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	Cons
• All states are represented and involved in the process of selecting the president	• May provide too much power to swing states
• Supports two-party system	• May impact or suppress voter turnout in non-battleground states
• Outcome generally known on the day after Election Day	• May not represent the will of the people, because it is not one vote for each person
• Electors are voted upon by the people	• Candidate can win the popular vote but not the presidency
• Electoral College has been in place since the ratification of the Constitution in 1788	• System allows for faithless electors
• Maintains federalism	• May cause a decrease in voter turnout due to safe states
• Protects small states from being overpowered by large states	• Minimizes the impact of third parties/minority voices
	• Not all votes count the same (for example, in 2020, a vote in Wyoming was worth 3.6 times more than a vote in California)

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