

Why Should the Electoral College Be Abolished?

Introduction

In the recent past, we have witnessed a heated debate about the Electoral College and if it should be abolished or upheld. The United States electoral college is a historical anachronism that was established way back when the federal government did not trust or have faith in its citizens to vote for their president or their senators directly. However, the guidelines on the Electoral College changed and currently, the eligible voters are in a position to vote for their senators (Gaughan, 2020). However, the process of electing our president has remained to be a complicated and distorted process which makes the process of presidential election ambiguous. The Electoral College voting deprives the Americans the very basic democratic right for electing their leader. Besides the aspect of the Electoral College was created at the time when African Americans and the women were not allowed to vote. Additionally, one of its major objectives was to prevent individual states from accumulating more power by letting them vote. Arguably, there is no legitimate aspect that exists which justifies the maintenance of the electoral colleges. However, there are a number of compelling reasons which advocate for its abolishment. The most fundamental reason of all is that the electoral college prevents effective electoral reforms at the presidential level.

Arguments

With very few exceptions, the awarding of the Electoral College votes is based on the plurality winner in each state where he or she is given all the electoral votes. This is done

regardless of the overall margin of victory. This happened in the 2016 presidential election where Donald Trump lost in the popular vote but won in the electoral college hence becoming the president of the United States. Therefore, it can be argued that the Electoral College goes against the basic principles of democracy by creating a scenario where the vote of one citizen is ideally more worth than that for another citizen depending on the state's population in which a citizen resides. However, it feels like time has come where Americans should be given the opportunity to enjoy the principle of one vote one person for the election of the country's two highest officials (Dufour, 2018).

Additionally, the Electoral College also complicates and distorts the presidential campaigns. That is, when a certain presidential candidate knows that a certain state is their stronghold, they assume that there is no need for campaigning in these states. Likewise, when a presidential candidate notices that a certain state is largely in support of their opponent, they seem not to make any effort also to campaign in these states. Instead, they all focus all their money and time in a few battleship states sidelining the majority of the other states. It is evident that the framers of the Electoral College championed for the winner take it all arrangement which seems to sideline some states while giving other states more attention. Hence, the abolishment of the Electoral College will provide all the voters with an equal platform where challenging the presidential politics will be all-around because this will provide the notion that all voters are equal (Gaughan, 2020). In addition, this will provide a healthy campaign because presidential

candidates will be in a position to persuade as many voters as possible and they will be free to move to any state where they feel they can gain or convince voters to vote for them. Importantly, the state's poll distraction will be less giving the presidential candidate more opportunity to focus on the issue.

The major reason for abolishing the Electoral College is because it prevents the effectiveness of electoral reforms. Besides, the use of alternative methods of an election like instant runoff voting, approving voting or even Condorcet voting can never be implemented properly as long as the electoral college is still available. However, they would still be implemented, but with the presence of the Electoral College aspect, they would be ineffective because, in the end, it comes to the aspect of the majoritarian system. That means the minority groups will still be lagging behind on the same huge artificial disadvantage which they currently hold. Besides, the presence of the Electoral College endangers the country to a possible political instability if the two-party duopoly faces an effective completion. Additionally, in modern society, the presidency requires that there is no barrier between the people and the president. He works as the spokesperson of all people; therefore, each person's vote should matter in all aspects as required by democracy and preserved by the law an aspect which seems to be facing serious challenges due to the presence of the electoral colleges (Dufour, 2018).

Counter Arguments

However, there are common claims which favor the Electoral College. That is, it compels presidential candidates to sparsely populated states which could otherwise be ignored. The aspect is only important because the Electoral College votes in these states are presumably given more weight. Analysts argue that there are about seven states which are over-represented in the electoral vote per citizen than citizens in the state of California. For instance, a small state like Wyoming, its representation is three times more than that of California. This brings out the argument that the Electoral College favors the small states over the big states, and it is already evident that the small states have more representation in the Senate. Besides, if the Electoral College is an essential aspect, it should provide a fair representation for the rural states. For instance, a state like California which is a huge state with a high population; therefore, it should be reasonable enough if the state representation matches the electoral vote per citizen (Mascioli et al., 2020).

