

## The Electoral College



## ARTICLE II Section 1



**Electors will determine the president and vice-president.**

## 12TH AMENDMENT

*Provides for election of the president and vice president by the Electoral College.*

*Should there be no majority vote for one person, the House of Representatives (one vote per state) chooses the president and the Senate the vice president.*

*(1804)*

## 2010 Census

- **Every ten years the U.S. Census is taken to determine how many representatives each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.**
- **This number helps to determine the number of electors for each state.**

## The Electoral College

- Each state will have electors = to the number of senators + representatives given to that state

### Senators & Representatives Electors

- 538 electors



## 23RD AMENDMENT

Extends the right to vote in the presidential election to citizens residing in the District of Columbia by granting the District electors in the Electoral College, as though it were a state.

The district is allocated as many electors as it would have if it were a state, but no more electors than the least populous state; thus, the district cannot have more than three electors.

## Amendments

- 23rd Amendment gave the District of Columbia 3 electors for a total of 538.
- 12th Amendment said the electors will vote once for President and once for Vice-president



## Becoming an Elector

- Electors will be appointed by state legislature
- Electors must be loyal party members



## Becoming an Elector

- Any eligible voter can be an elector
- You can become an elector



## Becoming an Elector

- Electors may not hold any other office
- Electors do not get paid, they have other jobs
- Electors names appear on the ballot under the candidate they will vote for.



## Voting

- Electors meet at the state capital in Nov. after the general election and cast their ballots.
- Electors can vote for whoever they want



## Electors Don't Have to Do What We Tell Them To

- Electors *have* refused to vote for their party's nominee
  - 1796
  - 1820
  - 1948
  - 1956
  - 1960
  - 1968
  - 1972
  - 1976
  - 1988
  - 2000
  - 2004 → an elector from MN voted for John Edwards (twice, Pres & VP)



## Ballots



- A joint session of Congress convenes the January after the election to count the electoral votes and announce the winner.

## Nebraska



## Flaws of the Electoral College



# # 1 - Person who doesn't win popular vote can be elected President

• 4 Elections

1. Jackson (41.3%) v. J.Q. Adams (30.9%)
  - J.Q. Adams winner
2. Hayes (4.0M) to Tilden (4.2M)
  - Hayes winner
3. Cleveland (5.5M) to B. Harrison (5.4)
  - Harrison winner

