

THREE LECTURES LEFT...

MR. POGREBA, PARKER SCHOOL
Unit 8: Political Participation
Elections

QUICK REVIEW

- ▶ Four broad ideologies still drive the American national election process.
 - ▶ **Popular sovereignty**
 - ▶ **Individualism**
 - ▶ **Republicanism**
 - ▶ **Federalism**
- ▶ Take a moment to review the four. Define and provide a reason why they are essential to the way we elect candidates.

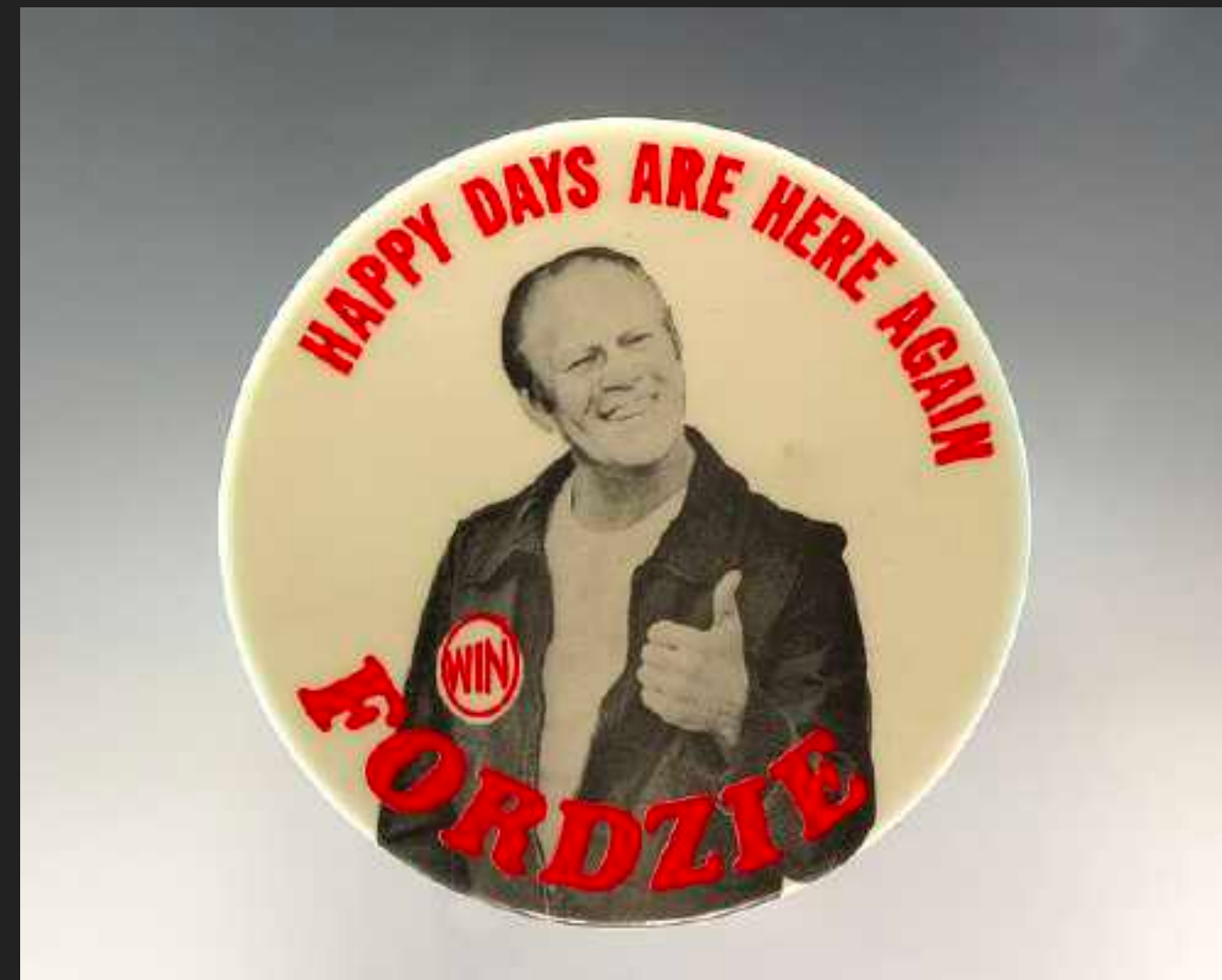




Presidential Elections

BEFORE THE ELECTION

- ▶ Before a candidate decides to run, she faces **the invisible primary**: the somewhat bizarre process by which a combination of **media coverage** and **fundraising** determine whether a candidate is **viable**.
- ▶ **Incumbents** have a series of advantages:
 - ▶ Bully pulpit
 - ▶ Network of campaign donors/staff
 - ▶ Four years of experience
- ▶ Incumbent success rests most often on **approval rating**.



PRIMARIES & CAUCUSES

- ▶ The race to be elected in both parties is a series of contests at the state level.
- ▶ **Primaries** are elections for registered voters.
 - ▶ What is the difference between an **open**, **closed**, and **blanket/jungle** primary?
- ▶ **Caucuses** are meetings where people give speeches, persuade, and negotiate for candidate support.
 - ▶ These are very time-consuming and tend to represent the views of more partisan voters.



IOWA AND NEW HAMPSHIRE

- ▶ **Iowa** is the first caucus every four years.
- ▶ **New Hampshire** is, by state law, the **first primary** every four years.
- ▶ Other states have moved their primaries up in the calendar, too, a **front-loading** that often sees primary season wrap up very early.
- ▶ Some have called for reforms like a national primary day or a few because IA and NH do not represent the nation.
 - ▶ Ethanol
 - ▶ Race
- ▶ **Super Tuesday** is an important early date when a lot of states hold their votes.



