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proposals for reform

Electoral College Reform Analysis of Electoral College Reform Options

There are several options available for Electoral College reform. It is clear the winner-take-all method currently used in 48 states is destructive to democracy. Therefore, there are three basic options for reform:

- 1. Eliminate the Electoral College** - This option is very straightforward - eliminate the Electoral College altogether and provide for the direct popular election of the President and Vice-President. This option is becoming extremely popular, but any change requires a constitutional amendment and this would need the support of states that would lose voting power.
- 2. District Method** - The basis of this option would be to reform the selection process for Electors in the states so that the Electors would be allocated by the majority vote in each congressional district with the two remaining Electors being allocated by the majority vote statewide. This option would be an effective reform measure to take, as it would serve to better represent the American population and ensure that the winners of the election correctly represent the choices of the American population. Legislation is currently being discussed in several states to implement the District method for presidential Electors. Click [here](#) for more information on this legislation.
- 3. Proportional Method** - This option would reform the selection process for the Electoral College to allocate the Electors proportionally based upon the statewide vote. This option has not been studied nearly as extensively as the above two options, but has certain advantages over the previous option. There are an unlimited number of variations on this option, including requiring a certain percentage threshold to receive electoral votes, such as 5% or 20% of the popular vote. Another potential variation would require that each of the three parties receiving the most amount of votes would receive at least one (or more) electoral vote(s). Options along both of these lines are currently being discussed in various states. Click [here](#) for more information.

The following is a basic comparison of the pros and cons of each of these various options.

Eliminate the Electoral College	
Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would more accurately reflect the national popular will 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would prevent the emergence of third parties • Would require a full

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would eliminate problem of "Faithless Electors" • Would eliminate possible role of EC in depressing voter turnout 	<p>Constitutional amendment (very unlikely)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would encounter strong major party resistance • Would encounter strong public resistance from Electoral College supporters
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District Method

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would better represent the voters in every state and district • Would not prevent the emergence of third parties • Would not require a full Constitutional amendment • Would be effective if even only adopted in a limited number of states • Would not encounter strong/any major party resistance • Would not encounter strong/any public resistance from Electoral College supporters • Creates unique opportunity to test and implement Instant Runoff Voting on a statewide basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires initiatives in every state

Proportional Method

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would erode the 2-Party monopoly • Would better ensure third party candidates receive Electoral College votes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires initiatives in every state • Would encounter strong major party resistance in every state

Click [here](#) if you would like more information on the reasons for supporting the reform of the Electoral College based upon congressional district. If you have any questions or would like more detailed information on this proposed reform, please [e-mail](mailto:info@electionreform.org) us at info@electionreform.org.

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