

Problems of Representation: How Reforms can Change Democracy

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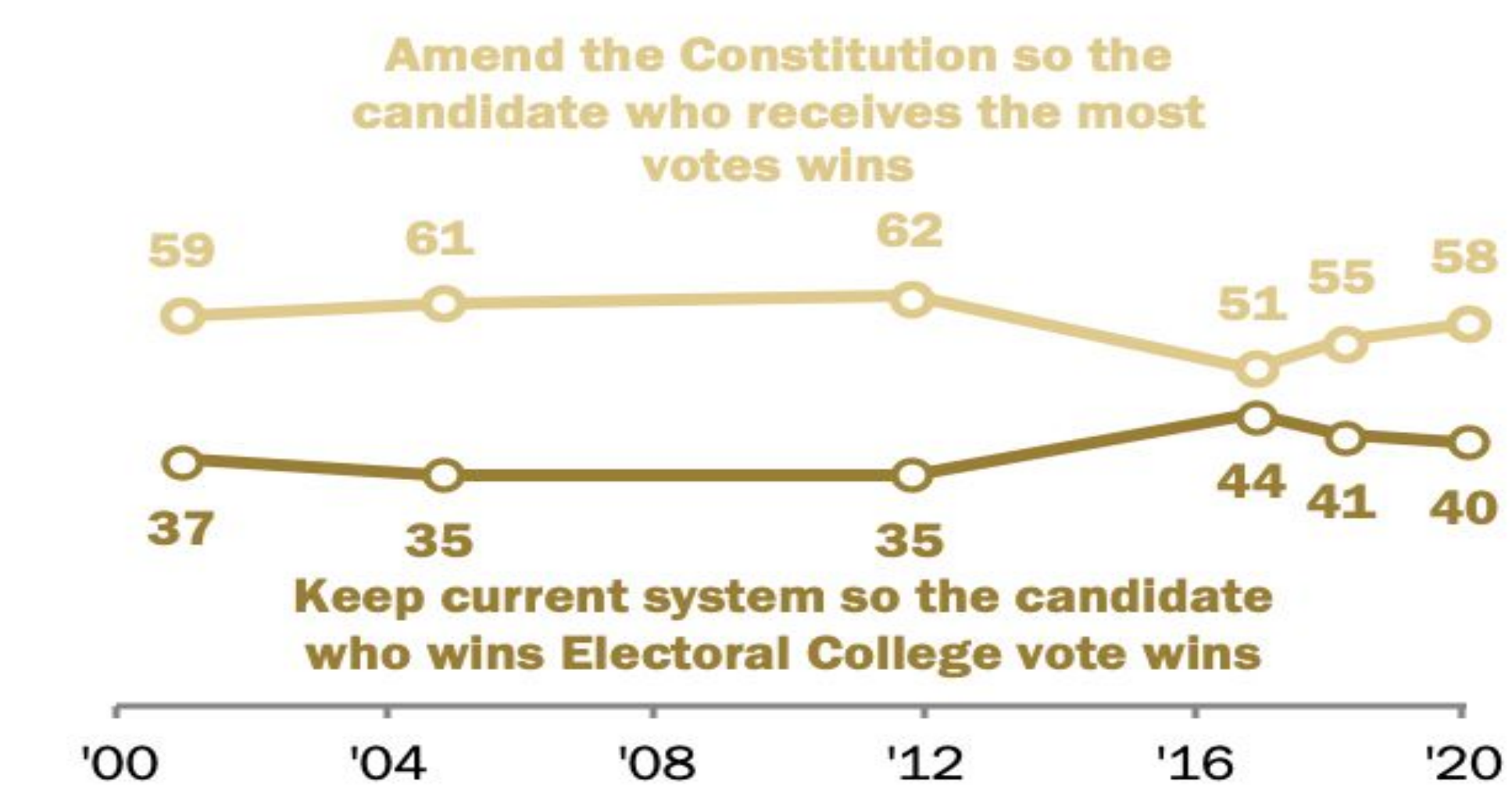
Abstract

The electoral system in America is inherently undemocratic due to campaign finance corruption and the electoral college. Due to super PACs and large corporations donating unlimited money to fund campaigns, the opinions and problems facing citizens aren't being heard. The United States is reliant on an electoral system that does not support the main goal of democracy; rule by the people. How successful would America be if regulations were put in place that would grant more power to the people?

