



Jeff先生と Let's learn the world!



Hello, everyone. I thought the rainy season ending would bring some relief, but it just got even hotter. There's less humidity, but when the temperature goes over 35 that's no relief, at all. We've dealt without an air conditioner in our bedroom until now, but we finally gave in this year and had one installed. It'll raise our electric bill, but I think that's worth the relief it will bring at night.

America's presidential election is finally here. Trump and Biden are both running commercials, making phone calls, and putting their all into the election. So, do you all understand how America's presidential election works? Japan has a parliamentary system, so it's fair to say it's completely different.

First, each party selects its candidates. In America, there are two main parties: The Democrats and Republican parties. There are other smaller parties, but they receive little support, so typically people choose between two candidates. However, the election isn't decided just by the number of votes. Ultimately, the president is chosen by the electoral college as chosen by the states.

America was originally less of one unified country, and more of an alliance between 13 states, each having its own government, military, bank, and money. The Founding Fathers foresaw a number of problems in uniting these states. For example, let's say there are four states, A, B, C, and D. State A has a population of 10,000, and the

other three just 3,000. In an election, State A has a huge advantage. A candidate could focus purely on State A and ignore the other three. To give an extreme example, they might propose lowering State A's taxes, and raising the other States'.

In order to prevent such a problem as any one state gaining too much strength, the Founding Fathers created the electoral college. First, we have a general election. These votes are not directly for candidates, but for electors who are sworn to vote for a candidate. The number of electors in each state is decided by population. Currently, California has the most votes with 55, and eight states including Nebraska and Wyoming each have three. The candidate who gets the most votes in a state receives the state's electoral votes.

The winner of the general election typically wins the electoral college, but this has been reversed just four times in America's 250 year history. The most recent example was in 2016, when Hillary Clinton won by around 3 million votes, but Trump won the electoral college 304-227. As a result, the Democratic Party has frequently called to eliminate the electoral college, and this will likely be a contentious issue for some time.

So, did you understand all that? I think the electoral college is well-suited for a large, diverse country like America, but what do you all think? Would the electoral college be good for Japan? Until next time. - Jeff



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