So My
Daughter
Knows

She Can Be
President.
Hillary 16

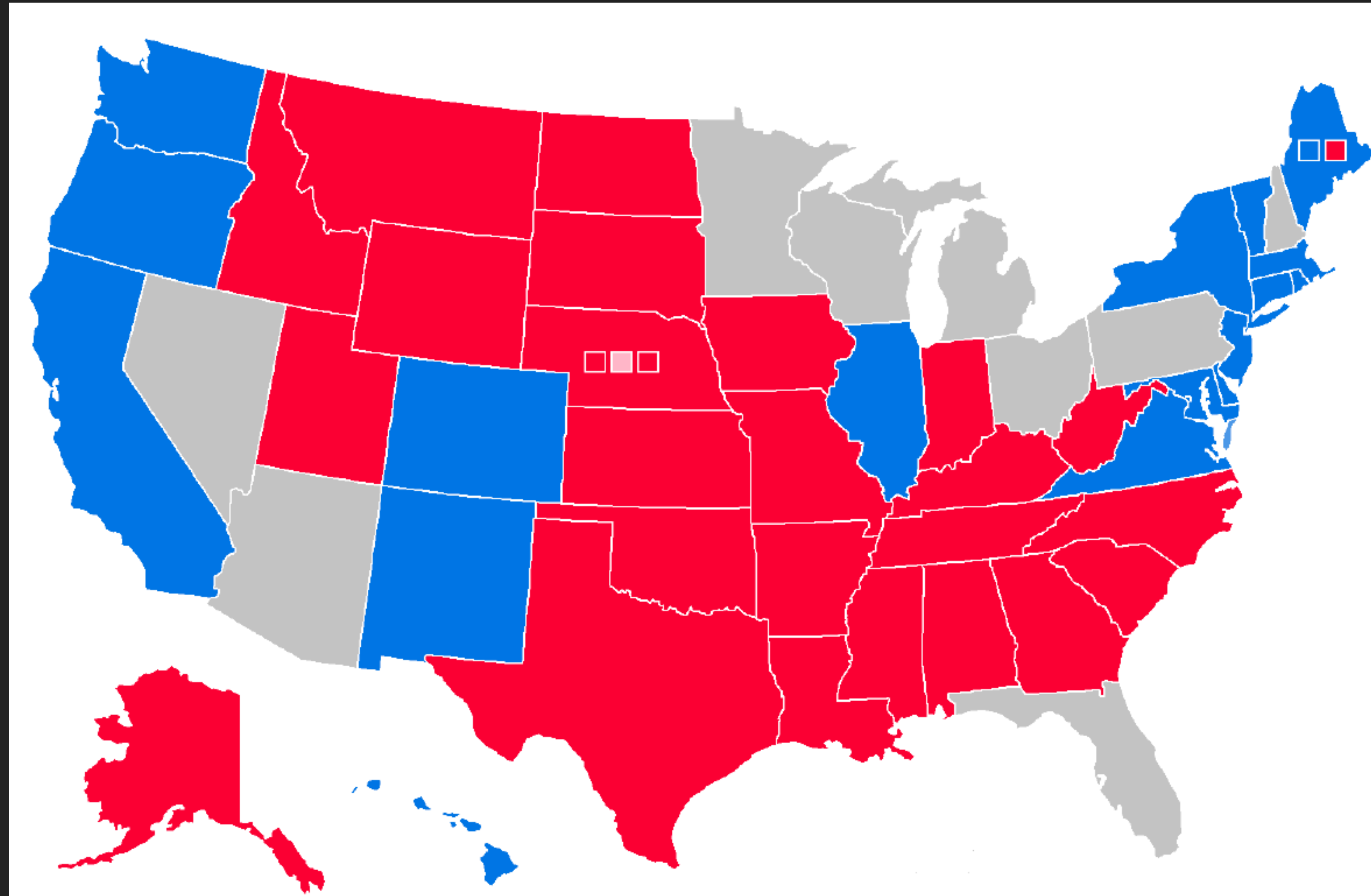
CONVENTIONS

- ▶ National conventions used to be intense affairs with backroom dealing. Today, the conventions usually only have manufactured drama as the nominee is already known.
- ▶ Review
 - ▶ Who are delegates?
 - ▶ Who are super delegates?



GENERAL ELECTION

- ▶ The presidential campaign is usually most intense between Labor Day and Election Day, the second Tuesday in November.
- ▶ Much of the energy is focused on **swing states**, states that could either vote for the Democratic or Republican candidate.
- ▶ Most advertising revenue and campaigning is spent in these states.
- ▶ In 2020, **85% of TV advertising for President** was spent in Florida, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Michigan, Wisconsin and Arizona.

