The Electoral College:

Pros & Cons

Review of The Electoral College

- **Simple Majority** needed to elect President
    - 100 Senators + 435 Reps + 3 DC = 538
    - At least 270 needed
  b. If no candidate receives a majority, **House of Representatives** elects President
- **Two-Party System**
  a. Usually only 2 major candidates
  b. Pledged electors
- **Popular vote** determines electors
  a. **Winner-Take-All system**

Disadvantages of Electoral College System

- Popular vote ⇏ President (undemocratic)
  - Winner-take-all system distorts popular vote
- Campaigns Focus on a few **Swing States** (undemocratic)
- Discourages voter turnout (undemocratic)
- Obscures voting problems (undemocratic)
- Small states too important (undemocratic)
- Suppresses 3rd parties (undemocratic)
- Confusing (undemocratic)

Advantages of the Electoral College System

- Makes majorities likely (stability)
- Strengthens legitimacy of victor (stability)
- Enhances importance of minority voters (democratic?)
- Keeps rural areas relevant (democratic?)
- Preserves importance of States (democratic?)
- Election results clear & verifiable (stability)
- Electors can save the day (stability)