

Magruder's American Government

CHAPTER 13 *The Presidency*

The Presidency

SECTION 1 The President's Job Description

SECTION 2 Presidential Succession and the Vice Presidency

SECTION 3 Presidential Selection: The Framers' Plan

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The President's Job Description

- What are the President's many roles?
- What are the formal qualifications necessary to become President?
- What issues have arisen involving the length of the President's term?
- How is the President compensated?



The President's Roles

Chief of State

- The President is **chief of state**. This means he is the ceremonial head of the government of the United States, the symbol of all the people of the nation.

Chief Executive

- The Constitution vests the President with the executive power of the United States, making him or her the nation's **chief executive**.

Chief Administrator

- The President is the **chief administrator**, or director, of the United States government.

Chief Diplomat

- As the nation's **chief diplomat**, the President is the main architect of American foreign policy and chief spokesperson to the rest of the world.



More Roles of the President

Commander in Chief

- The Constitution makes the President the **commander in chief**, giving him or her complete control of the nation's armed forces.

Chief Legislator

- The President is the **chief legislator**, the main architect of the nation's public policies.

Chief of Party

- The President acts as the **chief of party**, the acknowledged leader of the political party that controls the executive branch.

Chief Citizen

- The President is expected to be “the representative of all the people.”



Qualifications for President

Article II, Section 1, Clause 5, of the Constitution says that the President must:

1. Be “a natural born citizen.”

A person must be born a citizen of the United States to be able to become President.

2. Be at least 35 years of age.

John F. Kennedy at age 43 was the youngest person to be elected President.

3. Have lived in the United States for at least 14 years.

Informal qualifications, such as intelligence and character, are also important considerations.

The President's Term

- Until 1951, the Constitution placed no limit on the number of terms a President might serve.
- Traditionally, Presidents limited the number of terms served to two. This tradition was broken by Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1940 when he ran for and won a third term in office. He then went on to be elected to a fourth term in 1944.
- The 22nd Amendment placed limits on presidential terms. A President now may not be elected more than twice or only once if they became President due to succession.



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Pay and Benefits


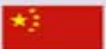









Congress determines the President's salary, and this salary cannot be changed during a presidential term.

- The President's pay was first set at \$25,000 a year. Currently, the President is paid \$400,000 a year.
- Congress has also approved an expense allowance for the President, which is currently \$50,000 a year.
- Besides monetary benefits, the President gets to live in the 132-room mansion that we call the White House.
- The President is also granted other benefits, including a large suite of offices, a staff, the use of *Air Force One*, and many other fringe benefits.



Comparative Governments: Other Heads of State

Heads of State in Selected Countries

Country	Title	Name	Date Acquired Office	Previous Profession/Title
 Poland	President	Aleksander Kwasniewski	December 23, 1995	Former communist official
 China	State President	Jiang Zemin	March 27, 1993	General Secretary, Communist Party
 Panama	President	Mireya Moscoso	September 1, 1999	Businesswoman, civil servant
 South Africa	President	Thabo Mbeki	June 16, 1999	Deputy President
 Canada	Governor-General	Adrienne Clarkson	October 7, 1999	Writer and producer
 Spain	King	Juan Carlos I	November 22, 1975	Crown Prince
 Mexico	President	Vicente Fox	December 1, 2000	Governor, businessman
 Jordan	King	Abdullah II	August 20, 1998	Crown Prince
 Japan	Emperor	Akihito	January 7, 1989	Crown Prince
 Philippines	President	Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo	January 20, 2001	Vice President
 United States	President	George W. Bush	January 20, 2001	Governor

SOURCE: CIA Publications



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Section 1 Review

1. As commander in chief, the President

- (a) is the leader of all the nation's armed forces.
- (b) initiates legislation.
- (c) is the director of the government.
- (d) represents the citizens of the United States abroad.

2. In order to become President, a citizen needs to be at least

- (a) 25 years old.
- (b) 35 years old.
- (c) 45 years old.
- (d) 30 years old.

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Presidential Succession and the Vice Presidency

- How does the Constitution provide for presidential succession?
- What are the constitutional provisions for presidential disability?
- What is the role of the Vice President?



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The Constitution and Succession

- **Presidential succession** is the plan by which a presidential vacancy is filled.
- The 25th Amendment, ratified in 1967, made it clear that the Vice President will become President if the President is removed from office.
- The **Presidential Succession Act of 1947** set the order of succession following the Vice President.