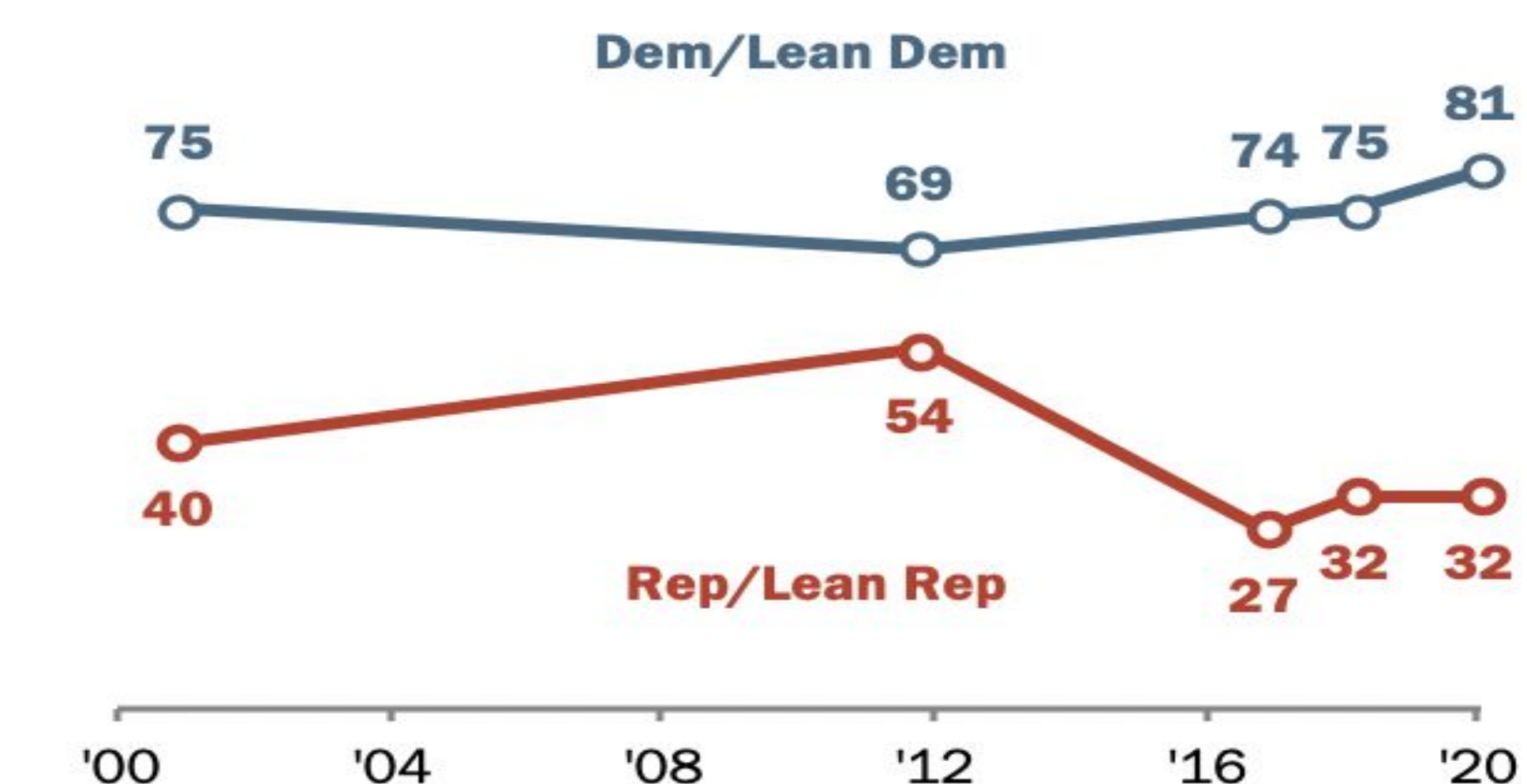
Public Opinion

Majority says candidate who gets the most popular votes should be president

Thinking about the way the president is elected in this country, would you prefer to ... (%)



% who say Constitution should be amended so the candidate who receives the most nationwide votes wins



Notes: 2020 data from Pew Research Center's online American Trends Panel; prior data from telephone surveys. Data for 2016 from CNN; data for 2000-2011 from Gallup. No answer responses not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 6-19, 2020.

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Reforming Laws

Reforms help make changes to structures already put in place, in order to improve it. It would require identifying the unconstitutionality of current laws, allowing the implementation of new ones. In order to make the current electoral system more democratic, I propose four changes to the electoral system that would give substantial power to every American citizen:

- Overturn the decision of Citizens United v. FEC.
- Require all states to adopt clean election programs.
- Replace the Electoral college with a popular-vote system.
- Elot each citizen a sum of money to donate to political campaigns they support.

Impact

Reforming the electoral system would drastically change how American live. This would guarantee that future presidents would be picked by a simple majority of citizens, give corporations and the elite less ability to fund campaigns, guarantee each citizen the opportunity to financially support campaigns they agree with, and create a more competitive presidential campaign for candidates. In contrast, this level of financial assistance requires sufficient funding through taxes. Also, the changes would require citizens to participate in the government much more than they currently do. Are citizens willing to participate more in their government if it was more democratic? If citizens do not donate their government elotted campaign money, how will campaigns get enough funding to compete? Can the average citizen stay informed enough to make the right political decisions?

Conclusion

The American electoral system is not representing the views of the majority of American citizens. Establishing clean election programs, a popular vote for elections, and creating government funding that will allow citizens to financially support candidates they agree with will allow citizens a much stronger voice for representation. If American politics does not allow the majority to make decisions for the greater good of the country, then what does it mean to truly be a democracy?

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