

Answer the following question

Question #1

Critically analyze the role of electoral college. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this system? How does it impact the overall democratic process?

Answer:

The US presidential election system is a unique process involving the Electoral College, not just direct votes from the people. This system decides who becomes the president based on the results in each state. While it has ^{some} strengths, it also faces criticism for its impact on democracy.

How the US Presidential election system works:

Popular votes in states:

Citizen vote for their preferred

candidate in each state.

Electoral College votes:

Each state has certain number of Electoral College votes based on its population. States with more people like California have more votes than smaller states, like Wyoming.

In most states, the candidate who wins the popular vote gets all the state's Electoral College votes (winner-takes-all system).

Winning the presidency:

There are **538** Electoral College votes in total. A candidate needs at least **270 votes** to win.

Certification and inauguration:

The Electoral College officially votes in December, and the winner becomes president in January.

Role of the Electoral College:

The Electoral College is the key

decision maker in US presidential elections. Instead of directly electing the president, people vote for electors who represent their state and cast the official votes for president.

Advantages of the electoral College:

Supports Federalism:

It balances power between large and small states, ensuring smaller states still have a voice in elections.

Prevent regional dominance:

It forces to campaign across the country, not just focus on densely areas.

Encourage stability:

By creating clear outcomes, it avoids the chaos of counting every single vote nationwide in case of disputes.

Disadvantages of the electoral College:

Disregard popular Vote:

A candidate can win the presidency without winning the most overall votes, as happened in 2000 and 2016. This makes people feel their votes do not always count equally.

Unequal representation:

Smaller states have disproportionately more power because each state gets at least three Electoral College votes, regardless of population size.

Focus on swing states:

Candidates concentrate on swing states (states that could vote for their party) and often ignores states that are strongly Republican or Democratic.

Complicated system:

The process is confusing and can make people feel disconnected from how their president is chosen.

Risk of "Faithless Electors"

Electors are not always required to vote for the candidate they pledged to support, which can undermine trust in the system.

Impact on the democratic process:

Limits True Democracy:

The system prioritizes the Electoral College over the people's direct votes, which can undermine the idea of "one person, one vote."

Decreases voter confidence:

When the popular vote and Electoral College results differ, it can make voters feel like their voices do not matter.

Preserve stability:

On the other hand, it prevents sudden changes and ensures that states have a role in the process, maintaining balance in the federal system.

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Conclusion:

The presidential electoral system especially the Electoral college, is a blend of tradition and federalism while it ensures small states have a voice and provides stability, it also creates issues like unequal representation and political conflicts between the popular vote and the final result. To strengthen democracy, the system may need reforms to better reflect the will of the people.