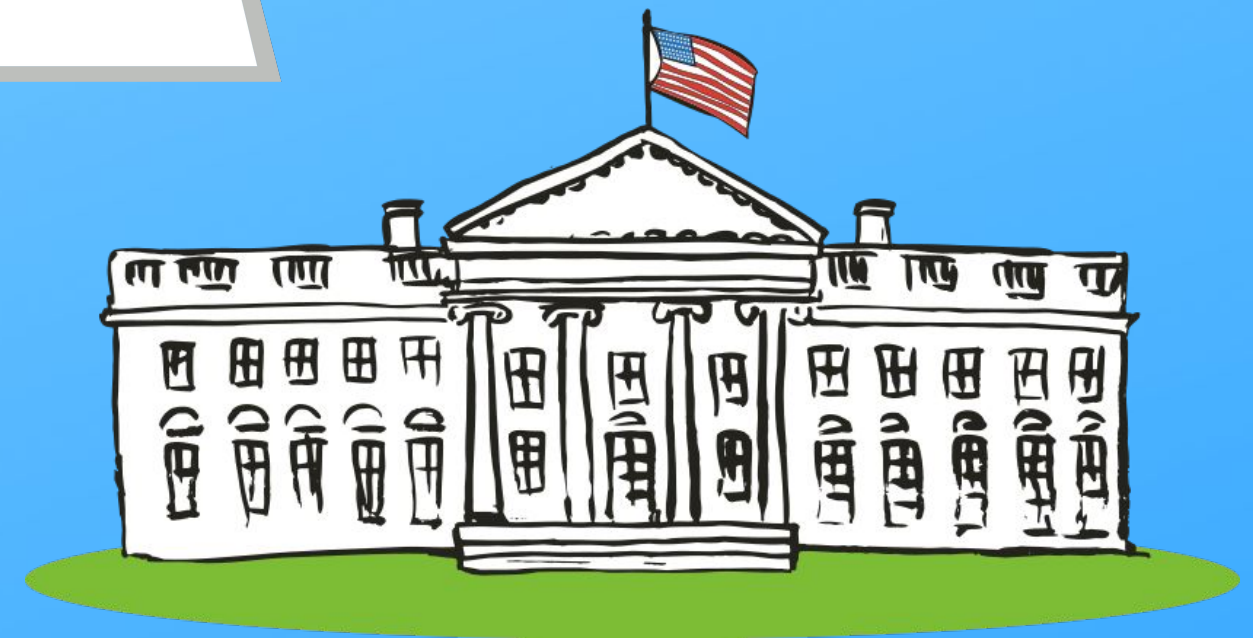
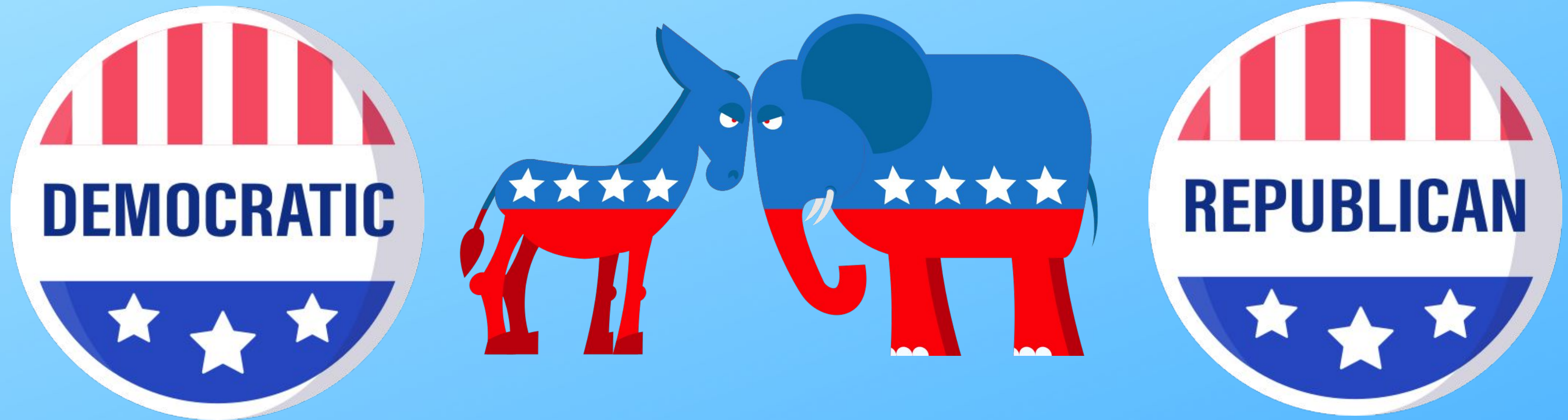


