

# Count Those Votes!

Paragon School held an election. Examine the results.

Smith's Class

Green- 25 votes  
Miller- 5 votes

Brown's Class

Green- 13 votes  
Miller- 14 votes

Garcia's Class

Green- 19 votes  
Miller- 11 votes

Petrov's Class

Green- 52 votes  
Miller- 47 votes

Wilson's Class

Green- 13 votes  
Miller- 17 votes

Who are the **candidates** (people applying for the job) in this Election?

Who were the voters?

Who won the election? How do you know?

The school principal says Miller won the election. Do you agree with him? Why?



**popular vote** = all the people who voted

When we count the **popular vote**, we count the number of votes for each candidate. The candidate who gets more votes wins. Does this sound fair to you? Why?

So... how could the principal say that Miller won? How many classes are there? In how many classes did Green win? In how many classes did Miller win? Why did the principal say that Miller won?

Is this fair? Why?

**Founding Fathers**= men who created this country (U.S.)

When the **Founding Fathers** were deciding how America would work, some of them wanted **Congress**, the group of representatives who made the law, to choose the President. The members of **Congress** were educated and experienced- unlike many Americans!- and understood how government worked.

Do you think a Founding Father would still call people today uneducated and inexperienced? Why?

A representative



speaks for other people.

Other Founding Fathers wanted all the people to vote. The U.S. was going to be a democracy! They didn't want one small group, like Congress, to make the big decisions.



What might happen if one small group of people made all the big decisions?

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Also, the **Founding Fathers** were worried that candidates would only pay attention to the places that had the most voters, for example, huge cities like Boston and New York. Who would try to help the farmers who lived outside the cities in places with fewer people?

Why would a **candidate** work harder for places that had the most people?

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Look at the Paragon School classes. In a popular election, which class would you try hardest to win? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

**compromise** = both sides in an argument give a little and get a little



The **Founding Fathers** **compromised**. All the people would vote. However, each state would have a small group of people called **electors**. States with more people would have more **electors**. The **electors** would be **representatives** of the people who voted in the first election. In a second

election, **ALL** the **electors** would vote for whoever won the **popular vote**. That means that if Green won more of the votes in the popular election, **ALL** the **electors** would vote for Green. Even if Miller won thousands of votes in the **popular election**, he would get **NO electoral** votes.

Look at the Paragon School classes. If each class had 1 **electoral** vote, would there be one class you would try hardest to win? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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With **electoral** voting, **candidates** must win many states, not just the ones with the most voters.

In your opinion, was using **electors** a good compromise? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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In your opinion, is it fair that a person can win the popular vote but still not get to be President? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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Watch the VIDEO. Show what you know!