

---

Date

**BECOME PART OF THE LWVUS CAMPAIGN TO**

# Abolish the Electoral College

*Elect the President by Direct Popular Vote*



Name

League

# Agenda

- **What is the Electoral College?**
- **League of Women Voters' position**
- **What's wrong with the Electoral College?**
- **Challenging arguments in favor of the Electoral College**
- **What needs to be done?**
  - How to amend the US Constitution
  - What you can do NOW!
- **Q&A**

# What is the Electoral College?

A group of **538 people** (electors) who elect the President and Vice President of the US

State legislatures decide how their state will choose electors

All currently use a popular vote **within their state**

Each state has a number of electors **equal to their number of seats** in the US House and Senate

**A majority** (270 electoral votes) is needed to win

“

“The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished.”

**Position on Selection of the President, announced by National Board, January 1970**



“

“We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished.”

**Added to Position on Selection of the President, LWV Convention, June 2010**



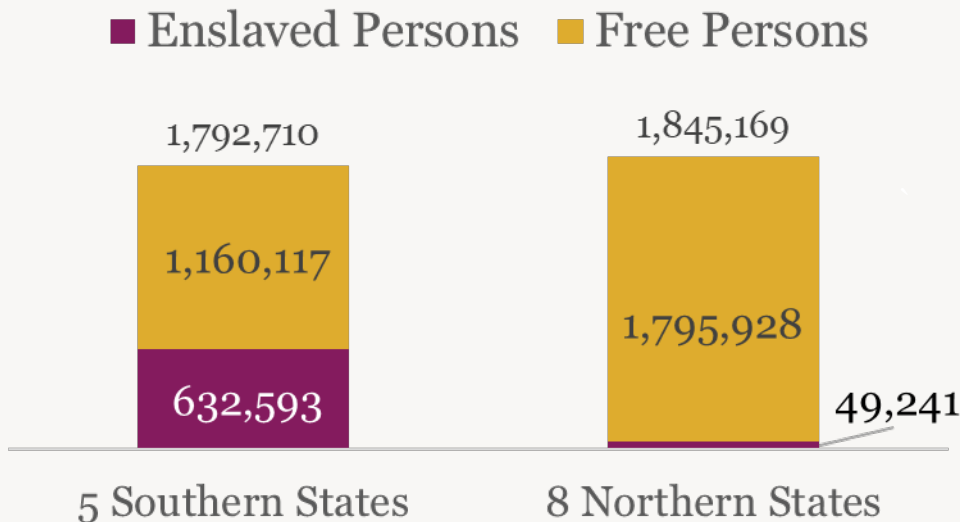
# What's Wrong with the Electoral College?

---

*And How a Direct Popular Vote for President Solves These Problems*

# The Electoral College was created in 1787 for slaveholders in the south

A compromise to give Southern states more power in Presidential elections based on counting enslaved people as “3/5” of a free person.



“

*"It seems now to be pretty well understood that the real difference of interests lies not between the large and small but between the northern and southern states. The institution of slavery and its consequences form the line of discrimination."*

**James Madison, July 14, 1787**  
**(source: National Archives)**

# The Electoral College Ushered in the Jim Crow Era (1877 – 1964)

After slavery was abolished, the 1876 election traded the civil rights of Black Americans to allow Rutherford B. Hayes (who lost the popular vote) to become President.



---

# The Electoral College continues to suppress the voices of Black Americans

## **PROBLEM: ELECTORAL COLLEGE**

- States with higher Black populations tend to have less power in the Electoral College, while states with higher white populations tend to have more.

## **SOLUTION: DIRECT POPULAR VOTE**

- Every voter counts as one vote, regardless of race or any other demographic identity.