Presidential Succession	
1	Vice President
2	Speaker of the House
3	President <i>pro tempore</i> of the Senate
4	Secretary of State
5	Secretary of the Treasury
6	Secretary of Defense
7	Attorney General
8	Secretary of the Interior
9	Secretary of Agriculture
10	Secretary of Commerce
11	Secretary of Labor
12	Secretary of Health and Human Services
13	Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
14	Secretary of Transportation
15	Secretary of Energy
16	Secretary of Education
17	Secretary of Veterans Affairs



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Presidential Disability

- Sections 3 and 4 of the 25th Amendment provide procedures to follow when the President is disabled.
- The Vice President is to become acting President if
 - (1) the President informs Congress, in writing, “that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office,” or
 - (2) the Vice President and a majority of the members of the Cabinet inform Congress, in writing, that the President is thus incapacitated.



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The Vice Presidency

- The Constitution only gives the Vice President two duties besides becoming President if the President is removed from office:
 - 1) to preside over the Senate, and
 - 2) to help decide the question of presidential disability.
- If the office of Vice President becomes vacant, the President nominates a new Vice President subject to the approval of Congress.
- Today, the Vice President often performs diplomatic and political chores for the President.



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Into the Oval Office

Vice Presidents Who Succeeded to the Presidency

Successor	Reason for Succession
John Tyler	Death (pneumonia) of William Henry Harrison, April 4, 1841
Millard Fillmore	Death (gastroenteritis) of Zachary Taylor, July 9, 1850
Andrew Johnson	Death (assassination) of Abraham Lincoln, April 15, 1865
Chester A. Arthur	Death (assassination) of James A. Garfield, September 19, 1881
Theodore Roosevelt	Death (assassination) of William McKinley, September 14, 1901
Calvin Coolidge	Death (undisclosed illness) of Warren G. Harding, August 2, 1923
Harry S Truman	Death (cerebral hemorrhage) of Franklin D. Roosevelt, April 12, 1945
Lyndon B. Johnson	Death (assassination) of John F. Kennedy, November 22, 1963
Gerald R. Ford	Resignation of Richard M. Nixon, August 9, 1974

Section 2 Review

1. Who is in line for presidential succession following the Vice President?
 - (a) the First Lady
 - (b) the Speaker of the House
 - (c) the president of the Senate
 - (d) the Secretary of State

2. Which constitutional amendment provides for presidential succession?
 - (a) the 25th Amendment
 - (b) the 26th Amendment
 - (c) the 22nd Amendment
 - (d) the 21st Amendment

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Presidential Selection: The Framers' Plan

- What were the Framers' original provisions for choosing the President?
- How did the rise of political parties change the original provisions set out in the Constitution?



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Original Provisions

- According to the Constitution, the President and Vice President are chosen by a special body of **presidential electors**.
- Originally, these electors each cast two **electoral votes**, each for a different candidate. The candidate with the most votes would become President, and the candidate with the second highest total would become Vice President.

The Framers' Plan for the Electoral College

- 1 Each State would have as many presidential electors as it has senators and representatives in Congress.
- 2 These electors would be chosen in each State in a manner the State legislature directed.
- 3 The electors, meeting in their own States, would each cast two votes—each for a different person for President.
- 4 These electoral votes from the States would be opened and counted before a joint session of Congress.
- 5 The person receiving the largest number of electoral votes, provided that total was a majority of all the electors, would become President.
- 6 The person with the second highest number of electoral votes would become Vice President.
- 7 If a tie occurred, or if no one received the votes of a majority of the electors, the President would be chosen by the House of Representatives, voting by States.
- 8 If a tie occurred for the second spot, the Vice President would be chosen by the Senate.