The Electoral College

The winner
takes all



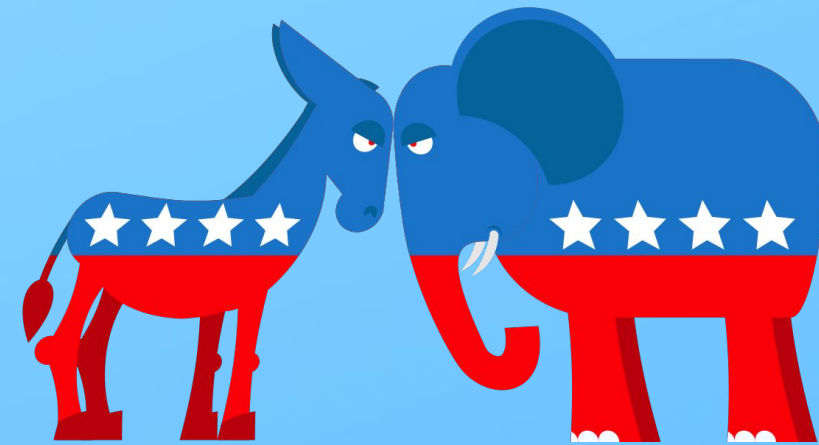
But First: A Note About Political Parties



Two major political parties compete to control the branches of the national government. Today we will talk about the contest to win the Executive Branch – more specifically, the **President of the United States**.

What are the two political parties?

Capital letters
make a
difference!

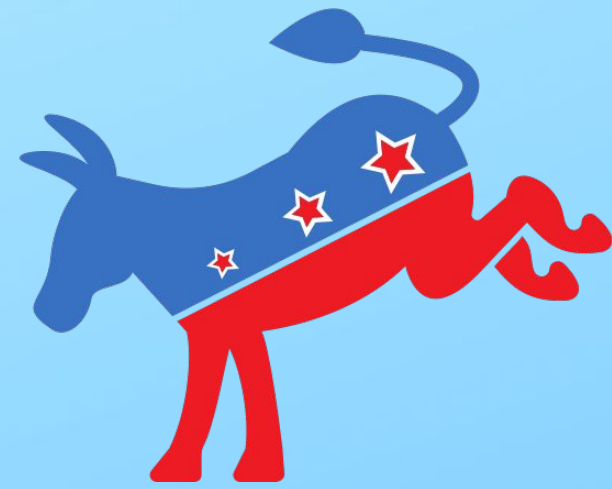


democracy = the people have the power

republic = the people elect representatives

Democrat = the political party

Republican = the political party



Why two parties?



People with similar ideas join together to promote them.

- That's why we have political parties.

There are two main ways of looking at government.

- That's why we have TWO major political parties.
- **VERY VERY SIMPLIFIED:**
 - Do you want more government services/involvement or less government services/involvement in people's lives?

How do we elect most government officials?

(Like those in Congress)

DIRECTLY

- U.S. citizens vote.
- The votes are counted.
- The person with the most votes wins the election.



How do we elect the President of the United States?

INDIRECTLY

It's a little confusing . . .



The Electoral College

NO, not this type
of college!



Also a definition of COLLEGE:

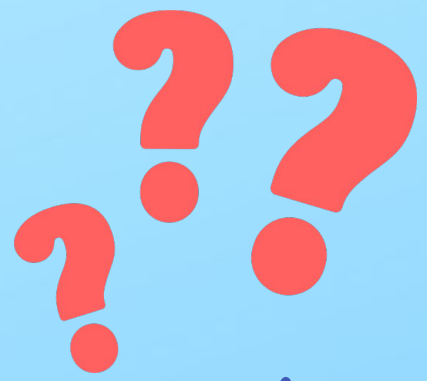
**An organized group of professional people with
particular aims, duties, and privileges**

The Electoral College

Electors:

Each state political party chooses party members to serve as electors. If their candidate wins the people's vote, they will go to Washington to cast their votes for President on January 6th.





