

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview– Short Film:
“The Popular Vote vs. the Electoral College” (10–15 Minutes)
(TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY)

Goal

In this short film (4:53), Tara Ross explains how the Electoral College prevents a simple majority from deciding a presidential election—and why.

Instructions

1. Play this film for students; tell them to take notes on main ideas/interesting facts:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LXnjGD7j2B0>
2. Put students in pairs/groups and have them discuss for 3–5 minutes, then as a class (ask for main ideas).

Notes

FIRST/IMPORTANT: Have students take turns reading from the book the numbered explanation of how the Electoral College works (this is on page 63). Then tell students this:

1. Having 2 senators per state is a way to ensure that smaller states don’t get dominated by larger ones.
 2. If no candidate wins a majority of electoral votes (say there are 3 candidates who get 100, 75, and 50—100 is less than half of the total of 225), then the election goes to the House, and each state gets 1 vote, giving small states even more protection.
- Founders feared democracy/majority rule, so they instituted the Electoral College.
 - Big-government supporters support democratic (majority rule) election of President.
 - EC decentralizes control over a presidential election; all states have different rules and retain their sovereignty over the election process.
 - Presidential elections are 51 elections (50 states + Washington, D.C.).
 - States have different rules about (a) early voting, (b) registering to vote, and (c) qualifying for the ballot, (d) felon voting, (e) recounts.
 - A National Popular Vote would make voter fraud worse, because it would make it easier for cheaters to focus exactly on the total number of votes they wanted to change from anywhere in the nation.
 - If Presidents won elections simply by winning a majority, he could just focus campaigning on the biggest cities and states, which leaves smaller states/cities out.
 - Federalists do have a legacy: the Bill of Rights. (We’ll talk about this soon.)

Wrap-Up

Ask students:

- What did you think about the fact that those small areas had a combined 165 electoral votes (only 105 more needed to win a presidential election)?
- Why do you think that those who favor big, powerful, centralized governments are so stuck on the idea that “Majority should win!”