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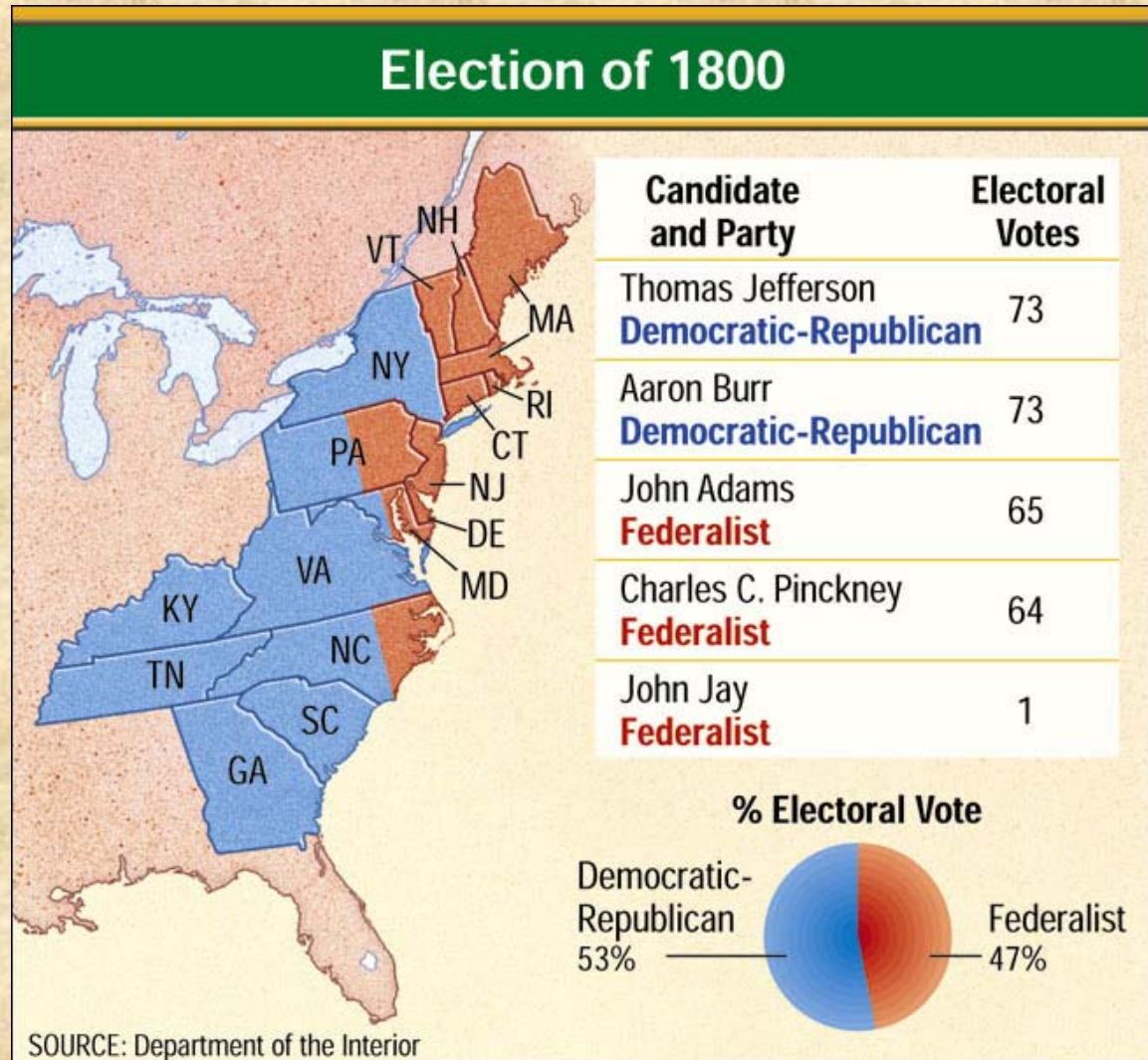
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The Rise of Parties

- The **electoral college** is the group of people (electors) chosen from each State and the District of Columbia that formally selects the President and Vice President. With the rise of political parties in 1796, flaws began to be seen in the system.



The 12th Amendment

- The 12th Amendment was added to the Constitution in 1804 following the election of 1800.
- The major change in the electoral college made by the amendment was that each elector would distinctly cast one electoral vote for President and one for Vice President.



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Section 3 Review

1. Which year's election paved the way for changes in the electoral college?
 - (a) 1800
 - (b) 1792
 - (c) 1804
 - (d) 1812

2. Which amendment to the Constitution modified the electoral college to avoid electoral ties for the office of President?
 - (a) the 11th Amendment
 - (b) the 5th Amendment
 - (c) the 9th Amendment
 - (d) the 12th Amendment

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Presidential Nominations

- What role do conventions play in the presidential nominating process?
- How important are presidential primaries?
- What differences exist between the caucus-convention process and the primary process?
- What events take place during a national convention?
- What characteristics determine who is nominated as a presidential candidate?

The Role of Conventions

Convention Arrangements

- The convention system has been mainly built by the two major parties in American politics.
- Party national committees arrange the time and place for their party's nominating convention.