<b>Population Per Electoral Vote</b>	
States more than 85% White	398,887
States more than 15% Black	644,656

*\*DC not included*

“

*“[An] analysis of every election from 2000 on indicates the Electoral College has consistently awarded more votes per capita to states with Whiter populations...”*

**William Blake, “The Overlooked Racial Dynamics of the Electoral College”**

# Electoral College Turns Losers into Winners

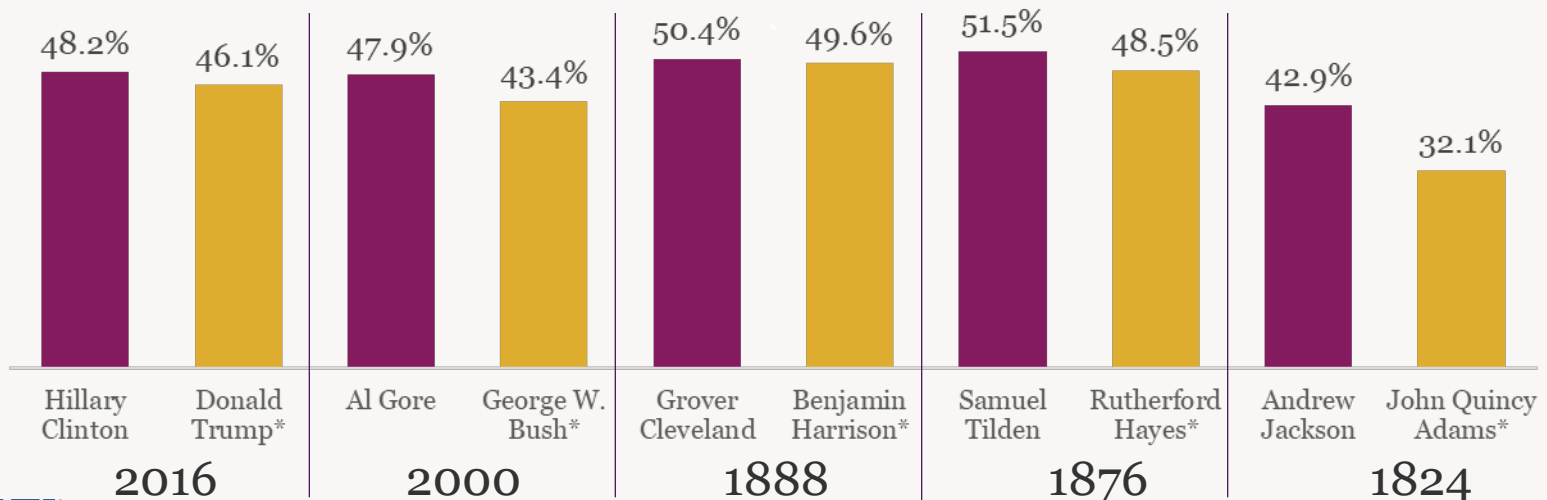
## PROBLEM: ELECTORAL COLLEGE

- Allows a candidate with fewer votes from the people to win the Presidency.

## SOLUTION: DIRECT POPULAR VOTE

- Ensures that the candidate with the most votes from the people becomes the President.

### Popular Vote %



\* Elected via Electoral College

Data Source: Federal Elections Commission

# Electoral College Makes Some Votes Count More Than Others

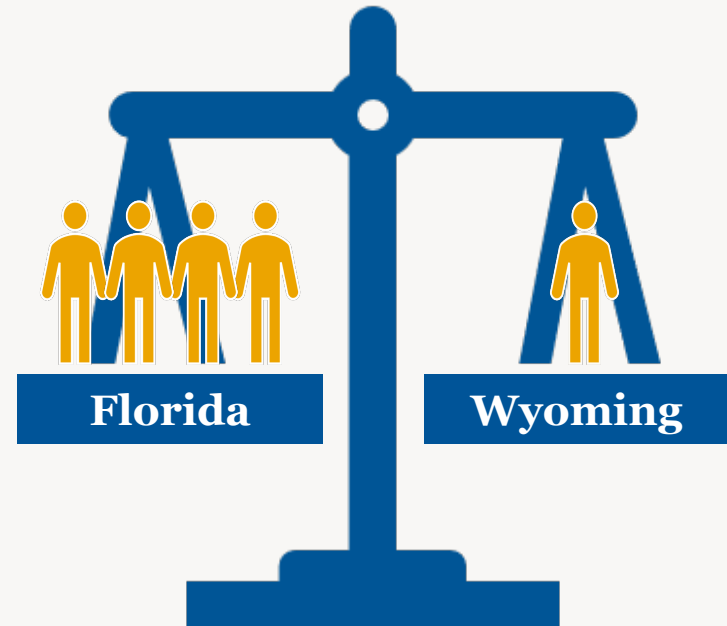
## PROBLEM: ELECTORAL COLLEGE

- One person's vote carries more or less weight depending where they live.

