

# Don't abolish the Electoral College. Make it fairer.



In every other election in America, the candidate who gets the most votes wins. Except for President.

That's because the Electoral College operates mostly by a state-by-state, "winner take all" rule – although that's not always been the case.

In the first four U.S. Presidential elections, no popular votes were cast or counted. Only the Electoral College got to vote. Gradually, over the years, more and more states chose electors through a statewide popular vote. By 1836, the year Martin Van Buren was elected, every state but South Carolina was conducting popular elections for President. (South Carolina adopted the practice in 1860.)

The Electoral College originally was authorized by Article II of the Constitution which left the rules of operation to

the states. The Twelfth Amendment, ratified in 1804, made substantial changes. Since 1836, four Presidents have been sworn in who failed to win the popular vote. But in many more elections – especially in recent years – elections have been decided by a margin of fewer than one percent of all votes cast.

***Make sure the candidate who gets the most votes is President!***

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