

# ELECTORAL COLLEGE

*simulation*

Few understand how the Electoral College *really* operates. Or that several alternatives exist that *don't* require a Constitutional amendment.

Explore them all in this **fun dice-rolling, chip-snacking simulation!**

## TOPICS COVERED

Primary & caucus methods for selecting nominees

Role of third-party candidates in election outcomes depending on counting method

Current **Winner-Take-All** system used

Three alternatives: **District Plan, Proportional Plan, and the National Popular Vote Compact**



# I. PRIMARY & CAUCUS

*season*



Explore 7 Chip Candidates bios, representing two main parties and a third-party candidate

Compare & promote candidates to earn votes from party members

Primary or caucus to decide parties' nominees

**USE TASTY CHIP FLAVORS TO ADD IN SOME FUN!**





# II. EXPLORE & COMPARE

*methods*

Introduce each voting method with a **brief reading passage explanation**, which includes arguments from proponents and opponents.

**Real-life election results** from sample states are included to illustrate the method compared to the currently used winner-take-all system.

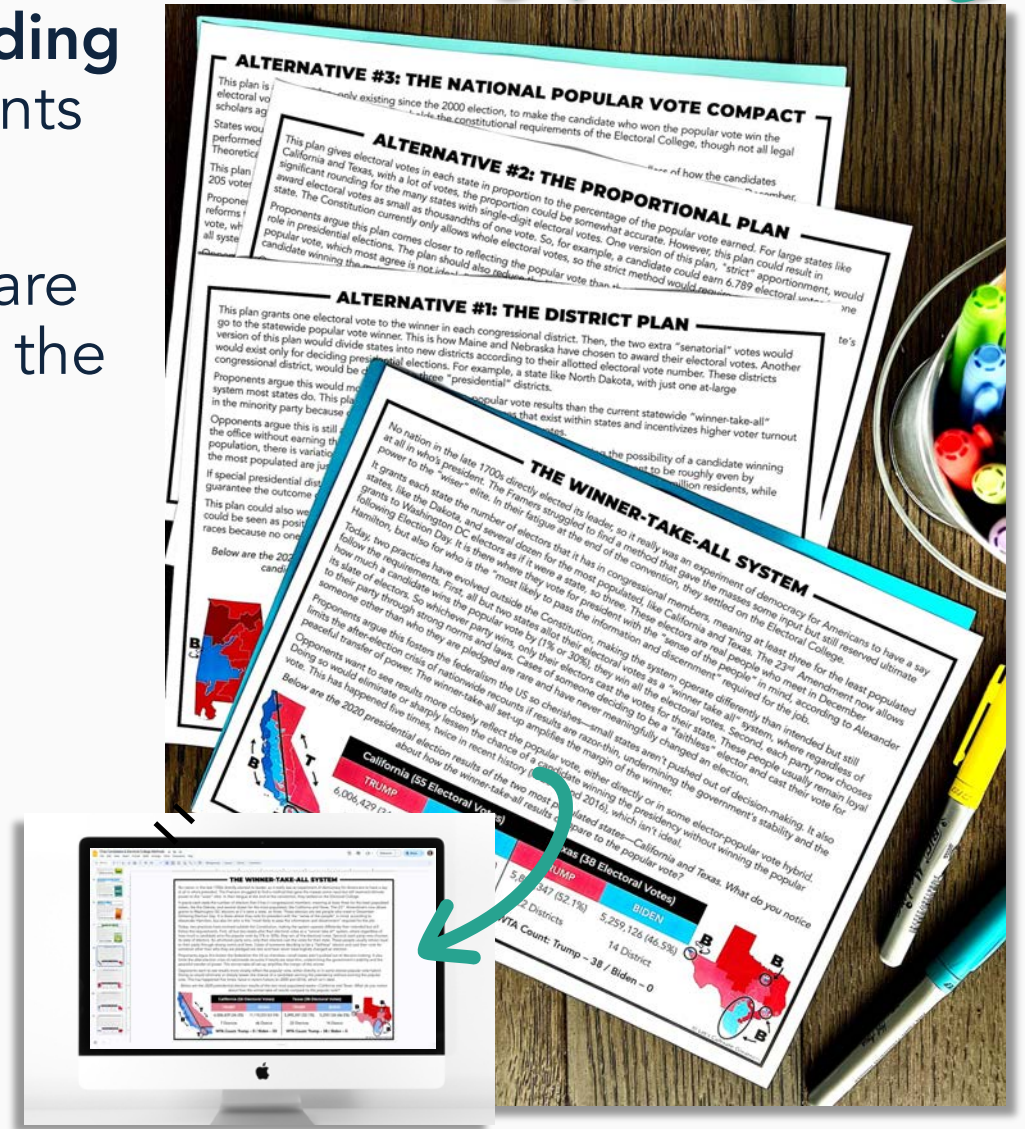
## METHODS INCLUDED

Winner Take All

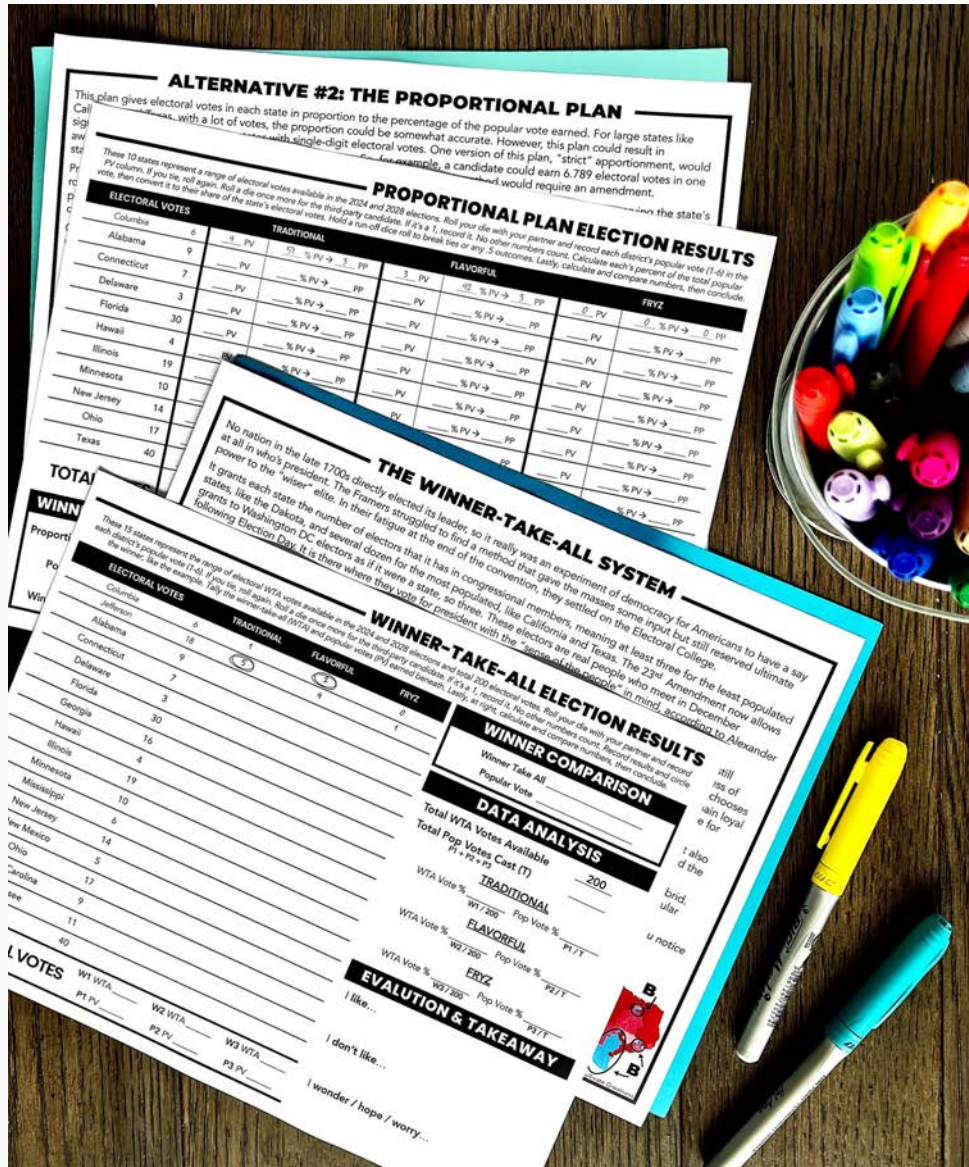
District Plan

Proportional Plan

National Popular Vote Compact



# III. SIMULATE & CALCULATE *results*



Students partner up, roll some dice, and simulate Election Day tallying with their results!

Step-by-step instructions for calculating the winners are included in lesson plans and on student sheets.

Students compare results as a class and against the other methods to weigh the pros and cons of each method and then evaluate.

Concluding Reflection & Synthesis sheet included for students to make their final assessment of the various methods and their recommendation for which the US should use.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED *questions*

## Will this work for middle school?

This is a complex topic with several calculations; thus, it really should only be used at the **high school level**. I use these materials with my mixed-ability 12th-grade Civics class with strong teacher-directed instruction during the calculations.

## Can I use this in a homeschooling setting?

**Definitely!** Detailed teacher notes, a link to an explainer video, and step-by-step demo calculation steps help **you** understand this topic before teaching it. The simulations can even be done solo, you just take a pair of dice!

## Is this editable? Is this digital?

**The written passages come in an editable Google Slide format** for the exclusive purpose of customizing to meet your student's accommodations needs. The tallying sheets are only in non-editable PDF format because that portion of the lesson is by far recommended to be done on paper.

## Will this work for my <insert unique setting here> classroom?

The preview and product description are **extremely detailed**—be sure to take a close look. The reading passages portion of this activity comes in editable digital format for accommodation and modification support; the tallying sheets do not. If you still have questions, feel free to **leave a Q&A!**

## What standards does this address?

**Several!** This kit supports standards from various states, including:

Identify different primary formats and explain how political parties nominate candidates – Explain the process of electing the President and analyze the roles of the Electoral College – Compare different methods in which elections can be decided – Explain the two-party system and evaluate the role of third parties in the United States