Another factor which works in favor of the Electoral College is the aspect of state sovereignty and federalism. Notably, the right to vote is one of the most fundamental rights for any citizen just like any other right or freedom as clearly outlined in the Bill of Rights. However, upholding states sovereignty, it is hard to preserve individuals' rights. The issue with the Electoral College is that it rejects dissenting votes and unanimously forces the rest of the state to agree with plurality winners in the state. However, the fact remains that we are in a democratic

country therefore, every vote should count for we vote for the president as a citizen of the country not as an outsider (Young, 2020).

Another argument which supports the Electoral College is that it aims to eradicate the impact of illegal voting to the state which it might occur in. The aspect of the winner takes it all can indeed isolate the effects of voting fraud in a state. However, it is only applicable if the fraud cannot overturn the winner of a state. Besides, the Electoral College allows isolated vote recounts to only a few states than a countrywide vote recount. However, this argument seems to be too specious because if the vote were once counted, then they can be counted repeatedly to ascertain the real winner in case of an election dispute. However, we cannot nullify the fact that counting gets simpler if it is specified regions (Reid, 2020).

Championing for the abolishment of the Electoral College can be debated, but it can only be implemented through a constitutional amendment. However, the predecessors can argue that the administration which advocated for the change has its own selfish agendas making it hard for one to ignite the debate of the Electoral College amendment to give the citizens the power to choose their presidential leader. Therefore, until an official abolishment, the candidate with the electoral vote should always be the president-elect regardless of the popular votes' results.

Evaluation of Critical Thinking

Overall from a critical thinking perspective, the Electoral College's abolishment cannot guarantee that what is replicated in the Electoral College popular votes will be the same if we

shifted into the nationwide election. This is because we cannot subject this reasoning to an actual test considering that the United States has never had voted for president in the nationwide election. Besides their different factors which can change significantly. For instance, we can assume that there would be a shift in the campaign's resources allocation to the strongholds from the toss-up states. Therefore, instead of focusing on the battleship states, the presidential candidates would focus on their strongholds to increase their already large vote totals in those states. Therefore, the candidates who win in the Electoral College and fail to win the popular vote will argue that they can win the popular votes if the Electoral College is abolished. However, this is a claim which can perhaps be correct or even wrong (Dufour, 2018).

Another fallacious assumption would be that through direct voting, there would be increased voting of the third-party candidates who are highly suppressed by the Electoral College system of voting. Besides, it can be argued the Electoral College affects the voters' reasoning considering that the majority of them vote for their leader in relation to the presidential support. In a state like Indiana, an independent governor candidate who has goodwill is hard for him to win in such states because arguably, the Republican candidate is expected to win. Therefore, there are thoughtful supporters and critics of the Electoral College. Americans are open to debate about the constitution; however, they should not succumb to fallacious assumptions that what occurs in the Electoral College voting will transpire in the direct national voting for the president (Dufour, 2018).

Conclusion

Conclusively, the United States electoral college is a historical anachronism that was established way back when the federal government did not trust nor have faith in its citizens to vote for their president nor their senators directly. However, the guidelines on the electoral college change and currently, the eligible voters are in a position to vote for their senators. However, the process of electing our president has remained to be a complicated and distorted process which makes the process of presidential election ambiguous. Arguably, the electoral college voting deprives the Americans the very basic democratic right for electing their leader. Besides the aspect of the electoral college was created at the time when African Americans and the women were not allowed to vote. Notably, one of its major objectives of the electoral college was to prevent individual states from accumulating more power by letting them vote. However, there are common claims which favor the electoral college. That is, it compels presidential candidates to on sparsely populated states which could otherwise be ignored. Another argument which works in favor of the electoral college is the aspect of state sovereignty and federalism. Lastly, it is argued that the electoral college aims to eradicate the impact of illegal voting to the state which it might occur.

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