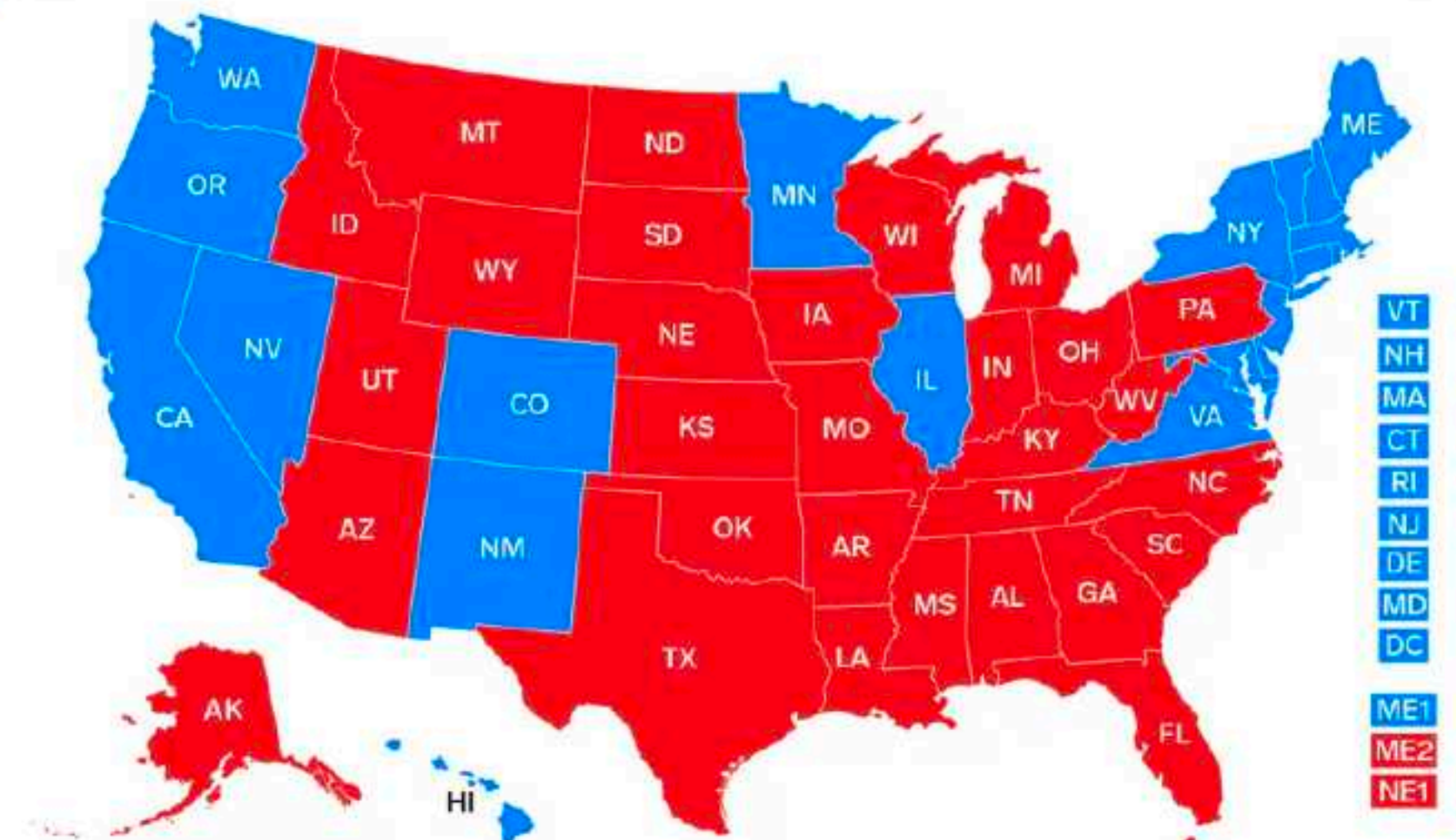
