

The electoral college
is a critical tool in
american electoral
system.define and ...

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Electoral College The Electoral College is the that elects officially the President and the Vice President of the United States after every four years by a vote in congress and counting of the electoral votes by congress. Each candidate running for president has his or her own group of electors. The electors are generally chosen by the candidate's political party, but state laws vary on how the electors are selected (Hewson 12). Electoral College consists of the selection of electors and the meeting of electors where they usually vote for the president. Electoral College comprises of 538 electors. A majority of 270 electoral votes is required to elect the president. The state's entitled allotment of electors equals the number of members in its congressional delegation.

Electoral College has not encouraged political participation by citizens especially since it is inherently undemocratic and gives the small states additional powers to prevent politicians from focusing only on issues which affect the larger states. The fear being without power, politicians would completely ignore small states and focus only on big population centers. The Electoral College favors the smaller states with disproportionate voting power in electing the President and the Vice President. On the other hand, advocates of the system say that this uneven power forces politicians to pay attention to smaller states which would otherwise be ignored. Except in closely fought swig states, voter turnout is largely insignificant due to entrenched political party domination in most states. The Electoral College decreases the advantage a political party might gain from encouraging voter turnout, except in those swig state (Hewson 15).

In conclusion, the Electoral College is a critical tool in the electoral system of America. Even though the Electoral College does not encourage political participation by the citizenry, the electors are an important component of the Electoral College and each vote cast for the President and the Vice President determines the future exercise of power in the country.

Work Cited

Hewson, Martha S. The Electoral College. Philadelphia: Chelsea House Publishers, 2002. Print.