## SOLUTION: DIRECT POPULAR VOTE

- One person = one vote, no matter where you live.

	Wyoming	Florida
Population	576,000	21,538,000
Electoral Votes	3	29
Population per Electoral Vote	192,000	743,000



# Electoral College Means Only a Few Swing States Matter

## PROBLEM: ELECTORAL COLLEGE

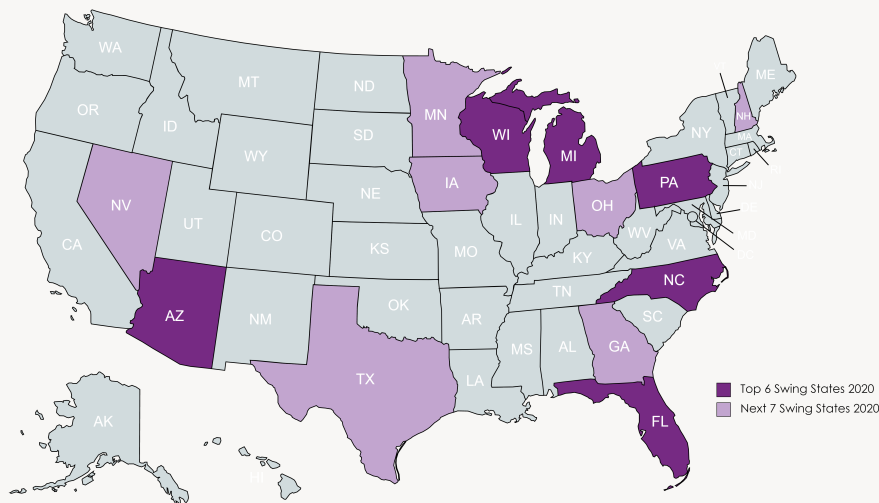
- Focuses candidates' time, money, and policy on a handful of "swing" states. Most states are completely ignored.

## SOLUTION: DIRECT POPULAR VOTE

- Increase our access to candidates and widen the geographic scope of their campaigns.

## Swing States 2020

	<b>13 Swing States</b>
% of all US states	<b>25%</b>
% of US population	<b>40%</b>
% of Presidential Campaign Events	<b>98%</b>
% of Presidential TV ad spending	<b>100%</b>



