

Assessing the 2020 US Elections and The Electoral College

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Question 1

In the U.S, the presidential election process is called the electoral college. As lay down in the constitution, the framework is deliberated to bring a balance to the majority preference with that of individual states. In America, people have a more direct say on their leadership, but electing this leader is somehow complicated. Before the election, the Republicans and the Democrats select preferred candidate to represent them through the state primaries and caucuses, then in the convention **(Breen, 2020)**.

The presidential results depend on the electoral college votes results in each state. Therefore, what entails in the electoral college? In the United States, each state is entitled to several electoral college votes. Each state's electoral votes are based on the number of members that state has in the House of Representatives and the Senate. Therefore, it is obvious that each state gets two electoral votes; they elect two senators to the Senate. Hence, the number of electoral votes vary from state to state. For instance, the states with more Congress members have more electoral votes than those with fewer representatives. For example, states like

California, New York and Texas, have 55,29 and 38 electoral votes, respectively **(Breen, 2020)**. This is based on the number of representatives in those states. Other states like Wyoming, which has one representative and two senators, translate to only three electoral votes. District of Columbia also gets three electoral votes even without any representation in Congress.

Therefore, the total number of electoral college votes in the United States of America amounts to 538 **(Breen, 2020)**. For a candidate to be declared the president-elect, one has



to attain 270 electoral votes out of the possible 538 electoral votes **(Breen, 2020)**.

However, should a tie happen, then the president winner is decided by a vote in the House of Representatives, with the Senate choosing the vice president. Arguably, the electoral college tends to favor the small states on the ground that the electoral college allocation includes two extra votes representing the two senators elected by the state regardless of its population.



The states with more electoral college votes seem to receive the most attention from the presidential candidates. These include states like Texas, California, New York, Florida and Pennsylvania. This is because a significant amount of electoral college votes in these states, and that is what matters if a candidate wants to win the presidential elections. Notably, a candidate can win the popular votes but loses the electoral votes. This is because of the failure to win as

many states as possible to achieve the 270 electoral college votes **(Breen, 2020)**. For



instance, in the 2016 election, Hillary Clinton won the popular vote but failed to achieve the required electoral votes hence being defeated by Trump, who won in key states, therefore, accumulating the required electoral votes to win the presidential election. Arguably, it can be said that the electoral college is in accordance with representative democracy because it gives power to the representatives elected, and that seems like the electoral college concept



(Breen, 2020).

Question 2



As of November 13, all polls showed that Joe Biden is the president-elect for the United States of America. Joe Biden leads with 290 electoral votes as Trump trails with 232 electoral votes. Joe Biden is projected to win with 306 electoral votes for the leads in Georgia, which has 16 electoral votes (Dunford et al., 2020). Besides, the presidential election is mostly influenced by swing states. In the United States, the term swing states refer to states that could be won by either the Republican or the Democrat presidential candidate. They are also known as the battleground states. In the 2020 presidential elections, there were ten swing states. These states include Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Nevada, Texas, Florida, Arizona, Michigan, Wisconsin, Georgia and North Carolina. Joe Biden has won six states out of the ten states. In addition, he is projected to win one more state that is Georgia. On the other hand, Trump has in only three states out of the ten battleship states is North Carolina, Texas and Florida, losing all other swing states to the president-elect Joe Biden (Dunford et al., 2020).

Question 3



As of November 13, the Democratic Party lead in the House of Representatives, with 219 elected members elected under the party. On the other hand, 203 members have been elected under the Republican Party (Dunford et al., 2020). This amounts to 422 out of the possible 435 members whose win has been called, with 13 more members yet to be declared as winners in various states like Iowa District 2, California District 21 & 25, and New York District 11 & 22 (Dunford et al., 2020). However, the Democrats are on the way to control the House in the upcoming Congress for two more years. This is because even if Republicans win the remaining seats, they will be short of four more members to surpass the Democrats; hence, the Democrats will control the House.

Question 4

Unlike the House of Representatives, the Senate control seems to fall for the Republicans as per the current results. As of November 13, the Republicans lead the Democrats by 50 to 48 elected senators who their win has been called (Dunford et al., 2020). Other parties have won 2 Senate seats. Notably, Georgia will have a runoff election to select two members to the Senate. Therefore, as it stands, the Republican Party seems to be the House controller come 2021 (Dunford et al., 2020). However, with two seats yet to be filled, the Senate seems like it will be in a balance of power between the Republicans and the Democrats.



Question 5

Come 2021, the United States government seems it will characterize as united rather than divided. This is because the governing party seems to be in control in the House of the Representatives, and a projected possibility that the Senate might have a balance of power; hence, come January, the government might be characterized as a united government rather than a divided one (Dunford et al., 2020). Therefore, if the government will be a united one, this will help the governing party pass their major legislation without much opposition, unlike when it could be a divided government. Besides, every government wants to be characterized by unity rather than division to help them have smooth governance during their period in power (Dunford et al., 2020).



Question 6

In the United States, the Supreme court is split between six conservative justices to three liberal justices after the confirmation of Amy Coney Barrett. The conservative justices are the ones who are said to believe in originalism or, in other words, original meaning jurisprudence

(McKeever, 2020). On the other hand, the liberal justices are the ones believed to be diverse and give room for change to achieve a particular result. Therefore, this split might affect different policymaking by the top court in the country (McKeever, 2020). All policies are subject to risk and unpredictability about them. Besides, court ruling can have a fundamental impact on legislation, law, policy or even executive action. Therefore, considering that most of the Supreme court's justices are conservatives who majorly believe in the original law, this might affect some public policies that have always been in debate. This includes religious liberty, abortion, LGBTQ rights, health care and the gun regulation policy (McKeever, 2020). Hence, the conservative justices might take advantage of their like-minded privilege to pass policies that are in their favor even without liberal justices' approval. Likewise, the liberal justices might find themselves in tough situations while trying to pass or validate their policies. In most cases, they might fail to get support from their counterpart just because they differ in ideas. Therefore, the importance of the policies they make or implement will be dependent on who interprets them (McKeever, 2020).



References

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