

Small States Are Almost Entirely Ignored in Presidential Elections Under Current State-by-State Winner-Take-All Rule

The states are arranged according to their number of electoral votes.

Electoral votes	State	2012 events	2016 events
3	Alaska		
3	Delaware		
3	District of Columbia		
3	Montana		
3	North Dakota		
3	South Dakota		
3	Vermont		
3	Wyoming		
4	New Hampshire	13	21
4	Maine		3
4	Hawaii		
4	Idaho		
4	Rhode Island		
5	New Mexico		3
5	Nebraska		2
5	West Virginia		
6	Iowa	27	21
6	Nevada	13	17
6	Mississippi		1
6	Utah		1
6	Arkansas		
6	Kansas		
7	Connecticut		1
7	Oklahoma		
7	Oregon		
8	Kentucky		
8	Louisiana		
9	Colorado	23	19
9	Alabama		
9	South Carolina		
10	Wisconsin	18	14
10	Minnesota	1	2
10	Missouri		2
10	Maryland		
11	Arizona		10
11	Indiana		2
11	Massachusetts		
11	Tennessee		
12	Washington		1
13	Virginia	36	23
14	New Jersey		
15	North Carolina	3	55
16	Michigan	1	22
16	Georgia		3
18	Ohio	73	48
20	Pennsylvania	5	54
20	Illinois		1
29	Florida	40	71
29	New York		
38	Texas		1
55	California		1
538	Total	253	399

• **In 2012, only 1 of the 13 smallest states** (3 or 4 electoral votes) received any of the 253 general-election campaign events, namely the closely divided battleground state of New Hampshire. The small states are ignored not because they are small, but because (except New Hampshire), they are one-party states in presidential elections.

• **In 2012, only 3 of the 25 smallest states** (7 or fewer electoral votes) received any of the general-election campaign events. The 3 states were the closely divided battleground states of New Hampshire, Iowa, and Nevada. Note that 80% of the general-election campaign events were focused on only 9 closely divided battleground states—mostly larger states. In fact, the winner-take-all method of awarding electoral votes shifts power from small states and medium-sized states to *bigger* states.

• **In 2016, only 2 of the 13 smallest states** (3 or 4 electoral votes) received any of the 399 general-election campaign events. New Hampshire received 21 because it was a closely divided battleground state. Maine (which awards electoral votes by congressional district) received 3 campaign events because its 2nd congressional district was closely divided (and, indeed, Trump carried it). All the other small states were ignored.

• **In 2016, only 4 of the 25 smallest states** (7 or fewer electoral votes) received any general-election campaign events. New Hampshire, Iowa, and Nevada received attention because they were closely divided battleground states. As previously mentioned, Maine received some attention because its 2nd congressional district was closely divided.

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