# Electoral College Discourages Voter Participation

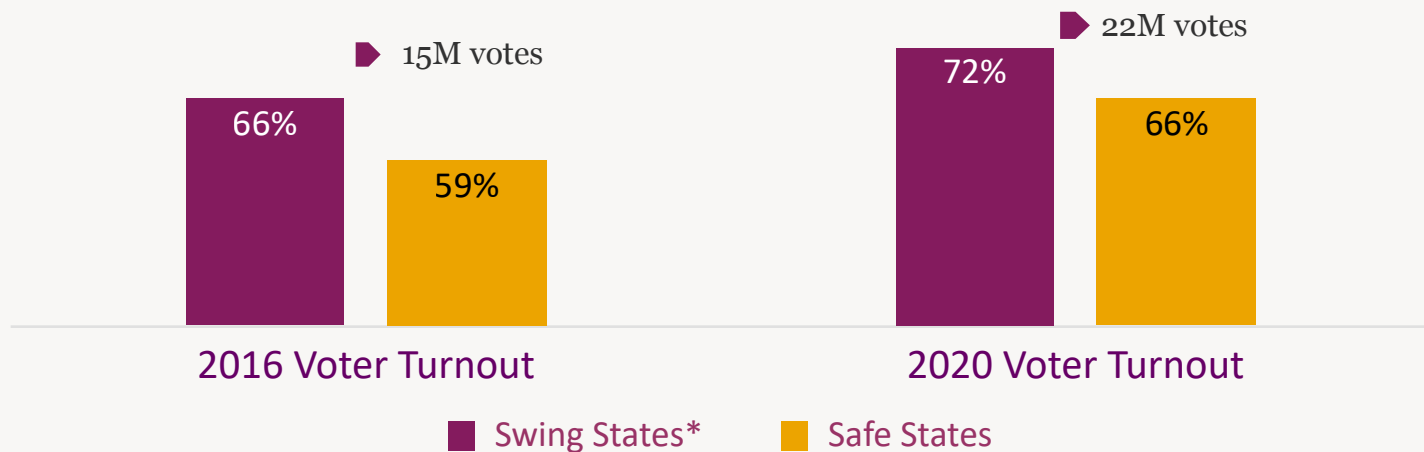
## PROBLEM: ELECTORAL COLLEGE

- The Electoral College decreases voter turnout in so-called “safe” states.

## SOLUTION: DIRECT POPULAR VOTE

- Increase voter turnout and participation by making every vote count – and count equally.

% of Eligible Voters Who Voted  
(M = millions of votes)



\*Swing states based on Politico reporting

Data Source: The United States Election Project, Michael P. McDonald, Phd, University of Florida Department of Political Science

# Electoral College Makes It Easy to Cheat

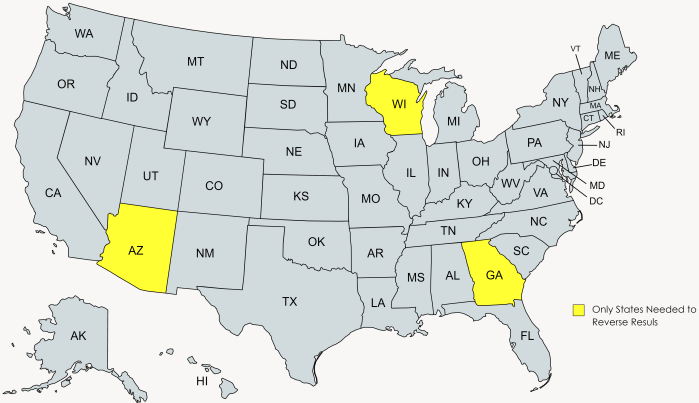
**PROBLEM: ELECTORAL COLLEGE**

- The Electoral College makes our Presidential elections more vulnerable to manipulation and even outright fraud.

**SOLUTION: DIRECT POPULAR VOTE**

- Increases election security by making it harder to influence the outcome.

	# Votes To Overturn			
	Biden	Trump	Popular Election	Electoral Election
Electoral Votes	306	232	-	38
Popular Votes	81,268,924	74,216,154	3,526,386	42,918



# Myth Busters!

---

*Common Arguments for the Electoral College  
Fail the Fact Test*

# Electoral College Myth #1

## MYTH

- Without the Electoral College, our Presidents would be chosen by a few big states, like California and New York

## FACT

- In 2020, Biden needed votes from the 31 biggest states to beat Trump's 74,223,975.

State (by Population)	Biden Votes	Cumulative
1. California	11,110,639	11,110,639
2. Texas	5,259,126	16,369,765
3. Florida	5,297,045	21,666,810
4. New York	5,244,886	26,911,696
5. Pennsylvania	3,458,229	30,369,925
6. Illinois	3,471,915	33,841,840
7. Ohio	2,679,165	36,521,005
8. Georgia	2,473,633	38,994,638
9. North Carolina	2,684,292	41,678,930
10. Michigan	2,804,040	44,482,970
11. New Jersey	2,608,400	47,091,370
12. Virginia	2,413,568	49,504,938
13. Washington	2,369,612	51,874,550
14. Arizona	1,672,143	53,546,693
15. Massachusetts	2,382,202	55,928,895

