

Team Electoral College: Reforming the Electoral College

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Abstract

- ❖ Our team's goal is to reform the Electoral College to better represent the American people
- ❖ The current Electoral College system discourages citizens to vote and does not accurately represent citizens' wants
- ❖ Our Work To-Date
 - Researched various voting system
 - Decided on using Congressional District Method
 - Researched voter turnout rates historically
 - Created a survey to ask adults election-related questions
 - Created Data Visualizations to for our research and to visualize Congressional District Method

Introduction

Why Reform The Electoral College?

- ❖ America has used the same voting system since it was founded
- ❖ Voter turnout rates have continued to fall over time
- ❖ Each vote does not have the same impact or weightage on the election

Plan of Action:

- ❖ Research voter turnout rate and historic voter turnout rate
- ❖ Create a survey to learn on a small-scale how many adults and why they do not vote
- ❖ Check the result of previous Presidential elections using Congressional District Method
- ❖ Create data visualizations to represent our research/analysis

Citations

- ❖ Bureau, U. (2019, June 20). Voting and Registration Tables. Retrieved December 9, 2020, from <https://www.census.gov/topics/public-sector/voting/data/tables.2020.html>
- ❖ McDonald, M. P. (2017). National-1789-present. Retrieved December 9, 2020, from <http://www.electproject.org/national-1789-present>
- ❖ Large Shares of Voters Plan To Vote a Straight Party Ticket for President, Senate and House. (2020). Pew Research Center. Retrieved October 21, 2020, from <https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2020/10/21/large-shares-of-voters-plan-to-vote-a-straight-party-ticket-for-president-senate-and-house/>.
- ❖ 2012 United States elections. (2020, December 06). Retrieved December 8, 2020, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012_United_States_elections
- ❖ 2016 Presidential Election Results. (2017, August 9). Retrieved December 9, 2020, from <https://www.nytimes.com/elections/2016/results/president>

Results

[Voter Data in United States]

This graph represents the number of eligible voters, registered voters, and the number of people who voted. There is also a goal for the number of votes the U.S. needs for 75% voter turnout.

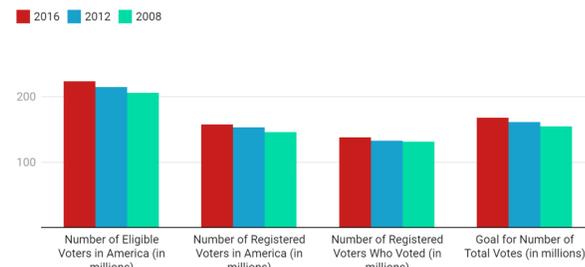


Figure 1: Voter Data in United States

[2016 Presidential Election Electoral College]

This map is a representation of the 2016 Presidential Election results along with the number of electoral votes in each state. Election Result: Trump 306 Clinton 232

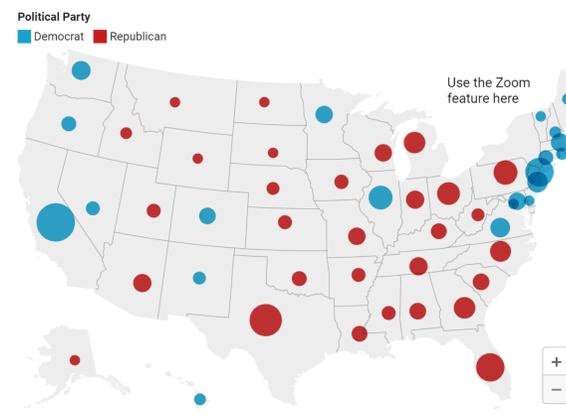


Figure 4: 2016 Presidential Election Electoral College

[U.S. Voter Turnout Percentage 1789-Present]

The United States voter turnout percentages from all eligible voters for Presidential and Mid-term elections.

