

Persuasive Speech Outline

Name: John Doe

General Purpose: To persuade

Specific Purpose: To persuade my audience that the U.S. Federal government must pass an amendment to reform the Electoral College.

Thesis: The U.S. Federal government must pass an amendment to reform the Electoral College.

Introduction

- I. In the presidential elections of 2000, Al Gore won the Popular vote with 539,893 more votes than George Bush, who won the electoral vote. The Supreme Court declared Bush winner after more than a month.
- II. Some of you voted during the last elections, and all of you will have that responsibility in 2016.
- III. The U.S. Federal government must pass an amendment to reform the electoral college.
- IV. First, I will explain the problems the Electoral College causes for presidential elections and second, I will explain the different alternatives to the Electoral College.

(Transition: First, let's start with the origin and the problems the Electoral College causes.)

Body

- I. The Electoral College causes problems for presidential elections.
 - A. The Electoral College is undemocratic.
 1. American people don't vote directly for their president, but rather, for electors. (5) (5) (4)
 2. The Electoral College was created for reasons that are now outdated.
 - a. The Electoral College was created on September 6, 1787. (3)
 - b. It was a compromise between the election of the president by the houses or by the people.
 - c. They refused popular vote for reasons that are now outdated.
 3. The issue of the electoral vote is not proportional to the popular vote.
 - B. All Americans are harmed by the failures of the Electoral College.
 1. Every year, about 97 million people vote for the presidential elections. (1)
 2. The vote of only 1 million people really decides the winner of the election.
 - a. In the swing states, at least 48% can be expected for each candidate. (1)
 - b. The 4% of voters that will decide the party of the electors of the states represent about 1 million people. (1)
 - c. The electors in these states will determine the winner of the election.
 - C. Many Americans are being harmed because their vote does not matter.
 1. Only the vote of 1 million people really matters.
 2. The Electoral College results in some states having more importance than others. (3) (3)

(Transition: Now, that we understand the problem that the Electoral College causes, let's examine workable solution to it.)

- II. The U.S. Federal government must reform the Electoral College to a popular vote system.
 - A. An amendment is required to change the electoral system.
 1. By amending the constitution, the presidential election would not be using the Electoral College system but the popular vote.
 2. "An amendment may be proposed either by the Congress with a two-thirds majority vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate or by a constitutional convention called for by two-thirds of the State legislatures." (6)
 3. Once proposed by either the Congress or a constitutional convention, two-third of the votes are required to amend the constitution.

- B. The popular vote is the best alternative to the Electoral College.
 - 1. The popular vote is used in France, Germany, Italy and many other democratic countries in the world.
 - 2. There will be no more possible difference between popular vote and result of the elections.
 - a. Every vote will count for the election of the president.
 - b. The result will be representative of what the majority of Americans want.
- C. The popular vote is the best election mode for all the American citizens.
 - 1. People are in favor of the popular vote.
 - a. More than 60% of the citizens are in favor of the popular vote (7)
 - b. For the political parties, 73% of the democrat, 66% of the independents and 46% of the republicans want a reform. (2)
 - 2. It is in the best interest of everyone, especially for people who vote differently than the majority in their state.
 - 3. The participation rates to the elections will increase because the people will feel that their vote, wherever they live, makes a difference.

Conclusion

- I. Today we discovered first, that the Electoral College causes problem for presidential elections and second, that the popular vote is the best alternative to the Electoral College.
- II. The U.S. Federal government must pass an amendment to reform the Electoral College.
- III. You will be actors of the next elections; if you were a Republican living in California or a Democrat living in Texas, you would want your vote to count and this will only be possible with a popular vote.

Works Cited

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