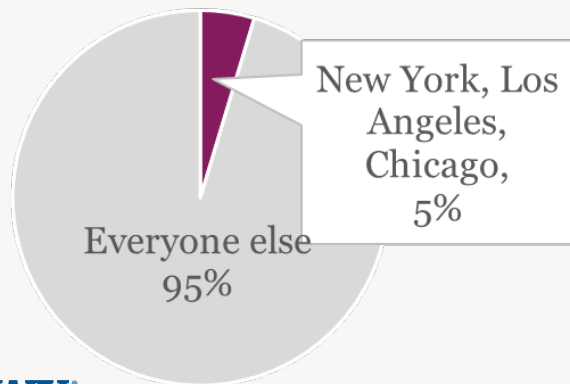
State (by Population)	Biden Votes	Cumulative
16. Tennessee	1,143,711	57,072,606
17. Indiana	1,242,498	58,315,104
18. Maryland	1,985,023	60,300,127
19. Missouri	1,253,014	61,553,141
20. Wisconsin	1,630,866	63,184,007
21. Colorado	1,804,352	64,988,359
22. Minnesota	1,717,077	66,705,436
23. South Carolina	1,091,541	67,796,977
24. Alabama	849,624	68,646,601
25. Louisiana	856,034	69,502,635
26. Kentucky	772,474	70,275,109
27. Oregon	1,340,383	71,615,492
28. Oklahoma	503,890	72,119,382
29. Connecticut	1,080,831	73,200,213
30. Utah	560,282	73,760,495
31. Iowa	759,061	74,519,556



# Electoral College Myth #2

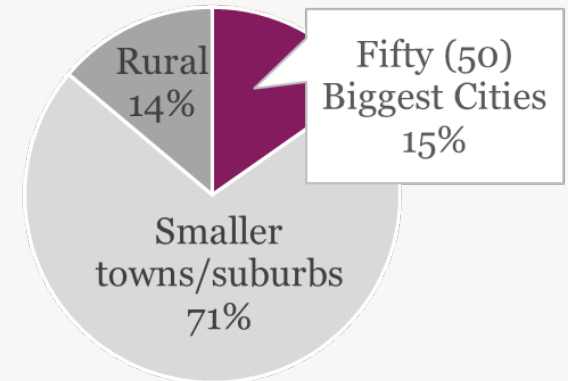
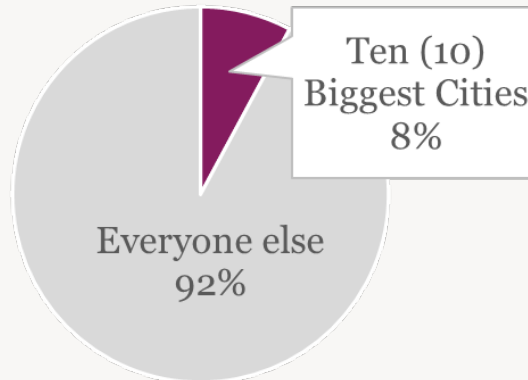
## MYTH

- Without the Electoral College, our Presidents would be chosen by a few big cities, like New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago.



## FACT

- There aren't enough people living in New York City, Los Angeles and Chicago — or even in the 50 biggest cities — to choose the President on their own.



