

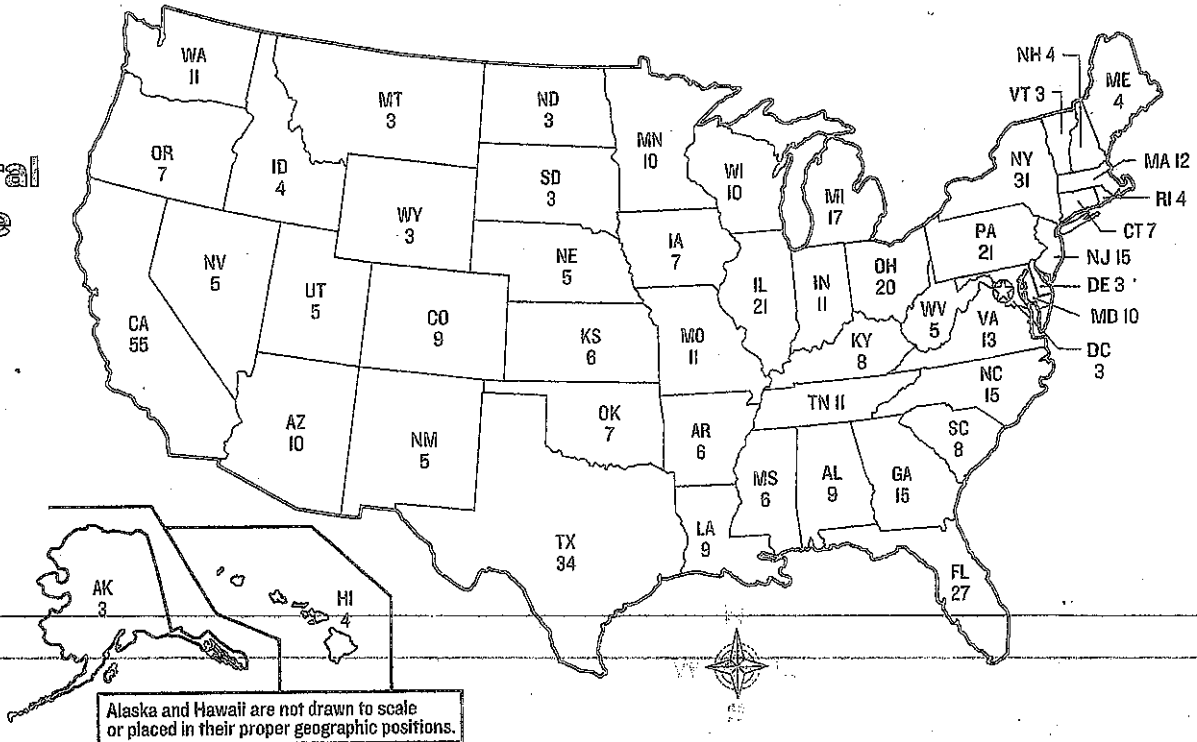
NAME _____

The Electoral College

The Framers of the U.S. Constitution devised an indirect system for electing the President and Vice President. This system is the Electoral College, which the Framers hoped would result in educated,

informed persons choosing our nation's top leaders. But today, each political party chooses its own members to serve as electors. Study the map, and read the explanation of the Electoral College below.

Electoral College Votes 2008



1. Voters choose electors. When voters go to the polls on Election Day, they do not vote directly for President and Vice President. Instead, they choose electors pledged to support those candidates. Each state has as many electors as it has U.S. Senators (two) and U.S. Representatives (the number depends on the state's population). The District of Columbia has three electoral votes. Almost always, the candidate who gets the most popular votes wins all of the state's electoral votes. This is the "winner-take-all" rule.
2. Electors cast ballots. In mid-December, the electors in each state and the District of Columbia assemble in their legislative houses. The electors vote for President and Vice President. Each state records its electoral votes and sends the results to the U.S. Congress.

3. Congress counts the ballots. The Senate and the House of Representatives meet jointly to officially count and review the Electoral College votes. The candidate who gets a majority of the 538 electoral votes (at least 270) wins, regardless of the outcome of the popular vote.
4. If no candidate wins a majority. According to the U.S. Constitution, if no candidate gets an Electoral College majority, the House of Representatives selects the President, and the Senate chooses the Vice President. Because of the "winner-take-all" rule, it is possible for a candidate to win the popular vote and still lose the Electoral College. This has happened three times in U.S. history, most recently in 2000.

Questions

Decide whether each sentence is true, false, or an opinion. Write your choice on the line provided.

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| _____ 1. In a U.S. presidential election, voters choose electors, the people who cast the official votes for President and Vice President. | _____ 3. Texas has the most electoral votes. |
| _____ 2. Each state's number of electors is equal to the number of its U.S. Representatives. | _____ 4. The Electoral College is a confusing and outdated system. |
| | _____ 5. The fewest electoral votes that a state can have is three. |