Okay, But Why?



- When the Constitution was written, no other country in the world directly elected its leader by the people.
- Some felt the people were too uninformed to make a good choice (remember, no TV or online news back then!)
- But some leaders in Congress felt they should not have the power to elect the President. (Some people might not be fair)
- So they compromised and had the states appoint electors to make the final choice.

STEP 01

Americans vote in November. This is called the 'popular vote.'

The popular vote is counted separately in each state.

STEP 02

STEP 03

The person with the highest number of popular votes in each state gets ALL the electoral votes in that state. *

*ME and NE

split the votes

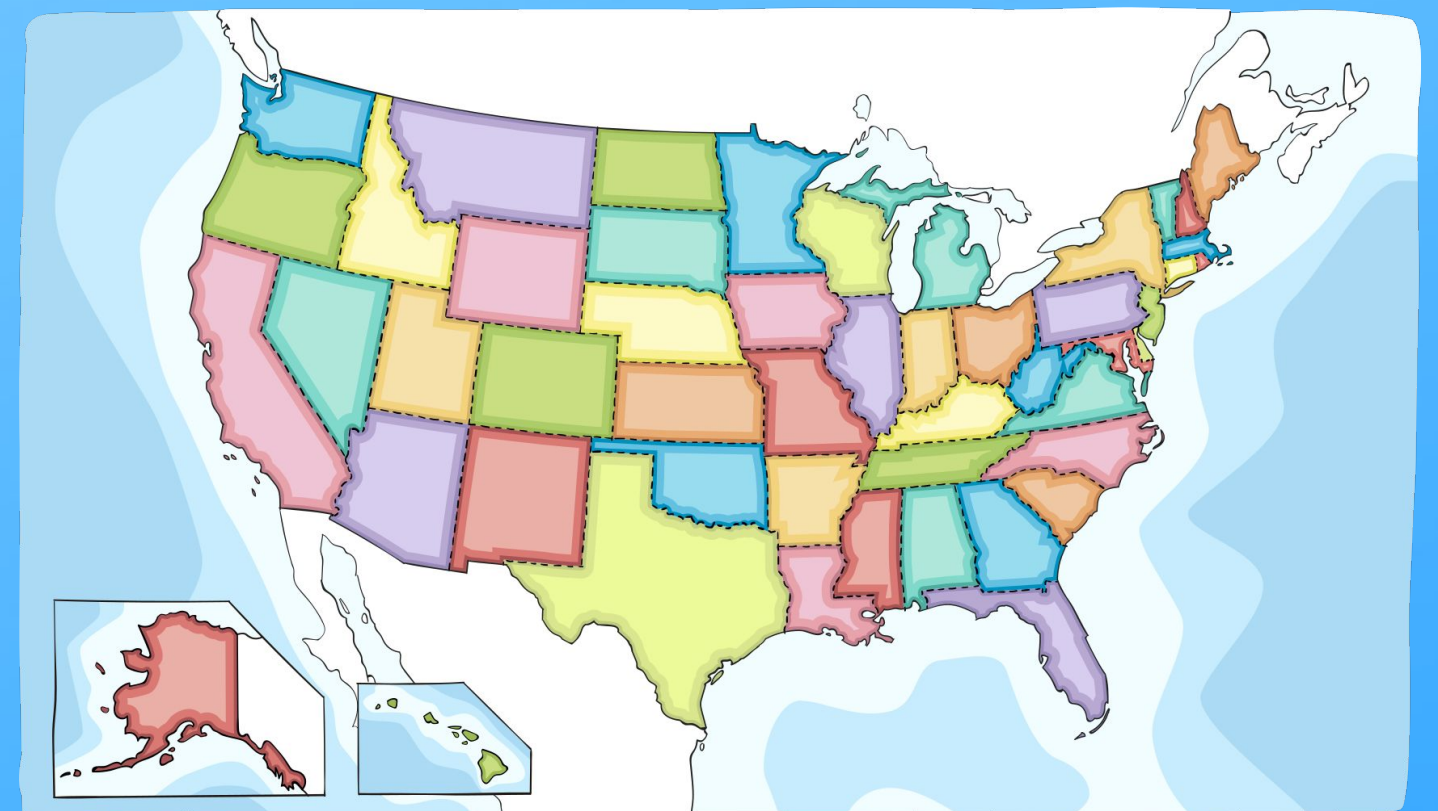
The electoral votes for each state are added together

