

Lighting The Road To The Future

Eric Burt

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Data

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"The People's Paper"

Satchmo SummerFest 2024

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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Why it Really Matters

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Understanding the Electoral College Why it Really Matters Part 1

Presidential Politics 101



Jeff Thomas
Think504.com

The Electoral College is a unique and often misunderstood element of the American Political System. Created over two centuries ago, it plays a pivotal role in determining the outcome of presidential

elections. Sometimes, it leads to results that create controversy. Like how can a candidate get the most votes but still lose the election for the Presidency? In modern times, its relevance and effectiveness are hotly debated. Technological advancements have transformed how information is disseminated and how elections are conducted. Maybe we should just

let the people really decide. But let's look at what this whole Electoral College thing is all about.

What is the Electoral College?

The Electoral College is not a physical place, but a process established by the Constitution. It comprises of 538 electors. Each state has electors equal to its total

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number of Senators and Representatives in Congress. Washington, D.C. also has three electors. To win the presidency, a candidate must secure a majority of electoral votes, at least 270.

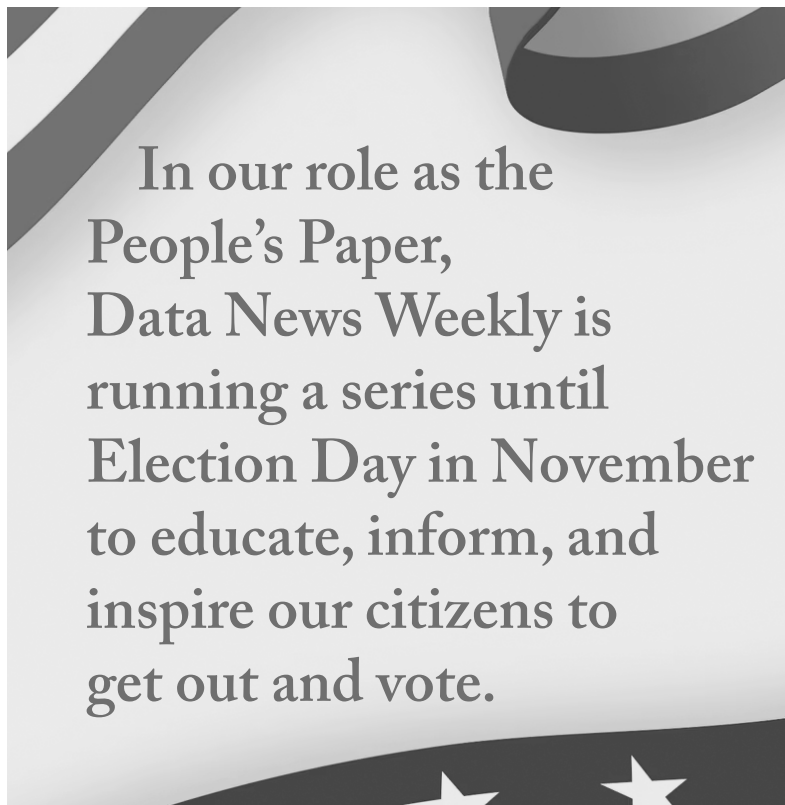
Why Was the Electoral College Created?

The Founding Fathers created the Electoral College for several reasons:

1. **Compromise:** It was a middle ground between electing the president by a Congress vote and by a direct popular vote.
2. **Fear of Direct Democracy:** There was concern that a direct election could lead to mob rule or the election of a demagogue.
3. **State Influence:** It ensures that smaller states have a voice in the election, preventing more populous states from dominating the process.

How Does It Determine the President?

When Americans vote in presidential elections, they vote for a slate of electors chosen by their party who have pledged to support that



party's candidate. These electors then cast their votes for president. In most states, the winner of the popular vote receives all the state's electoral votes (winner-takes-all system). Only Maine and Nebraska

use a proportional method.

Popular Vote vs. Electoral College

A candidate can win the popular vote yet lose the electoral college

due to the distribution of electoral votes. This has happened in several elections, most recently in 2000 and 2016. A candidate winning large margins in populous states may have millions more votes nationally, but if they lose narrowly in several key states, they can lose the electoral vote.

