Electoral College vs. Direct Popular Vote

Annotation Station

❍ Circle words you don't know, and take a moment to find the definition.
Highlight in YELLOW phrases that confuse you. Use context clues to try and figure out their meaning.
Highlight in BLUE items you find most important.
☆ Star the items that make you wonder and wish to explore further.

Electoral College

Pros

- All states are represented and involved in the process of selecting the president
- Supports two-party system
- Outcome generally known on the day after Election Day
- Electors are voted upon by the people
- Electoral College has been in place since the ratification of the Constitution in 1788
- Maintains federalism
- Protects small states from being overpowered by large states

Cons

- May provide too much power to swing states
- May impact or suppress voter turnout in non-battleground states
- May not represent the will of the people, because it is not one vote for each person
- Candidate can win the popular vote but not the presidency (This occurred in 2000 and 2016.)
- System allows for faithless electors
- May cause a decrease in voter turnout due to safe states
- Minimizes the impact of third parties/minority voices
- Votes for president do not have equal influence across states. In 2020, a voter in Wyoming had about 3.6 times more Electoral College representation than a voter in California

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Direct Popular Vote

Pros	Cons
• Represents the will of the people as a direct election • Candidates would be encouraged to campaign in all states, not just battleground states • Could open chances up for a minor party and independent candidates • Using a direct popular vote would remove the political controversy that is connected to the Electoral College. • May increase voter turnout because all votes are worth the same	• Could be a very complicated process if a recount is required • May make states with smaller populations feel as if they have less say in an election • Could make campaigning more challenging for candidates trying to visit all states • It would require a constitutional amendment to abolish the Electoral College

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