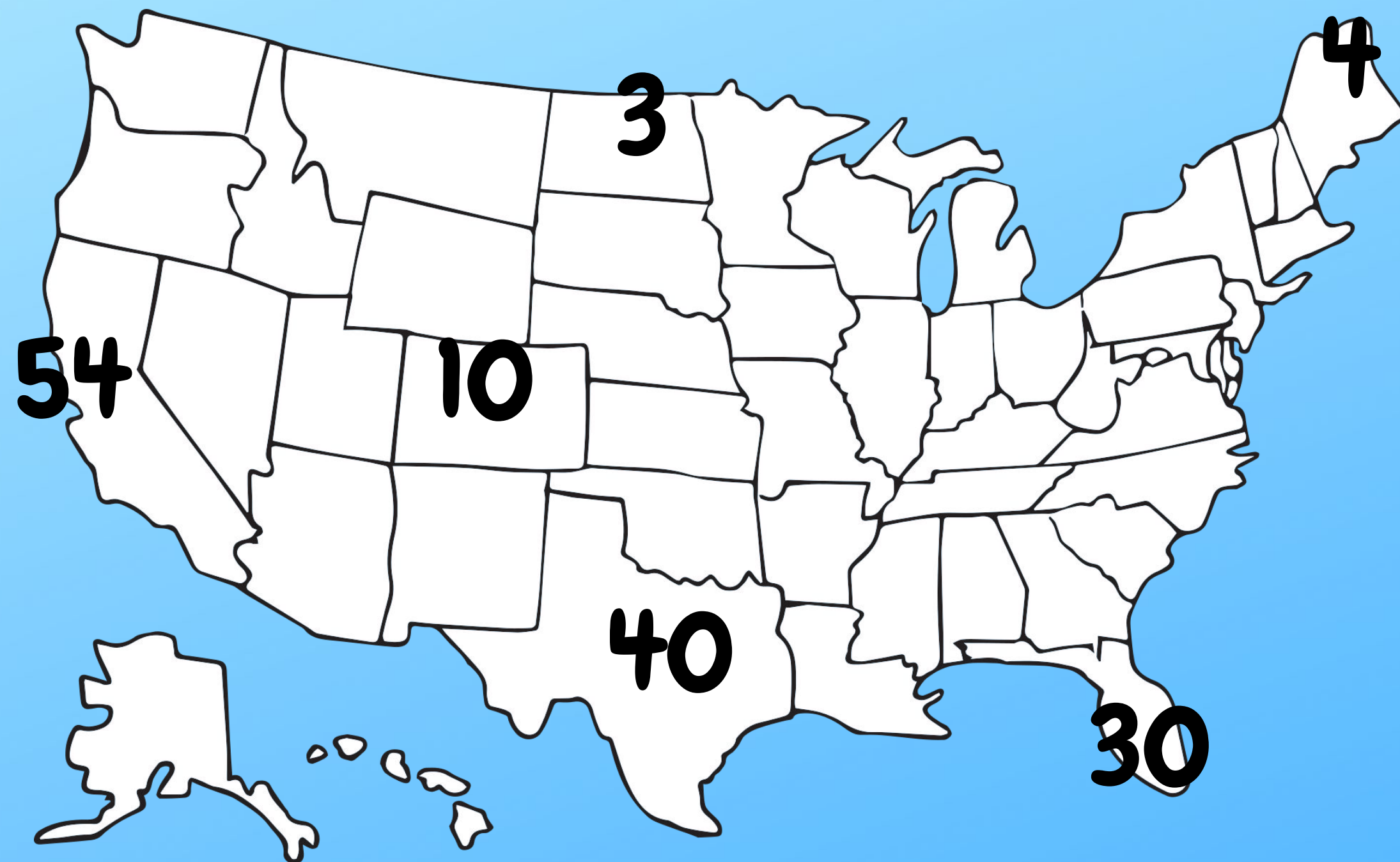
STEP 04

STEP 05

Whoever has 270 or more electoral votes wins the election

How It Works





States with more people have more Representatives in Congress, which means more Electoral Votes!