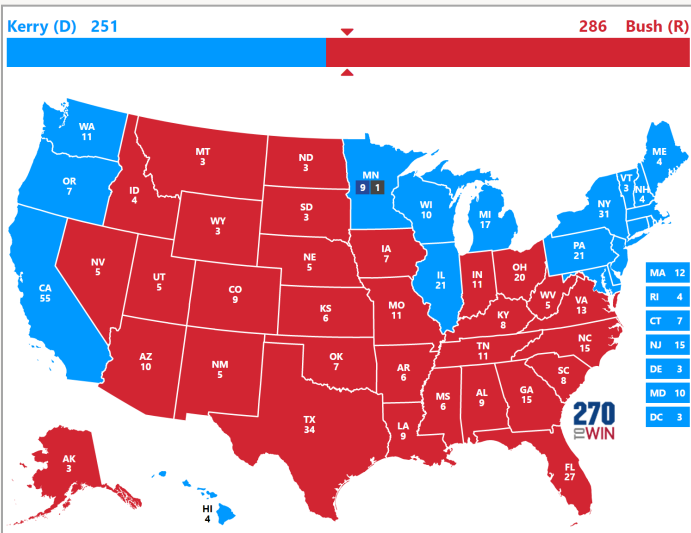
# Electoral College Myth #3

## MYTH

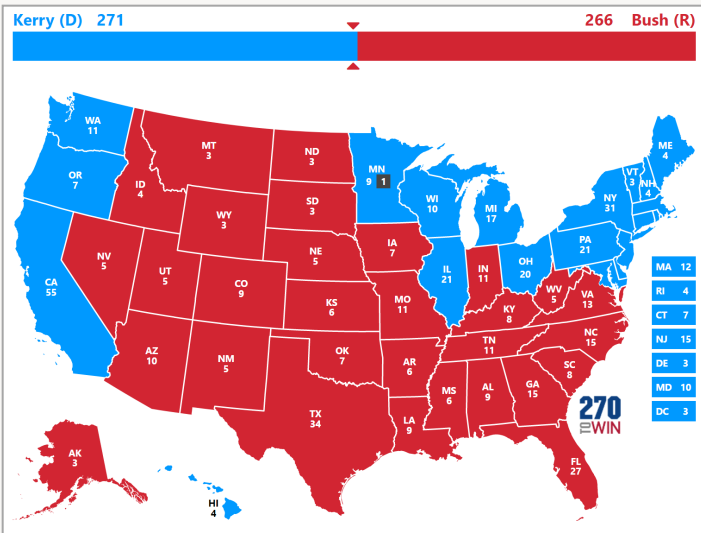
- Abolishing the Electoral College will only benefit candidates from the Democratic Party

## FACT

- The Electoral College can hurt both Democratic and Republican candidates. This is a non-partisan issue.



2004 Actual



2004 Altered



Map source: [www.270towin.com](http://www.270towin.com), used with permission

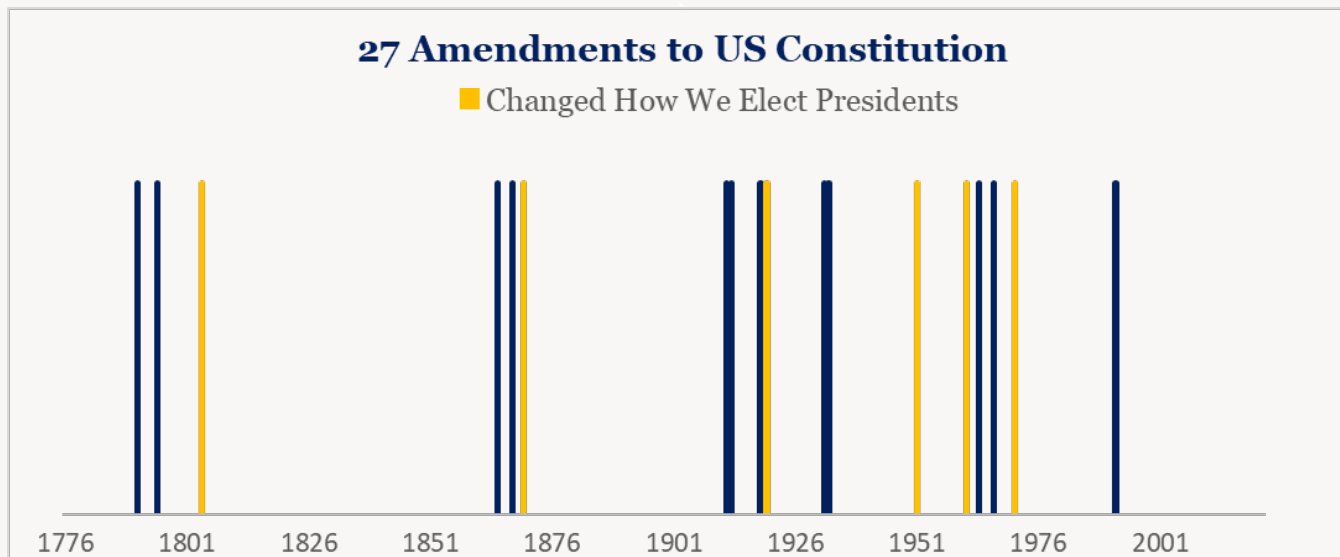
# Electoral College Myth #4

## MYTH

- The Electoral College will never be abolished because it requires an amendment to the US Constitution.

