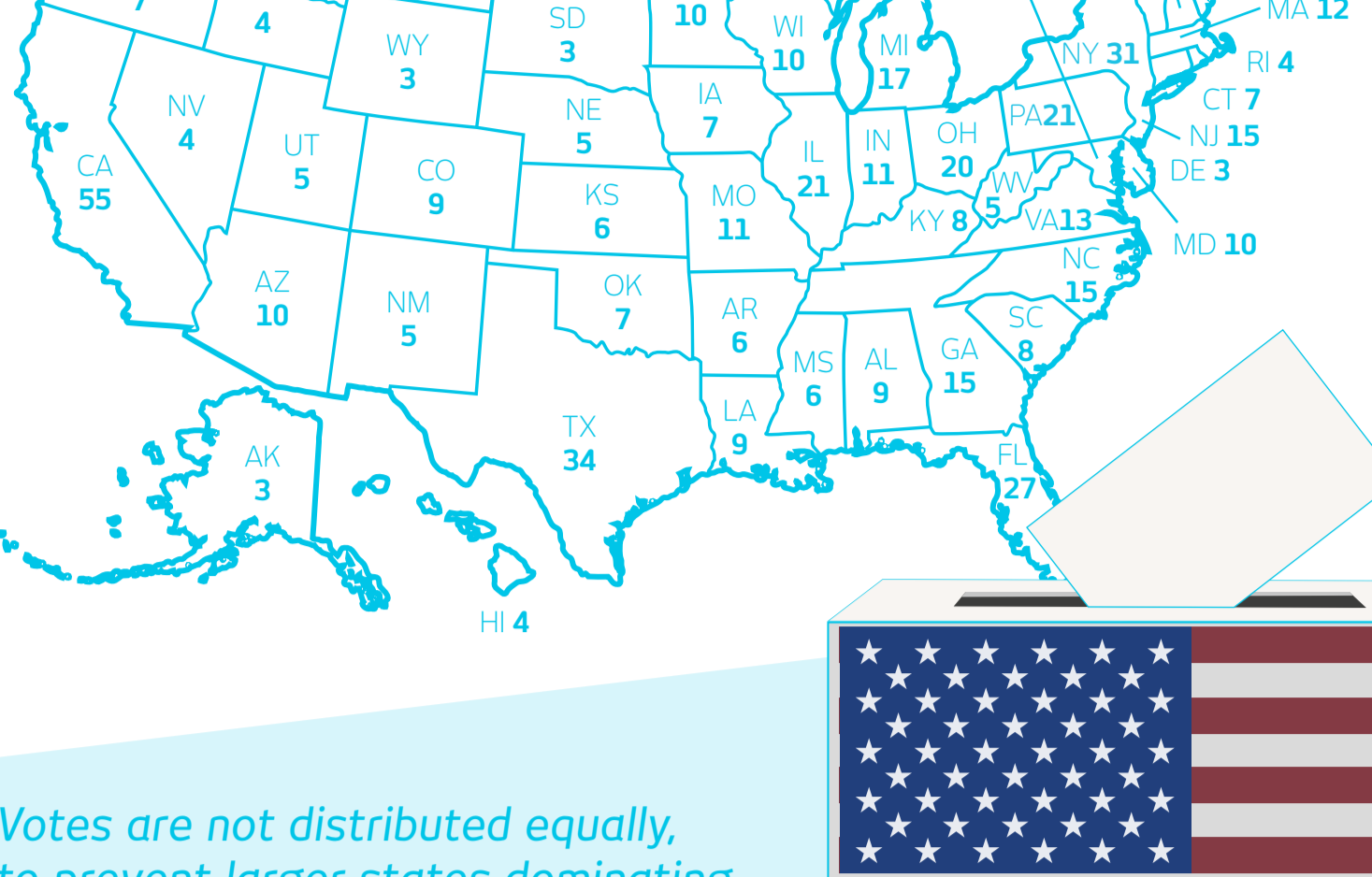


HOW THE US ELECTION WORKS

WHAT IS THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE?

The electoral college is the unique method used for indirectly electing the president of the United States.

Each state has a number of college votes based on its population.



Votes are not distributed equally, to prevent larger states dominating smaller ones.