Electoral Votes

Number of Electoral Votes in Each State

= Number of Senators +

Let's
Practice!

VOTE
VOTE
VOTE



Let's see how this works! For each round:

- Each group will choose a state at random.
- I will put on the screen an issue with two competing viewpoints.
- Discuss the issue in your group, with ALL voicing their opinions.
- When I call time, cast your ballot for the candidate whose views you support with your Candidate A and Candidate B cards.
- Count the votes in your group.
- Record the results on your tally sheet.
- Choose a group member to report your results to the class.
- When each group reports, record their results on your tally sheet.

- # School Taxes

NOTE: Public schools get their money from taxing families who own homes in the school district.



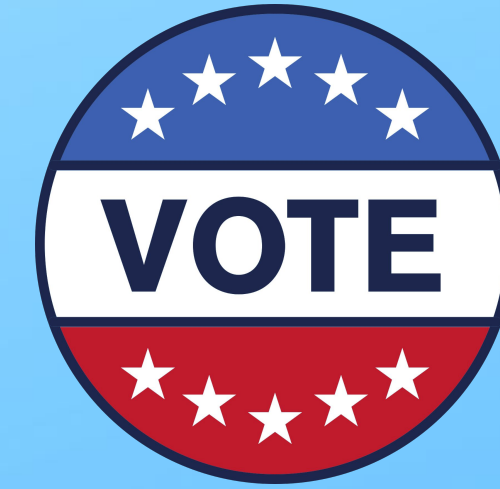
CANDIDATE A:

Taxes on families in the district should stay as low as possible, even if it means cutting services to students or paying teachers less than they could earn in other districts.

CANDIDATE B:

Schools should provide extra courses and services for their students, and pay their teachers a salary that is comparable to other districts. This will be paid for by a tax increase on families

2. Student Services



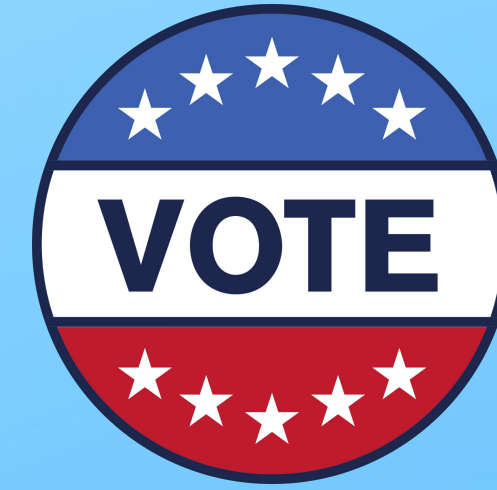
CANDIDATE A:

The school district should limit the courses and services it provides students to those that are needed to meet state requirements. If students need or want other courses or services, they can get them outside of school.

CANDIDATE B:

The school district should provide a wide variety of courses and services to students, even if they are not required by the state. Students need after school programs, choices of classes, courses for 'gifted students,' and more help for students who are not doing well in class.

3. Student Behavior



CANDIDATE A:

Misbehaving or disrespectful student should be given after school detention, Saturday detention, or suspension, depending on the severity of the behavior.

CANDIDATE B:

Misbehaving or disrespectful students should first see the school counselor to find out what is bothering them. Students should be given second chances. Only after this should consequences be discussed.

4. School Cafeteria



CANDIDATE A:

Students should only be offered healthy meals or snacks in school.

CANDIDATE B:

Students should be allowed to buy junk food in school, such as ice cream and chips, in place of a meal if they want to.

5. Group Work in Class



CANDIDATE A:

If a student does not want to work in a group, the teacher must create an alternative activity the student can complete alone in the classroom.

CANDIDATE B:

All students must participate in a group activity. Those students who do not like groups or are shy will be carefully monitored by the teacher, who will intervene if necessary. The teacher will also carefully monitor so no one 'takes over' a group or intimidates other students.

Add Up Your Numbers!

- Who won the Popular Vote?
- Who won the Electoral Vote?
- Who won the election?



So What Do You Think?



- How did you feel about your vote on an issue if your candidate lost at the end of the round? Why?
- Which states have the advantage in the Electoral College? Why?
- If you were campaigning for President, where might you spend most of your time? Explain.
- Based on this activity, what is your opinion of the Electoral College system? Explain.