**Problem 1** The winner of the popular vote may not necessarily win the presidency. This may be a result of:

The “winner take all” system, which gives the winner of the popular vote in each state all of that state’s electoral votes, even if the victory was by a slim margin.

Each state is guaranteed two electors because it has two Senate seats; however, this distribution of votes does not match the state’s population and voter distribution.

The law doesn’t require electors to vote for the candidate favored by the popular vote; therefore, electors may vote for someone other than their party’s candidate.

**Problem 2** It is possible that no one will receive the majority of electoral votes required to win the election. In this case, the House of Representatives must choose the president. This could present serious problems because:

The voting is by states and not by representatives; that is, each state’s representatives must decide unanimously on a candidate.

A state could lose a vote if its representatives can not reach consensus.

A majority of states must decide an election. This could be impossible if a strong third-party candidate was involved.

**Problem 3** The electoral college also forces presidential candidates to focus their campaigns on the “big ticket” states, that is, the most populous states with the most electoral votes. Look at the map and you’ll understand why so much attention is paid to states like California and Texas.

![States and their Electoral Votes, Based on 1990 Census](image-url)