt Republicans and well as Democrats.

This is a non-partisan issue.

**How do we abolish the
Electoral College?**

**Urge our legislators to
introduce and co-sponsor a
constitutional amendment.**

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to abolish the electoral college and to provide for the direct popular election of the President and Vice President of the United States.

House Joint Resolution 7

INTRODUCED BY REP. STEVE COHEN OF TENNESSEE JAN. 3, 2019.

Senate Joint Resolution 17

INTRODUCED BY SEN. BRIAN SCHATZ OF HAWAII APR. 2, 2019.

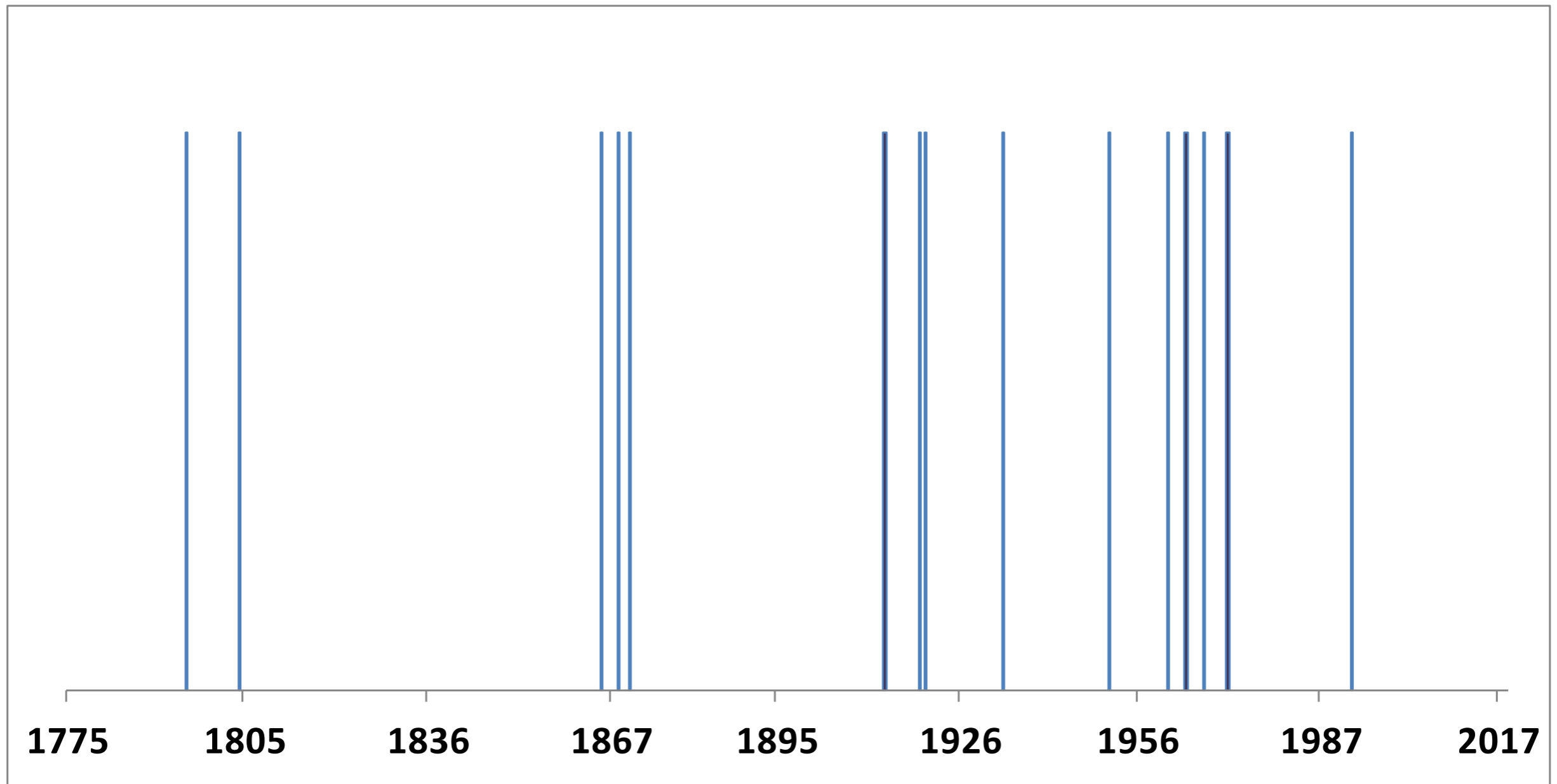


What Can We Do?

- > Urge your federal legislators to introduce and co-sponsor a Constitutional amendment in Congress.
- > If not already signed on, urge your state legislators to sign the NPVI Compact. ALSO work on the constitutional amendment.
- > Share this presentation with them!



