

Question :- Examine the merits and demerits of the US Election System to elect President.

1) Introduction:-

The founding fathers of United States created a system in which American people had power and responsibility to select their leaders. Article II of the United States Constitution originally established the method of presidential elections, including the electoral college. This election system has both merits including representation of federalism, stability of two-party system, voter participation and peaceful transition of power etc, and demerits including disproportionate representation, low voter turnout, focus on swing states and the influence of money in campaigns as well.

2) Eligibility to become President in USA :-

The president and vice-president

are elected every four years. They must be at least **35 years** of age, they must be native-born citizens of United States, and they must have been residents of the US for at least 14 years. Also, a person cannot be ~~elected~~ to a third term as president.

3) Tickets for President and Vice-President :-

In the general election, each candidate for president runs together with a candidate for vice-president on a "**ticket**". Voters select one ticket to vote for; they can't choose a presidential candidate from one ticket and a vice-presidential candidate from another ticket.

4) Pros of US Presidential election:-

- i) Representation of Federalism
- ii) Stability of Two-Party System

iii) Direct Votes Participation

iv) Encouragement of Coalition Building

v) Peaceful Transition of Power

i) Representation of Federalism

The Electoral College system ensures that all states, regardless of population size, have a voice in the election. This protects smaller states from being overshadowed by larger states. e.g., In the 2016 election, states like Wyoming and Vermont had a disproportionate influence relative to their population due to the minimum three electoral votes per state.

ii) Stability of Two-Party System:-

The structure of U.S. elections promote a stable two-party system, reducing

the risks of political fragmentation.

Fact:- Since **1856**, the presidency has alternated only between the Democratic and Republican parties, ensuring continuity and predictability.

iii) Direct Voter Participation:-

U.S citizens vote directly for electors who pledge to support a presidential candidate, allowing individuals to have a tangible impact on the process.

e.g, In **2008**, Barack Obama's campaign mobilized millions of first-time voters, particularly among young and minority groups.

iv) Encouragement of Coalition Building:-

Candidates must appeal to diverse voter demographics and win support in various regions, promoting national unity. e.g, **Bill Clinton** in 1992

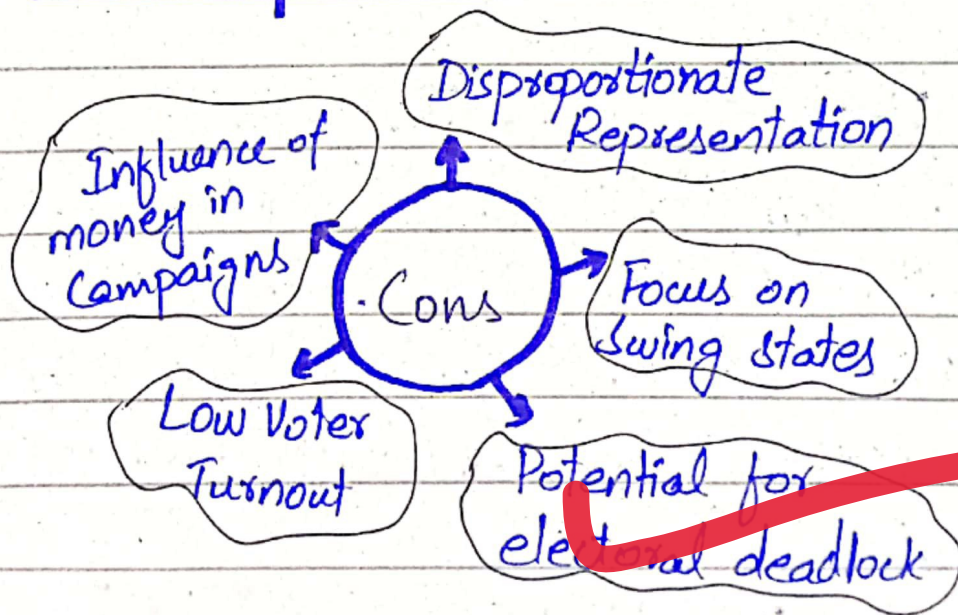
successfully appealed to Southern, suburban, and working-class voters.

v) Peaceful Transition of Power:-

Historically, the U.S has been known for the peaceful transition of power, a hallmark of a stable democracy.

e.g, Despite the contentious **2000** election, George W. Bush assumed the presidency peacefully after Supreme Court's decision.

5) Cons of US Presidential Election:-



i) Disproportionate Representation:-

The Electoral College can result in

a candidate winning the presidency without popular vote.

e.g., In **2016**, Donald Trump won the presidency with 304 electoral votes despite losing the popular vote to Hillary Clinton by nearly 3 million.

ii) Focus on Swing States:-

Candidates tend to focus their campaigns on battleground states, ignoring voters in solidly "red" or "blue" states. In **2020**, over **94%** of campaign events were held in just 12 swing states, sidelining others.

iii) Potential for Electoral Deadlock:-

If no candidate secures a majority in the Electoral College, the election is decided by the House of Representatives undermining the democratic process.

e.g.,

In **1824**, John Adams became president despite losing both popular and electoral votes, after the decision

moved to the House.

iv) Low Voter Turnout:-

The complexity of the U.S electoral system, including voter registration requirements, can discourage participation. U.S voter turnout is often lower than in other democracies with only ~~66.8%~~ turnout in the 2020 presidential election.

v) Influence of Money in Campaigns:-

U.S elections are extremely expensive, giving wealthy individuals and corporations significant influence. The 2020 presidential election cost over \$ 14 billion, doubling the cost of the 2016 election.

vi) Risk of Faithless Electors:-

Electors are not always bound to

vote according to their state's popular vote, which can undermine the will of the people.

6) Conclusion:-

While the U.S. presidential election system fosters federal representation and stability, it has significant flaws, including potential disparities in representation and influence. Reform proposals, such as adopting a popular vote system or proportional allocation of electoral votes, continue to be debated.

Very good analysis

Update it with the most recent election though

You have got potential, good expression and handwriting and presentation is also good

Good luck!