★ ★ ★ FOR EXAMPLE ★ ★ ★
one electoral vote for every

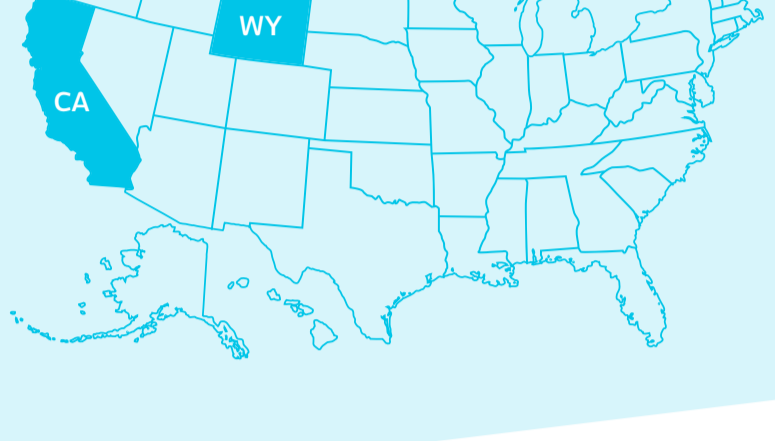
662,865

PEOPLE IN CALIFORNIA

compared to one for every

171,668

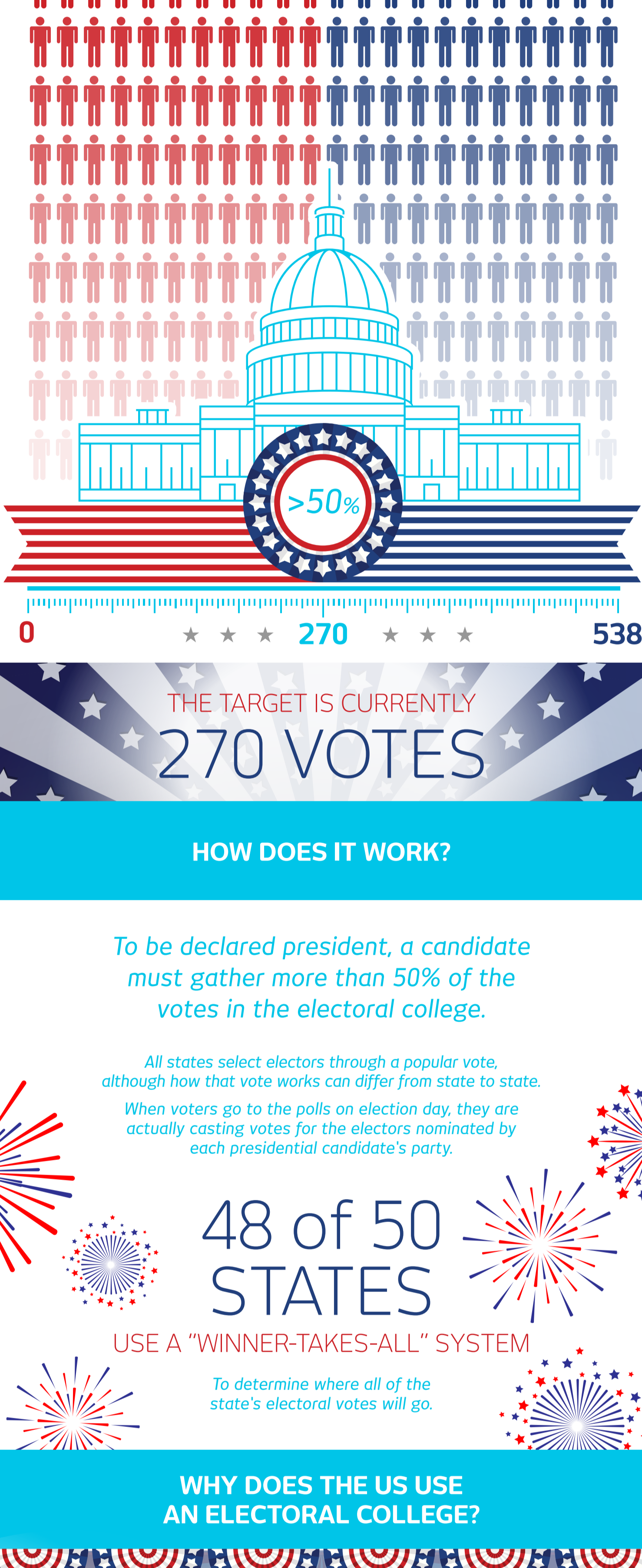
IN WYOMING



There are currently

538 MEMBERS

of the electoral college including three additional electors representing Washington DC



THE TARGET IS CURRENTLY

270 VOTES

HOW DOES IT WORK?

To be declared president, a candidate must gather more than 50% of the votes in the electoral college.

All states select electors through a popular vote, although how that vote works can differ from state to state.

When voters go to the polls on election day, they are actually casting votes for the electors nominated by each presidential candidate's party.

48 of 50 STATES

USE A "WINNER-TAKES-ALL" SYSTEM

To determine where all of the state's electoral votes will go.

WHY DOES THE US USE AN ELECTORAL COLLEGE?

"The people are uninformed, and would be misled by a few designing men"

ELBRIDGE GERRY
Massachusetts delegate,
Constitutional Convention of 1787

Most of the founders of the US constitution did not feel that the population could be trusted in the direct election of their executive officers, and looked for alternatives:

1. Congress selects the president and vice-president. **REJECTED**
2. The executives of the states select the president. **REJECTED**
3. State legislatures select "electors" from among their citizens who would vote for the president and vice-president. **APPROVED**

THIS COMPROMISE WAS CHOSEN TO PRESERVE TWO FOUNDING CONCEPTS OF THE US:

fed·er·al·ism
/'federalɪz(ə)m/

the states being represented by the electors

re·pub·lic·an·ism
[ri-puhb-li-kuh-niz-uhm]

the people voting for the electors directly or having their elected state representatives choose them

ELECTION TIMELINE 2016-2017

SPRING

Each party chooses their electors

8 NOV

The general election takes place

13 DEC

All disputed results must be resolved by this date

19 DEC

Electoral college casts votes and sends them to Washington

6 JAN

Congress meets to count the votes and the president-elect is declared

20 JAN

The 45th President of the United States is inaugurated

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