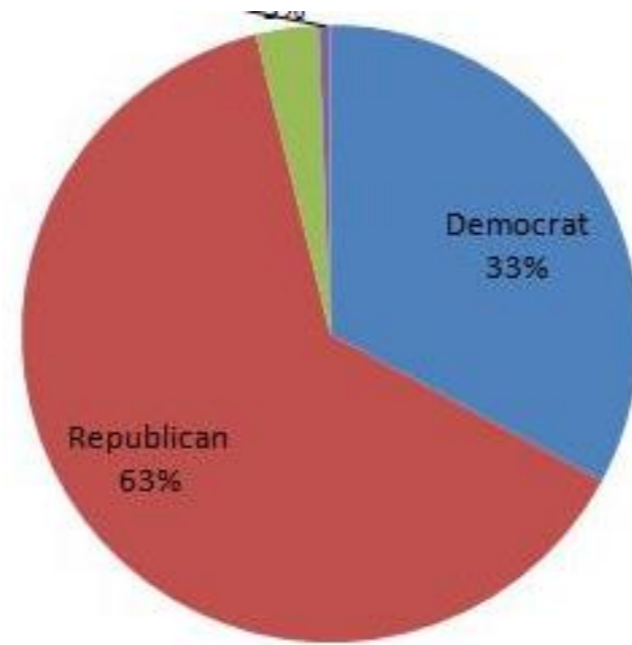
Timeline of Constitutional Amendments





The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact

What about proportional representation by state?





Third Parties Make it Hard for One Candidate to Reach 270 Electoral Votes with Proportional System



JOHNSON

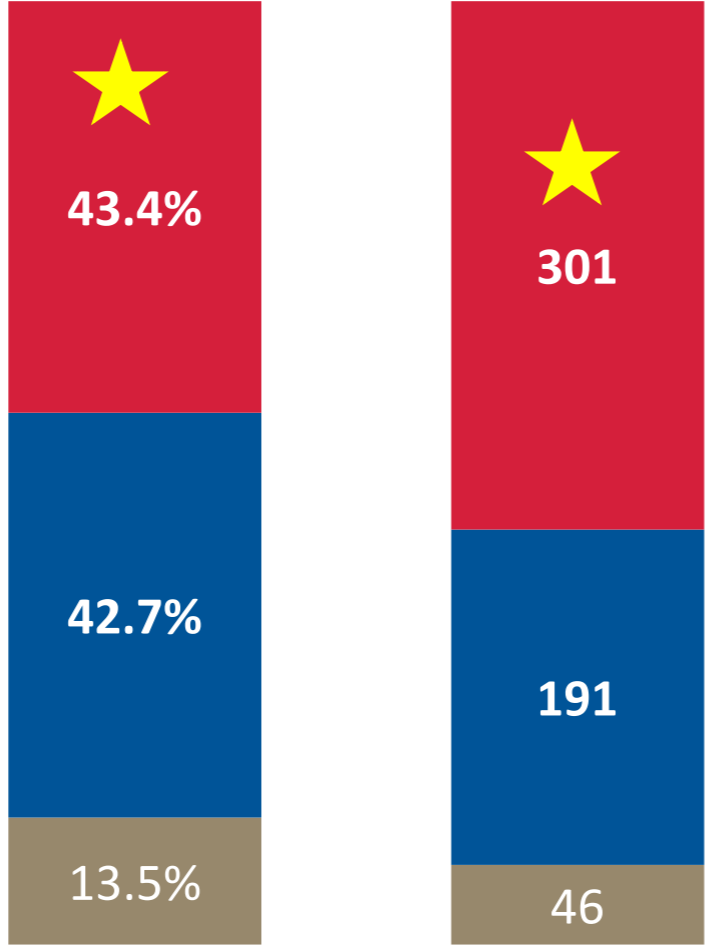
WELD 2016

Nader '08
Gonzalez



Example: 1968 Election

- Nixon (R)
- Humphrey (D)
- Wallace (AIP)