## FACT

- US Constitution has been amended 27 times, often during times of crisis and conflict. Six amendments changed how we elect our President



# What Needs to Be Done?

---

*Our Goal and How to Get There*

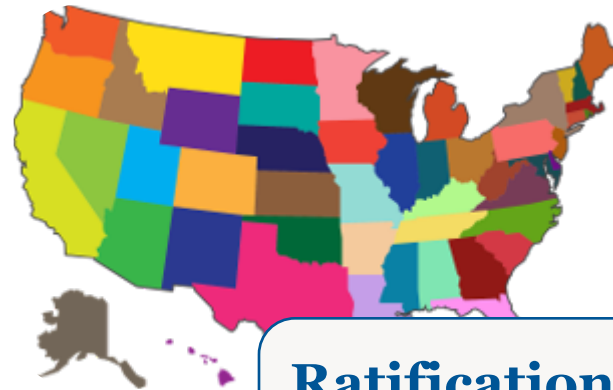
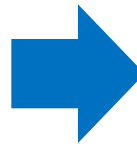
# Goal: A Constitutional Amendment

Abolishing the Electoral College requires an amendment to the US Constitution.



## Proposal

- 2/3 vote US Senate
- 2/3 vote US House



## Ratification

- By  $\frac{3}{4}$  of state legislatures (38 states)

**Note: A Constitutional Convention is not required and is not supported by the League of Women Voters.**



# Actions in US House and Senate

## **1968 – 1970**

- 81% of Americans supported abolishing Electoral College (source: Gallup poll)
- US House of Representatives voted 338 to 70 to abolish the Electoral College in favor of a direct popular vote
- Bill died in Senate when filibustered by Southern Democrats

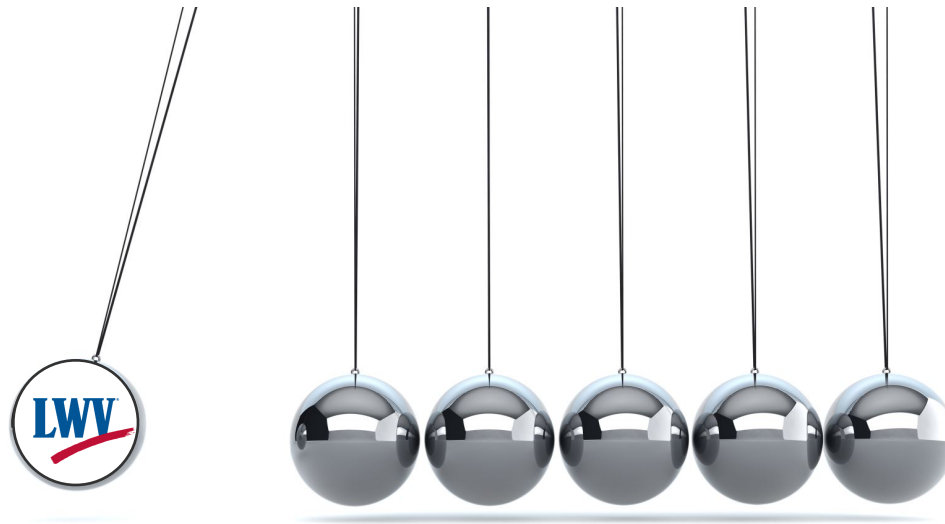
## **2019 – present**

- Bills introduced in both House & Senate
- No vote as yet

# What do we need? Momentum!

**The League of Women Voters** is uniquely positioned to empower voters through education and advocacy at the local, state, and national levels

- Once empowered, voters can then be activated when the time is right to bring this momentum to Congress.



# What I Do Now?

<i>Easiest</i>	<b>Tell 3+ people</b>	Use your own words Or our crib sheet!
<i>Easy</i>	<b>Post on Social Media</b>	Create your own Or download ours: <a href="http://lww.org/opov">lww.org/opov</a>
<i>Still Easy</i>	<b>Give the Presentation</b>	We'll make it easy! <a href="mailto:abolishelectoral@gmail.com">abolishelectoral@gmail.com</a>

**BECOME PART OF THE LWVUS CAMPAIGN**

**ONE PERSON  
ONE VOTE**



**Elect the President by Direct Popular Vote**