

 **INTRODUCING
ISSUES WITH
OPPOSING
VIEWPOINTS®**

The Electoral College and the Popular Vote

Lisa Idzikowski, Book Editor



GREENHAVEN
PUBLISHING

Contents

Foreword	5
Introduction	7

Chapter 1: How Does the Electoral College Affect US Presidential Elections?

1. The Electoral College Determines Presidential Elections	11
<i>National Archives and Records Administration</i>	
2. The Electoral College Once Protected Slavery	15
<i>Kamala Kelkar</i>	
3. The Electoral College Protects Americans' Freedoms	20
<i>Billy Hallowell</i>	
4. Many Americans Believe the Electoral College Is Confusing and Unfair	24
<i>Geri Zabela Eddins</i>	
5. The Electoral College Can Distort Election Results	32
<i>Danielle Kurtzleben</i>	

Chapter 2: Does the Popular Vote Matter in US Presidential Elections?

1. The Electoral College Makes My Vote Irrelevant	39
<i>Scott Santens</i>	
2. The Popular Vote Should Elect the President	46
<i>Frank J. Lysy</i>	
3. The United States Is Not a Democracy	53
<i>Matt Peppe</i>	
4. The Electoral College Isn't the Problem; Majority Voting Is	61
<i>Dale R. Durran</i>	
5. Voting Matters to Many for a Variety of Reasons	69
<i>Christopher Munsey</i>	

Chapter 3: Is There a Better Way to Determine Presidential Elections?

1. The Electoral College Conflicts with the Popular Vote	76
<i>Drew DeSilver</i>	

2. Reject the National Popular Vote Plan	81
<i>Kevin Kane</i>	
3. States Should Adopt the National Popular Vote Plan	86
<i>Rob Richie</i>	
4. Improved Civic Instruction in School Leads to Informed Voting	94
<i>Abby Kiesa and Peter Levine</i>	
5. To Effect Change, Reform the Presidential Primary System	100
<i>Maru Gonzalez</i>	
 Facts About the Electoral College and the Popular Vote	106
Organizations to Contact	109
For Further Reading	113
Index	117
Picture Credits	120