The Apportionment and Selection of Delegates

- Parties apportion the number of delegates each State will receive based on electoral votes and other factors.
- Delegates are selected through both presidential primaries and the caucus-convention process.



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Presidential Primaries

- Depending on the State, a **presidential primary** is an election in which a party's voters
 - (1) choose some or all of a State's party organization's delegates to their party's national convention, and/or
 - (2) express a preference among various contenders for their party's presidential nomination.
- Many States use a **proportional representation** rule to select delegates. In this system, a proportion of a State's delegates are chosen to match voter preferences in the primary.
- More than half of the States hold preference primaries where voters choose their preference for a candidate. Delegates are selected later to match voter preferences.



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The Caucus-Convention Process

- In those States that do not hold presidential primaries, delegates to the national conventions are chosen in a system of caucuses and conventions.
- The party's voters meet in local caucuses where they choose delegates to a local or district convention, where delegates to the State convention are picked.
- At the State level, and sometimes in the district conventions, delegates to the national convention are chosen.



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The National Convention

A party's **national convention** is the meeting at which delegates vote to pick their presidential and vice-presidential candidates. Party conventions accomplish three main goals:

- (1) to officially name the party's presidential and vice-presidential candidates,
- (2) to bring the various factions and the leading personalities in the party together in one place for a common purpose, and
- (3) to adopt the party's **platform**—its formal statement of basic principles, stands on major policy matters, and objectives for the campaign and beyond.



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Who Is Nominated?

- If an incumbent President wants to seek reelection, his or her nomination is almost guaranteed.
- Political experience factors into the nomination process. State governors, the executive officers on the State level, have historically been favored for nomination. U.S. senators also have fared well.
- Many candidates come from key larger states. Candidates from larger states, such as California, New York, and Ohio, have usually been seen as more electable than candidates from smaller states.



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Section 4 Review

1. More than half of the presidential primary States hold only a
 - (a) caucus.
 - (b) winner-take-all primary.
 - (c) preference primary.
 - (d) nominating convention.

2. A party's formal statement of its basic principles and views is called the party's
 - (a) plank.
 - (b) primary.
 - (c) constitution.
 - (d) platform.

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The Election

- What is the function of the electoral college today?
- What are the flaws in the electoral college?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of proposed reforms in the electoral college?



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The Electoral College Today

Voters do not vote directly for the President. Instead, they vote for electors in the electoral college.

- All States, except two (Maine and Nebraska), select electors based on the winner of the popular vote in that State.
- Electors then meet in the State capitals on the Monday after the second Wednesday in December and cast their votes for President and Vice President.
- On January 6, the electoral votes cast are counted by the president of the Senate, and the President and Vice President are formally elected.
- If no candidate wins a majority of electoral votes (270), the election is thrown into the House of Representatives.