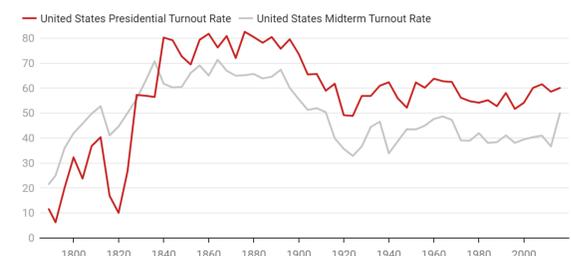


Figure 2: U.S. Voter Turnout Percentage 1789-Present

[2016 Presidential Election Congressional District Method]

This map provides a breakdown of how electoral votes would be split in each state using the Congressional District Method. Each circle size is based on the number of electoral votes. Election Result: Trump 290 Clinton 248

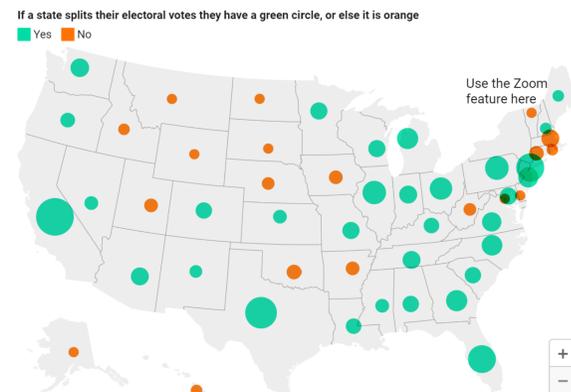


Figure 5: 2016 Presidential Election Congressional District Method

Methods

- ❖ We used U.S. Census data to examine the number of registered voters in 2008, 2012, 2016 Presidential Elections
- ❖ Using U.S. Census data, we examined voter turnout rate from 1789 to Today
- ❖ Created a survey and asked 54 adults whether they voted In the last election. If they did not vote "why not", and what would make them want to vote
- ❖ Researched various voting system before deciding on Congressional District Method
- ❖ Created data visualizations to represent our research
- ❖ Created map visualizations of the current Electoral College method compared to Congressional District Method for the 2012 and 2016 elections

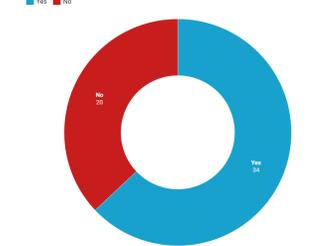
Acknowledgments

We would like to thank Dr. Quides, Dr. Welles, and Dr. Zhang for mentoring us throughout the GCI program. Special thanks to Dr. Z for introducing us to the GCI program.

Link to our article: <https://hkumar-47056.medium.com/electoral-college-reform-plan-415eb28f856f>

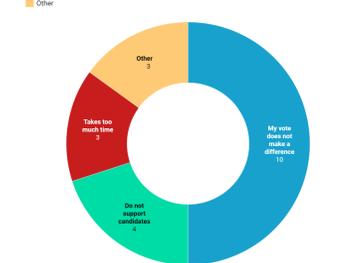
[Did you vote this year?]

In a small study of 54 local students and adults, we asked them if they voted this year.



[Reason Not to Vote]

In a small study of 54 local students and adults, we asked them if they did not vote then what their reason was to not vote.



[What Would Make You Vote]

In a small study of 54 local students and adults, we asked them if they did not vote then what would make them want to vote.

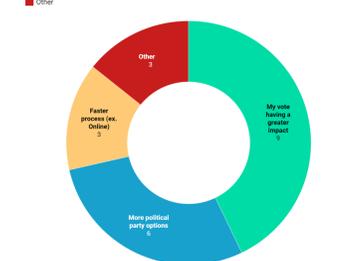


Figure 3: Survey Data Results

Conclusion

- ❖ Implementing the Congressional District Method will make Presidential elections more competitive as seen in the 2016 election map above
- ❖ Distributing electoral votes based on the candidate who wins a district will allow for multiple political parties to receive electoral votes
- ❖ Citizens will have more incentive to vote because their vote has more weight in Congressional District Method
- ❖ The survey data shows that adults want their vote to have a stronger say in an election and implementing Congressional District Method will give citizens more say