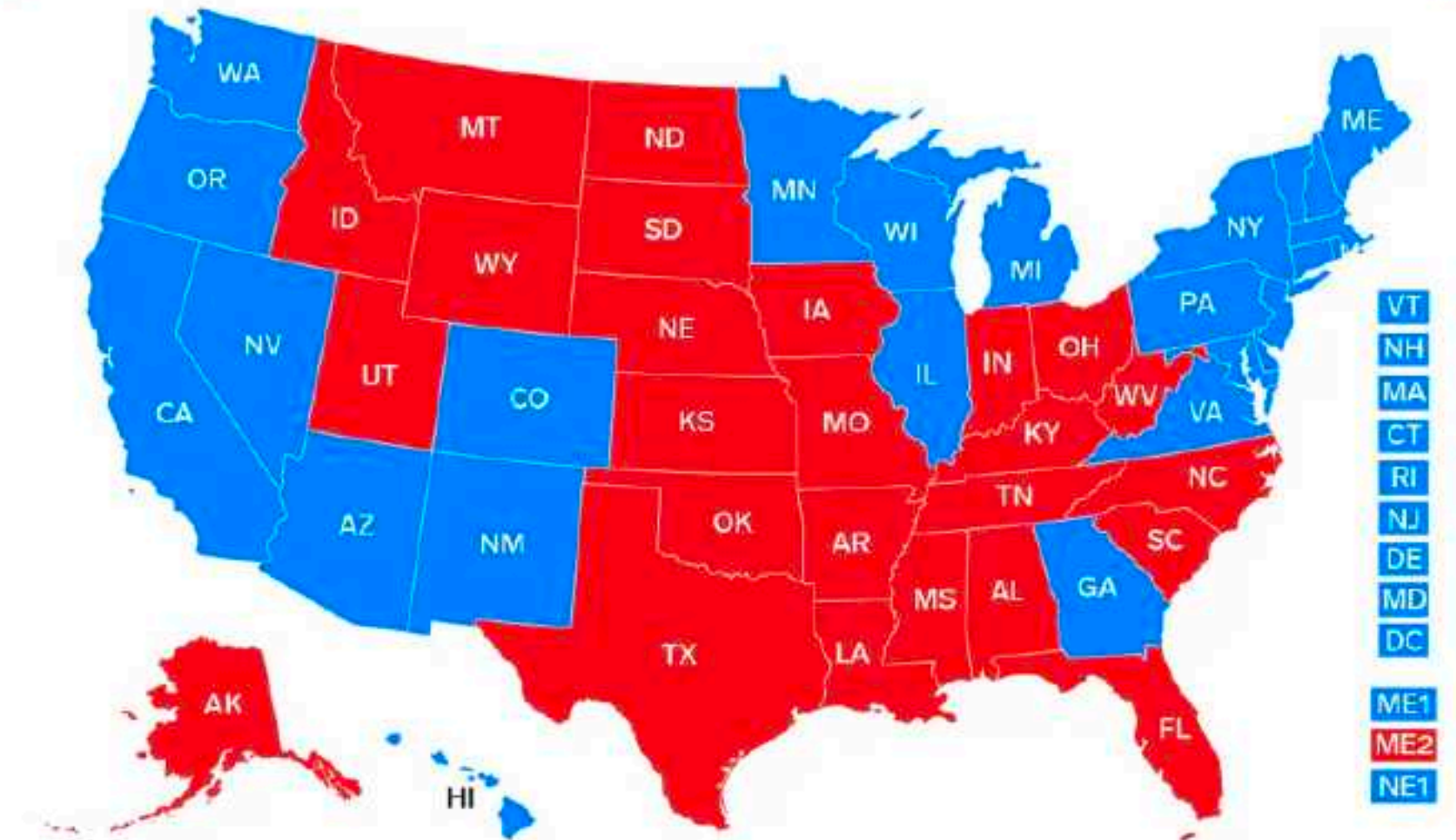


