

## The Election of 2000

Review carefully the table below then answer the questions that follow

| Political Party | Presidential Nominee | Electoral College Vote | Electoral College Vote Percent | Popular Vote Count | Popular Vote Percent |
|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Republican      | George W. Bush       | 271                    | 50.4                           | 50,456,062         | 47.9                 |
| Democratic      | Albert Gore Jr.      | 266                    | 49.4                           | 50,996,582         | 48.4                 |
| Green           | Ralph Nader          | 0                      | 0.0                            | 2,858,843          | 2.7                  |

Source: National Archives and Records Administration, 2000 Presidential Election (adapted)

Which generalization about United States presidential elections is most clearly supported by the data in this chart?

- (A) A candidate can win the election without a majority of the popular vote
- (B) Third-party candidates have no effect without a majority of the popular vote
- (C) Electoral college votes have no effect on presidential elections
- (D) Voter participation in national elections is declining

**The correct answer is A** – a candidate can win the election without a majority of the popular vote and the Election of 2000 was an example of this situation.

1. Do you think that this situation is fair? (explain)

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2. *“For the people, by the people”* can be considered a statement that is for the change in Presidential Elections from the Electoral College System to an election where the Popular Vote winner becomes the next President. Do you think this change is necessary? (explain)

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3. What process has to take place in American government if there is a change to be made in the way we vote for a President and is it worth going through this process to change the way we vote for a new leader of the nation?

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