



THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

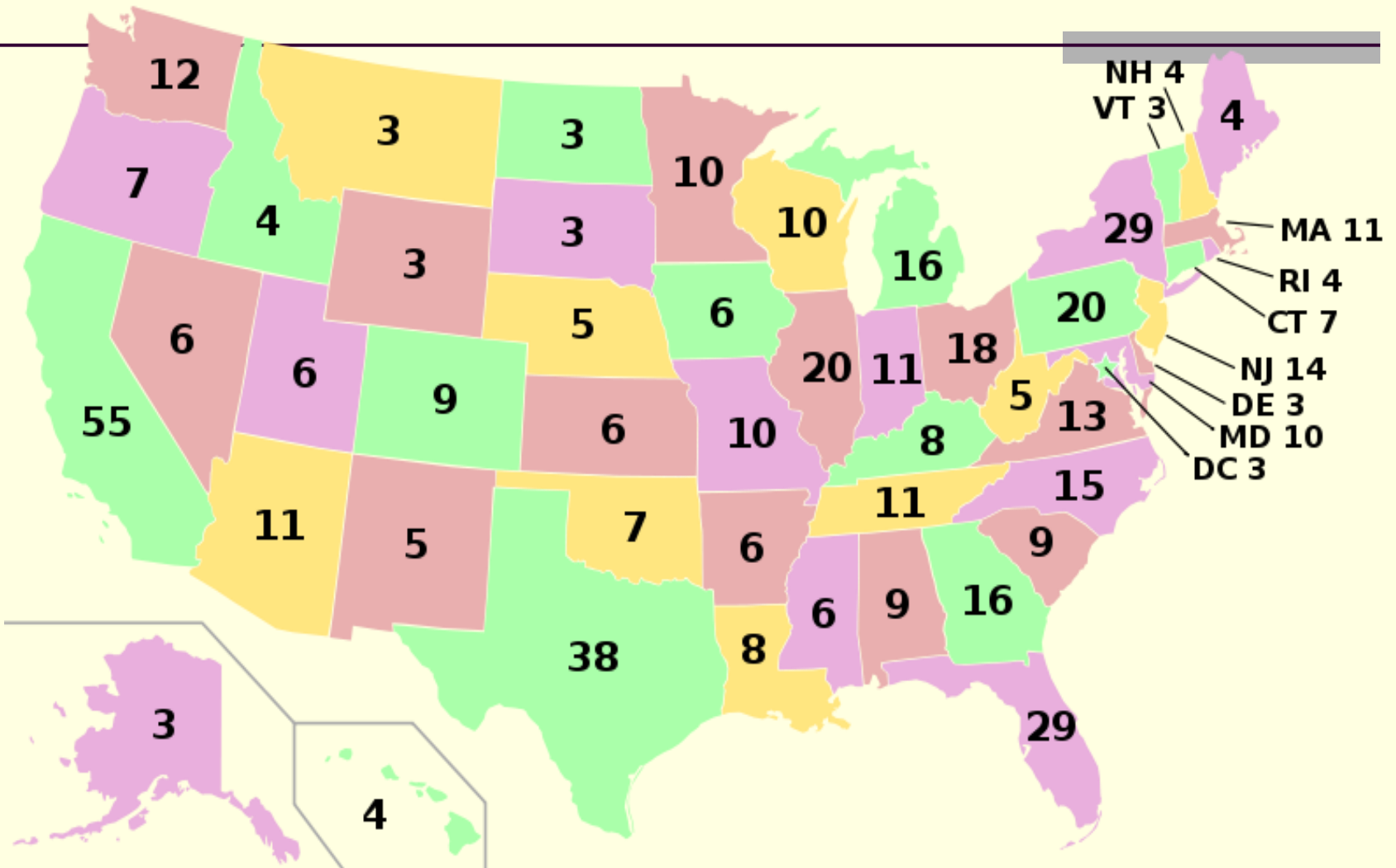


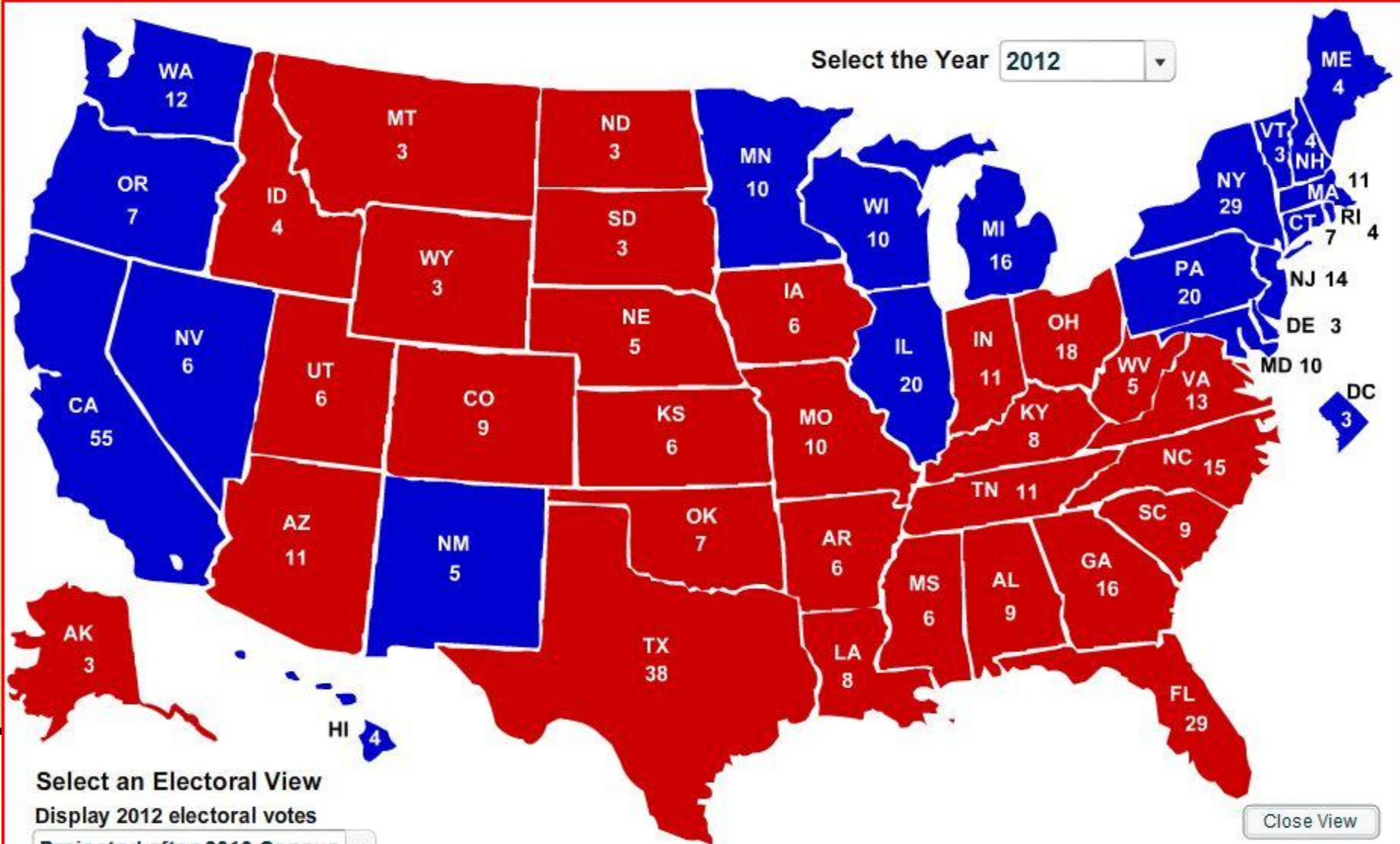
Electoral College Background

- **A. Some framers of the Constitution thought the president should be elected by the people**
- **B. Others thought the general population lacked the intelligence to pick the president**
- **C. Electoral College was the compromise**

Electoral College Make-up

- A. Each state has the same amount of electors as it has Senators and Congressmen/Congresswomen.
- B. For example, California has 53 Congressmen + 2 Senators = 55 Electors
- C. The next biggest: Texas = 38; Florida = 29; N.Y.= 29





Select an Electoral View
Display 2012 electoral votes
Projected after 2010 Census

Close View



2012 User-Generated Map

Reset View



Electoral College Make-up

- D. **Total of 538 members** of the Electoral College: 435 Representatives + 100 Senators + 3 for Washington, D.C.
- E. The political party leaders of each state choose their most loyal members to be part of the Electoral College.



How it Works

- A. A candidate needs 270 electoral votes to win an election ($\frac{1}{2}$ of 538 +1)
- B. It's a **winner-takes-all system** with ALL a state's electoral votes going to the candidate whom receives a majority of the popular vote (except Maine and Nebraska)

How it Works

C. After the election, the electors of the candidate who won the popular vote meet in their state's capitol and cast their ballots for president.

D. Ties are settled by a vote of the House of Representatives.

E. A president has lost the popular vote three times in our nation's 56 Presidential elections. The most recent was the 2000 election.

What Happened in the 2000 Election?

A. As polls closed: **Gore** = 255 Electoral
Votes

Bush = 246 Electoral
Votes

B. Florida, with its 25 Electoral votes
was too close to call. Who ever wins
Florida wins the election.