

## Does the Presidential Electoral College vote always represent the Presidential general election vote? Are they even close?

Below are the popular and electoral votes for each candidate in the last four elections. Aside from vote totals, how should you compare the votes for each candidate? Go ahead and do so, we left you room in each data table. For each election and table of data, decide and discuss how well the electoral vote represented the popular vote.

Finally, we will ask: In which of these four elections was the Electoral College most representative of the popular vote? Which was it least? Be sure to justify your reasoning.

### \*\*\* 2016 Presidential election votes \*\*\*

Presidential Candidate	Vice Presidential Candidate	Political Party	Popular Vote		Electoral Vote	
Donald J. Trump	Michael R. Pence	Republican	62,985,153		304	
Hillary Clinton	Tim Kaine	Democratic	65,853,677		227	
Write-ins	-	-	1,171,436		7	
Gary Johnson	William F. Weld	Libertarian	4,489,359		0	
Dr. Jill Stein	Ajamu Baraka	Green	1,457,288		0	
Evan McMullin	Mindy Finn	Independent	732,409		0	
Other (+)	-	-	453,896		0	
			137,143,218		538	

1. How well did the Electoral College votes in 2016 represent the general election votes? Please explain.

### \*\*\* 2012 Presidential election votes \*\*\*

Presidential Candidate	Vice Presidential Candidate	Political Party	Popular Vote		Electoral Vote	
Barack Obama (Incumbent)	Joe Biden	Democratic	65,915,795		332	
Mitt Romney	Paul Ryan	Republican	60,933,504		206	
Gary Johnson	James P. Gray	Libertarian	1,275,971		0	
Jill Stein	Cheri Honkala	Green	469,627		0	
Other (+)	-	-	490,513		0	
			129,085,410		538	

2. How well did the Electoral College votes in 2012 represent the general election votes? Please explain.

\*\*\* 2008 Presidential election votes \*\*\*

Presidential Candidate	Vice Presidential Candidate	Political Party	Popular Vote		Electoral Vote	
Barack H. Obama	Joseph R. Biden, Jr.	Democratic	69,499,428		365	
John S. McCain, III	Sarah H. Palin	Republican	59,950,323		173	
Ralph Nader	Matt Gonzalez	Independent	739,278		0	
Bob Barr	Wayne Allyn Root	Libertarian	523,433		0	
Other (+)	-	-	750,660		0	
			131,463,122		538	

2. How well did the Electoral College votes in 2008 represent the general election votes? Please explain.

\*\*\*\*\* 2004 Presidential election votes \*\*\*\*\*

Presidential Candidate	Vice Presidential Candidate	Political Party	Popular Vote		Electoral Vote	
George W. Bush	Richard Cheney	Republican	62,040,610		286	
John Kerry	John Edwards	Democratic	59,028,439		251	
Ralph Nader	Peter Camejo	Independent	463,655		0	
Michael Badnarik	Richard Campagna	Libertarian	397,265		0	
Other (+)	-	-	363,579		0	
			122,293,548		537	

3. How well did the Electoral College votes in 2004 represent the general election votes? Please explain.

4. In which of these four elections was the Electoral College most representative of the popular vote? Which was it least? Be sure to justify your reasoning.

Sources: <http://uselectionatlas.org/RESULTS/>  
<http://usgovinfo.about.com/od/thepoliticalsystem/a/electcollege.htm>