

6. Electoral college: The electoral college approach to electing the president is an anomaly, originally developed because it was felt that the president should be chosen not by popular vote, but by knowledgeable electors who themselves would determine who is most qualified to hold the presidency of the United States. The numbers of electors for each state is the sum of representatives in congress plus two additional electors.

The electoral college quickly became an institution whereby all electors voted for the candidate who received the most votes in the state, although there are a few states (Maine and Nebraska) where each elector votes for the candidate with the most votes in their congressional district. Two electors from those two States vote for the candidate with the most votes in the state.

This creates a major issue in that it causes the presidential votes of citizens of different states to have different weights violating the principle that each vote should have equal influence. This is easily seen by noting that the number of members of congress allocated to each state is based on the population of that state but adding two additional electors creates the disparity in the influence of each voter. The per person influence of two additional electors has a much smaller effect in a large state than a small one.

In turn, this creates an even larger issue in that it enables the election of the president by the electoral college of a candidate that loses the popular vote, an event that has happened four times in U.S. history. This can happen when the majority of small states vote for the candidate who loses the popular vote as happened in 2016 when the losing candidate won the popular vote by three million votes.

Possible Solutions: There are several possible solutions (assuming one believes that each U.S citizen's vote should carry equal weight).

- Simply elect the president by popular vote (as is done in most democratic nations) and eliminate the electoral college altogether.
- Eliminate the two additional electors in each State so that the number of electors is proportional to population in that state, and require each elector to cast their vote for the presidential candidate that receives the most votes.
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Only electing the president by popular vote would completely eliminate the unsettling possibility that a candidate can lose the popular vote, but still be elected president by the electoral college. However, the other two alternatives would greatly reduce the possibility. Of course, this may require an amendment to the constitution, but this should be palatable to those who have unwavering faith in the wisdom of the founding fathers given that the electoral college

is not working as they intended, and never has.