Electoral College

• Each state has votes for president equal to its number of Senators and its number of Representatives in the House.

• Example: California
  • 2 Senators
  • 53 Representatives
  • 55 Electoral Votes for president

Why does California have 55 Electoral votes for president?
Electoral Vote

- The **Electoral College** (vote) has **538 total electoral votes** spread across the 50 states and Washington D.C.
- To win the presidency, a candidate needs to **win at least 270 electoral votes**.

- Why are there 538 total electoral votes for the presidency?
Electoral Vote 2016
2016 Election

- Clinton received 65,844,610 votes, or 48.2% of the total vote.
- Trump received 62,979,636 votes, or 46.1% of the total vote. (That's a difference of 2.86 million votes.)
- Clinton won the popular vote
2012 Election

- Obama:
  - 332 Votes
  - 62,049,770
- Romney:
  - 206
  - 58,757,388
2000 Presidential Election

- Bush/Cheney
  - 50,456,002
  - 271 Electoral Votes
  - 48.0%

- Gore/Lieberman
  - 50,999,897
  - 267 Electoral Votes
  - 48.7%

“Swing State”: Florida

Why did Bush win the presidency, but lose the election?
The Big State Rip Off

- California
  - Population: 37 million
  - Electoral votes: 55
  - Divide 37,000,000 by 55
  - Answer: 627,000
- Wyoming
  - Population: 545,000
  - Electoral votes: 3
  - Divide 545,000 by 3
  - Answer: 181,000

Why are “big” states (high population) states ripped off in presidential elections?

If CA had 204 electoral votes = 1 vote for 181,373