2020 SWING STATES

GENERAL ELECTION

ELECTORAL COLLEGE

- ▶ The prize, of course, is **270** votes in the **Electoral College**.
- ▶ Review: How did the **12th Amendment** change this?
- ▶ How did the **23rd Amendment**?
- ▶ In all but two states, electoral votes are **winner-takes all**.
- ▶ Five Presidents have been elected after winning the Electoral Vote and losing the popular vote.
- ▶ **60%** of Americans favor an amendment to end the Electoral College.



ARGUMENTS FOR EC

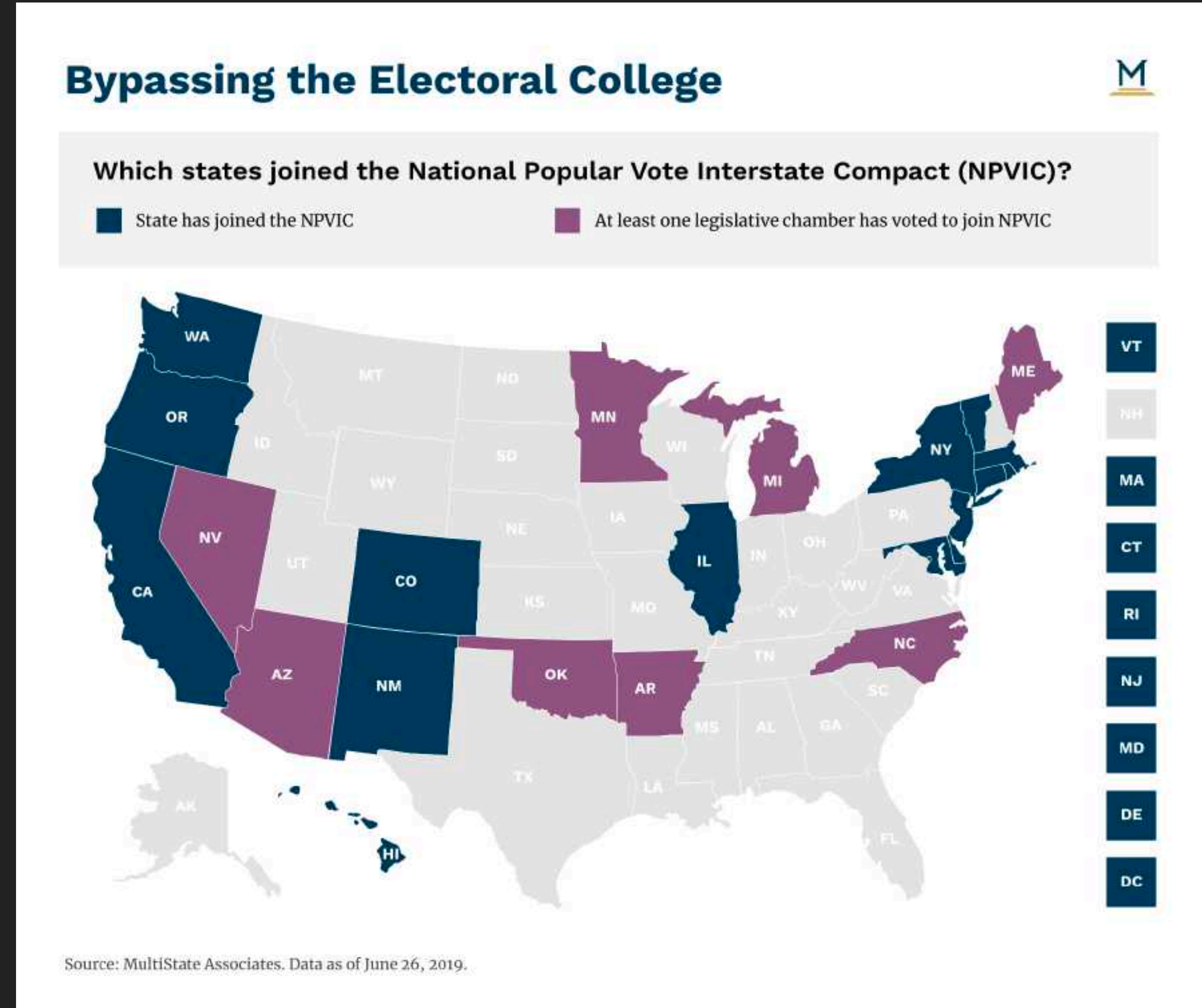
- ▶ Small population states are considered.
- ▶ Candidates must address the whole nation, not just a handful of large states.
- ▶ Rural voters would be ignored without the college.
- ▶ The founders argued it was a check on the passions of the people.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST EC

- ▶ The system violates proportional representation.
 - ▶ One electoral college vote in Wyoming represents **193,000 votes in Wyoming and 700,000 in California.**
 - ▶ The EC dilutes the votes of people of color.
 - ▶ One study found that Black votes are worth 15% less than white votes.
- ▶ The EC was created to perpetuate slavery.
- ▶ Candidates winning the popular vote but losing undermines faith in the system.

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE INTERSTATE COMPACT

- ▶ One interesting idea is the **National Popular Vote Interstate Compact**:
- ▶ 15 states plus D.C. have signed an interstate compact agreeing their states will send electors representing the winner of the popular vote once there are enough states to in the compact.
- ▶ Federalism in action?
- ▶ Unconstitutional?



