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## 2008: Assembly's Recommendation

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## **2008 Assembly's Recommendation**

### **Is it time to change the way we elect the President?**

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The members of EKU's first CACTUS (Citizens' Assembly for Critical Thinking about the United States, POL 301) have carefully deliberated about the issue for electing the President and have concluded that our current Electoral College is not the best electoral system for the United States. We feel the "winner-take-all" system for allotting electoral votes whereby the candidate receiving the most popular votes in a state receives all of the state's electoral votes is unnecessary and we propose that states instead use the "district plan". In this plan, the candidate receiving the most popular votes in a state would be awarded two electoral votes while the state's remaining electoral votes would be awarded to the candidate receiving the most popular votes in each of the state's congressional (U.S. House) districts (see example below). Furthermore, we decided that the electors in our current system are obsolete and should be replaced with numbers. Finally, our proposal changes the "contingency plan" that provides the process for choosing a president when no candidate receives a majority of the electoral votes. Rather than having just the House of Representatives (with each state getting one vote) pick a president under these conditions, we propose giving each member of Congress (both House and Senate) a vote.

We believe that this "Automatic-District Plan" offers a significant improvement over the current electoral college system. Most notably, we believe that it would enhance representation of the electorate and add legitimacy to the president while still preserving a commitment to the country's heritage, including our commitment to federalism.

For additional information about CACTUS and our decision, please see our [final report](#).

#### Example:

Kentucky has six congressional districts and eight total electoral votes. Suppose in the 2008 election Candidate A wins the state and beats Candidate B in four of the state's six districts while Candidate B wins the other two districts. Under our plan, Candidate A would receive six electoral votes and Candidate B would receive two (while under the current system Candidate A would get all eight of Kentucky's electoral votes).