

UNDERSTANDING THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Electoral equation: population is power

Each state is allocated a number of electors equal to the number of senators (always two) plus the number of its representatives. However, the congressional leaders are not electors. The presidential candidate that gains the majority of electoral votes (270) wins the election.

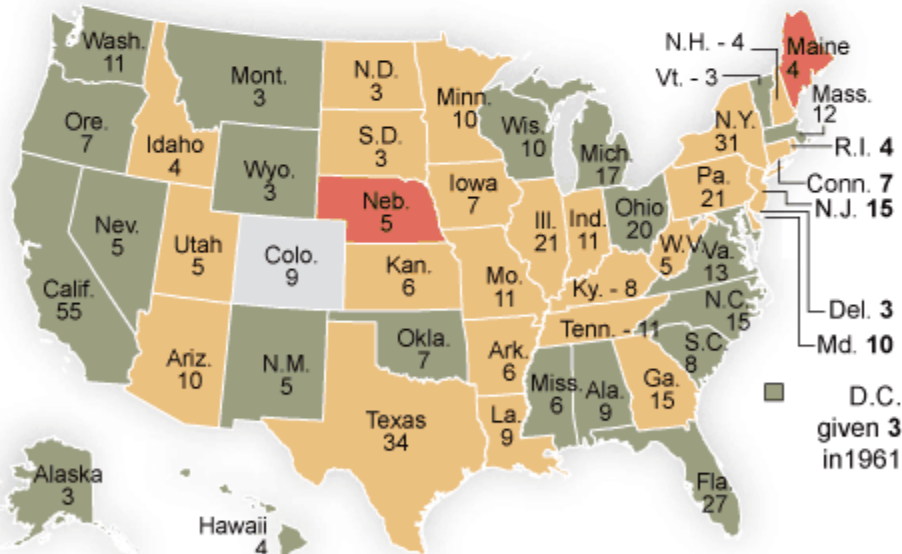
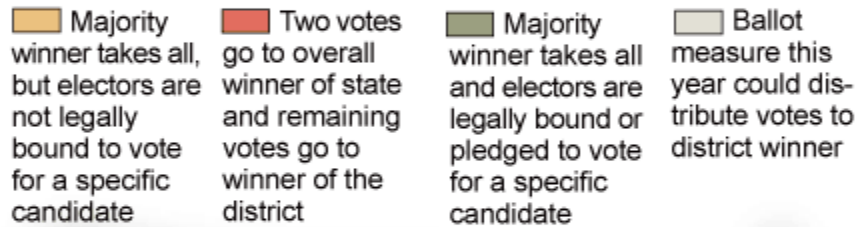
Population, not land determines number of electoral votes

A state's representatives are determined by its general population. States with higher population rates have more representatives.



State-by-state number of electors and vote requirements

In 48 states, the winning ticket's nominated electors are also elected. In effect, whichever presidential ticket gets the most popular votes wins all the state's electors.



Founders started electoral

The Electoral College was established by the founders as a compromise between election for the president by Congress and election by popular vote. Alexander Hamilton was among the first to write about the concept of electors in the Federalist Papers in 1788.