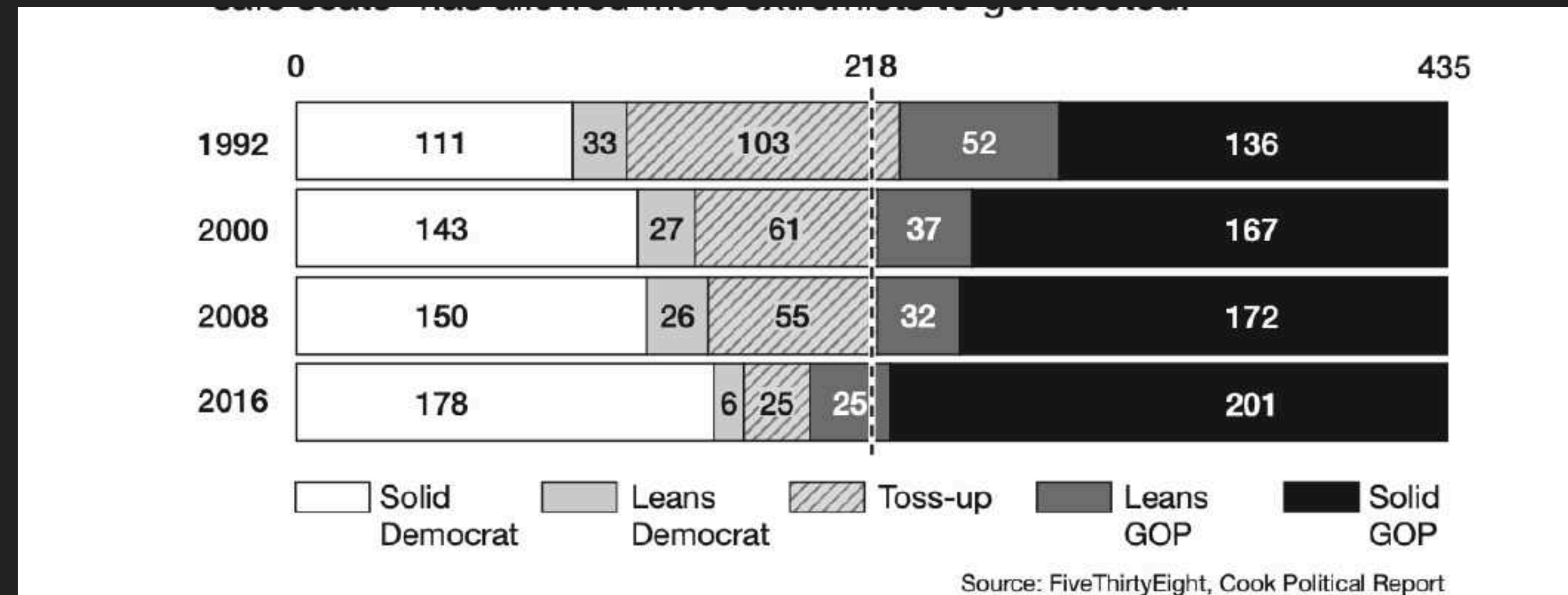


Congressional Elections



GENERAL INFORMATION

- ▶ **Every member of the House** has to face re-election every two years.
- ▶ **1/3 of the Senators** face re-election every two years, ensuring more continuity in the body.
- ▶ Senators must win election across the whole state; members of the House represent **districts** inside their states.
- ▶ **Gerrymandering** has created a situation where over 75% of House seats are considered **safe seats**, where either a D or R win is almost assured.



CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS

INCUMBENT ADVANTAGES

- ▶ House incumbents regularly win 94% of their races, Senate incumbents win 86% of the time.
 - ▶ Name recognition
 - ▶ PAC contributions break 12:1 for incumbents
 - ▶ House incumbents
 - ▶ Franking privilege
 - ▶ Media coverage
- ▶ Incumbents are more vulnerable during **mid-term elections** when they share the President's party.

