

## ABSTRACT

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Title: RESHAPING THE AMERICAN ELECTORAL COLLEGE:  
IDENTIFYING WHAT CAUSES THE ADOPTION OF ELECTORAL  
REFORM LEGISLATION

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This study explores what causes states to adopt electoral college reform, and how these factors/outcomes have changed over time. This research draws upon a mixture of secondary sources discussing what influenced Maine and Nebraska to enact the district system, as well as the primary sources of floor hearing discourses for when Connecticut and Washington D.C. decided to sign onto the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC). Upon examination of these documents, it becomes clear that the political party holding a majority in the state legislature when electoral reform is voted on, the prevalence of contested elections, and whether a state is considered to be “swing” or “safe” majorly affect if electoral reform will pass. With the finding of these factors, I gathered quantitative data to run a statistical analysis of the variables using SPSS software and see if my qualitative findings were reinforced numerically. Through the identification of what causes states to adopt electoral college reform and the transformation of these motives and ways of changing the electoral college over time, this research highlights useful predicting patters that extends beyond the scope of the district system and the NPVIC to other types of electoral reform efforts should they emerge.