

# Electoral College

# Basic things to know

- ▶ Based upon the states (i.e. the states choose the president)
- ▶ # of votes is based upon representation in Congress (HofR + Senators)
- ▶ Texas has 38
- ▶ Winner take all (except in Maine & Nebraska)
- ▶ Faithless Electors – electors can vote for whomever they want
- ▶ Baseball/tennis/volleyball analogy

# Why this system?

- ▶ Logistics
- ▶ Didn't trust democracy
- ▶ States saw themselves as independent nations

# Arguments to keep Electoral College

- ▶ It works
- ▶ Rarely contradicts popular vote (2016)
- ▶ Smaller states would be ignored
- ▶ Large population centers would choose president not whole nation

# Arguments to get rid of Electoral College

- ▶ Reason for system does not apply today
- ▶ Every other election is based upon the popular vote
- ▶ It is disproportional... Small states have more say than large states
  - ▶ Wyoming has 1 electoral college vote for every 166,666 people
  - ▶ Texas has 1 electoral college vote for every 789,473
- ▶ Violates “one man, one vote” concept