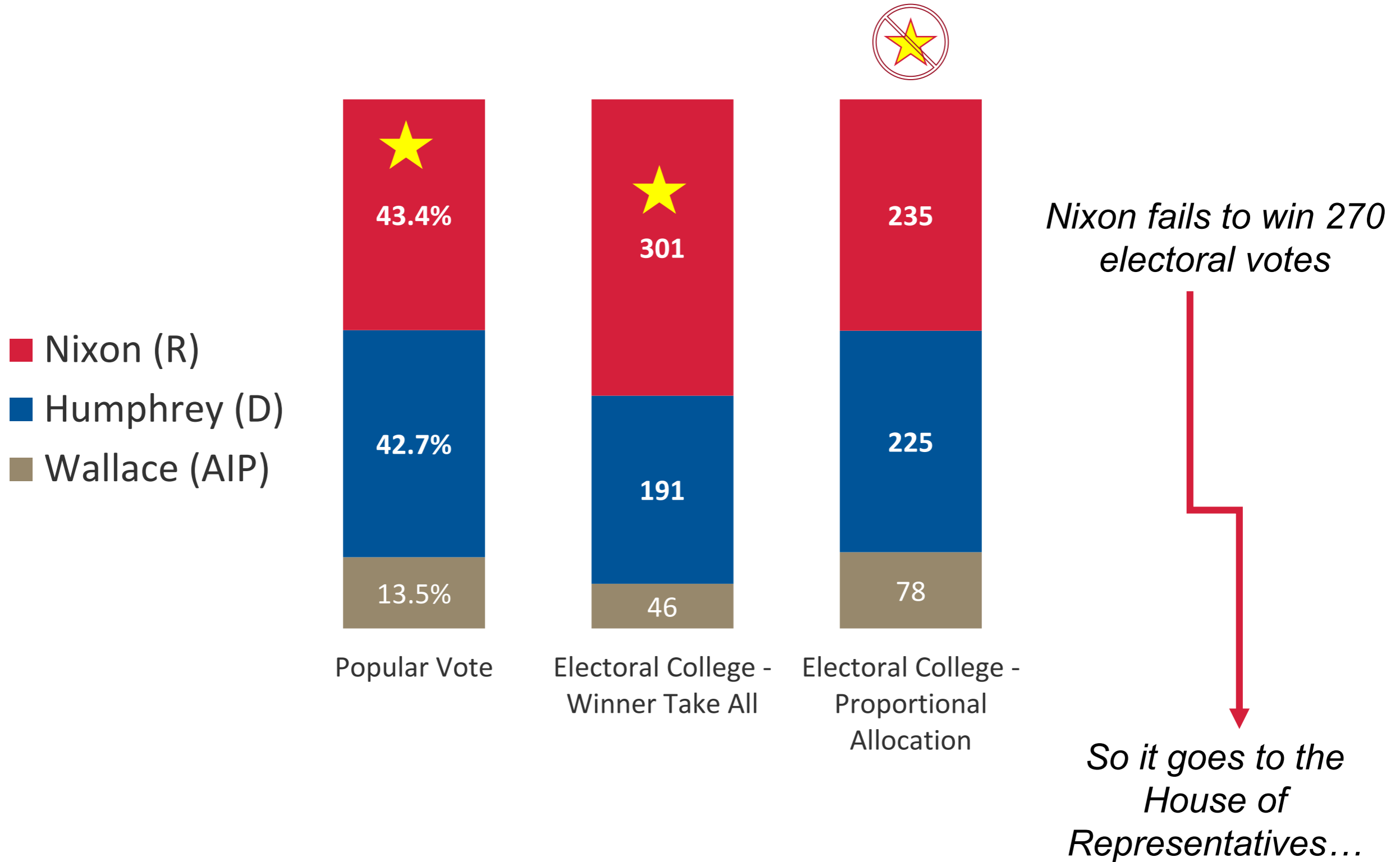


Popular Vote

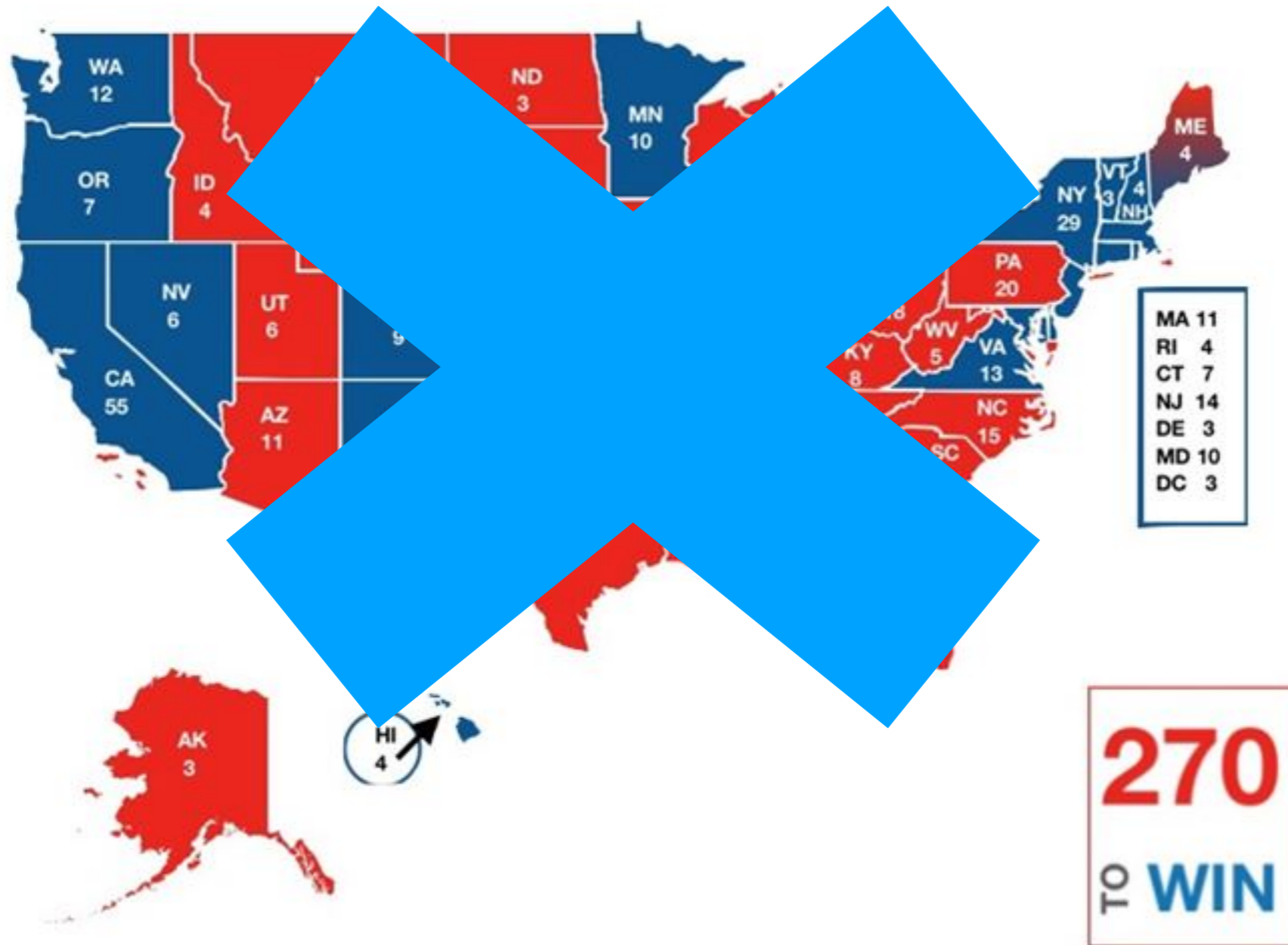
Electoral College -
Winner Take All

Nixon won both the popular vote and the "Winner Take All" electoral college

Proportional Allocation = No Winner



It's time for change.



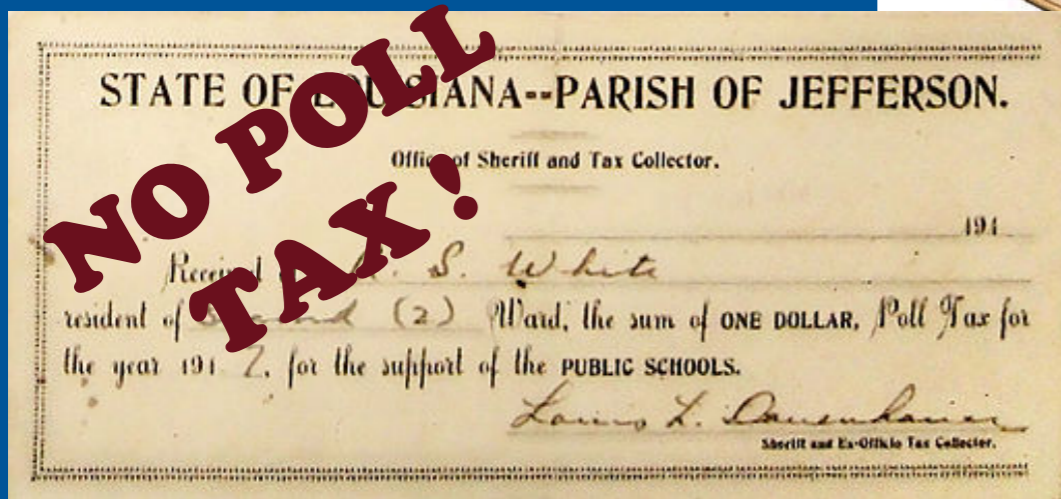
Constitutional Amendments Happen!



Joe Shlabotnik

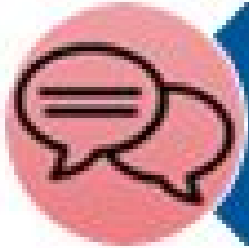


Daniel Schwen



League of Women Voters

What you can do now



**Spread the word! Find materials on our website:
www.wilmette.org/electoral-college-reform.html**



**Email us for more information/updates:
abolishelectoral@gmail.com**



**Follow us on Facebook:
facebook.com/abolishelectoralcollegelwv**



Talk to your senators, congressional reps or candidates



Help with printing costs and other expenses

<https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/can-we-tell-which-states-will-be-swing-states-in-november/>