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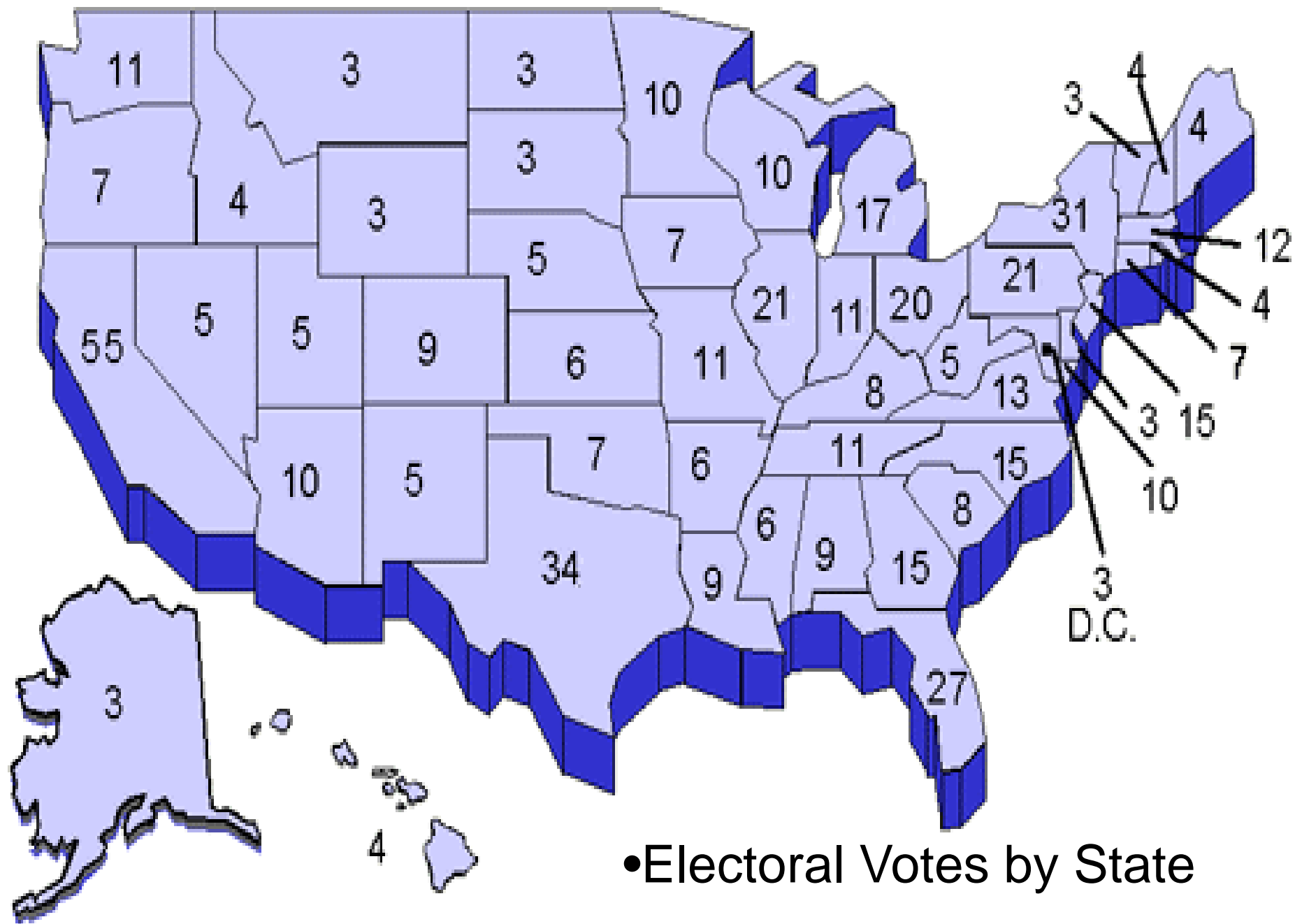
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•Electoral Votes by State

Flaws in the Electoral College

There are three major defects in the electoral college:

- (1) It is possible to win the popular vote in the presidential election, but lose the electoral college vote. This has happened four times in U.S. history (1824, 1876, 1888, and 2000).
- (2) Nothing in the Constitution, nor in any federal statute, requires the electors to vote for the candidate favored by the popular vote in their State.
- (3) If no candidate gains a majority in the electoral college, the election is thrown into the House, a situation that has happened twice (1800 and 1824). In this process, each State is given one vote, meaning that States with smaller populations wield the same power as those with larger populations.



Proposed Reforms

- In the **district plan**, electors would be chosen the same way members of Congress are selected: each congressional district would select one elector (just as they select representatives), and two electors would be selected based on the overall popular vote in a State (just as senators are selected).
- The **proportional plan** suggests that each candidate would receive the same share of a State's electoral vote as he or she received in the State's popular vote.
- A commonly heard reform suggests that the electoral college be done away with altogether in favor of **direct popular election**. At the polls, voters would vote directly for the President and Vice President instead of electors.
- The **national bonus plan** would automatically offer the winner of the popular vote 102 electoral votes in addition to the other electoral votes he or she might gain.



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Electoral College Supporters

There are two major strengths of the electoral college that its supporters espouse:

- It is a known process. Each of the proposed, but untried, reforms may very well have defects that could not be known until they appeared in practice.
- In most election years, the electoral college defines the winner of the presidential election quickly and certainly.



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Section 5 Review

1. Which of the following is a possible flaw of the electoral college system?
 - (a) Electors are not bound to cast their electoral vote for the party they represent.
 - (b) A candidate can fail to win a majority of electoral votes
 - (c) A candidate can win the popular vote but lose the electoral vote.
 - (d) All of the above.
2. The proportional plan for electoral college reform suggests that
 - (a) electors are chosen by State legislatures.
 - (b) candidates receive a share of a State's electoral votes correlating to his or her share of the State's popular vote.
 - (c) electors are chosen based on congressional districts.
 - (d) the candidate that wins the popular vote automatically receives 102 electoral votes.

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