Swing States and Their Significance

In modern elections, the Electoral College turns states like Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Arizona, Michigan, North Carolina, and Georgia into crucial battlegrounds. Strategists call these swing states.

What is a Swing State?

A swing state is one where both major political parties have similar levels of support among voters. These states are not reliably Republican or Democratic, making them highly competitive and pivotal in deciding the election outcome. Candidates focus significant resources and campaign efforts on these states, as winning them can be the key to securing the necessary electoral votes.

Modern Technology and the Electoral College

Advancements in technology, particularly the internet and social media, have drastically changed how candidates run campaigns and how voters access information. Some argue that these changes make the Electoral College obsolete. With instant communication and widespread access to information, the original concerns about informed voting are less relevant. National campaigns can reach every corner of the country, making a direct popular vote more feasible and reflective of the voters' will.

The Electoral College's Influence on Current Elections

The Electoral College continues to shape campaign strategies and voter behavior. In the current election cycle, candidates focus heavily on swing states, often tailoring messages and policies to appeal to specific state issues. This focus can lead to neglect of states perceived as solidly Republican or Democratic, skewing national policy priorities.

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Satchmo SummerFest 2024

Photos by Demian Roberts

The 24th Annual Satchmo SummerFest took place on August 3rd and 4th, 2024, at the New Orleans Jazz Museum at the Old U.S. Mint. The festival celebrates the life and legacy of Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong with a variety of activities, including over two dozen musical performances, culinary delights, and educational sessions. A great time was had by all, and Data News Weekly was there to capture the highlights of this incredible event.



George Brown Band



Eric Burt

Eric Burt received an award in recognition of his 30 years as stage manager for French Quarter Festival. That includes all 24 years of Satchmo SummerFest.



Doreen Ketchens



Donald Harrison and Tanya Boyd Cannon plus Choppa



Nayo Jones 3



Ronell Johnson



Anthony "Little Fats" Jackson



Charmaine Neville



Roots of Music

White Linen 2024

Fleur De Lis
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Photos by
I.G. Flowers Photography

White Linen Night in New Orleans for 2024 took place on August 3rd from 5-10 p.m. in the Historic Warehouse Arts District. This year marked the 30th Anniversary of the event, which was founded by the Arts District New Orleans (ADNO) in 1994. The event spanned the 300-600 blocks of Julia Street and the 500 block of Saint Joseph Street.

Attendees dressed in white linen while they enjoyed art installations, gallery exhibitions, food, and drinks from local vendors. The event included participation from member galleries off-Julia, the Contemporary Arts Center, and the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, each hosting new exhibitions featuring regional artists.



Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events.

Democratic Presidential Nominee Kamala Harris Picks Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz as Running Mate

Data News Staff Edited Report

Vice President Kamala Harris has selected Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz as her Vice-Presidential running mate, according to three sources with knowledge of the pick, adding a popular Midwestern State Executive to the Democratic ticket as the party gears up to hold onto key Northern battleground states this fall.

In picking Walz, who's in his second term and also served 12 years in Congress, Harris will have as her No. 2 someone with a proven record of winning over White working-class voters in Rust Belt states while also boasting a robustly progressive record.

Now Harris has chosen a governing partner who has leaned in at times to a folksy, Midwestern reputation while also proving to be a reliable attack dog against Trump.

Walz, a Nebraska native, enlisted in the National Guard when he was 17 and served for more than two decades, with both domestic and overseas deployments. He later was a high school social studies teacher and football coach in Mankato, about 80 miles south of Minneapolis, before he won a congressional seat in a largely rural and agricul-



Democratic Party Presidential Nominee Kamala Harris has selected Minnesota Governor Tim Walz as her Vice-Presidential pick in the 2024 race for the White House.

tural district in 2006.

Walz's allies have spoken frequently about how his background representing rural communities is much needed in the party, noting that he won re-election in a red-trending district — one that was about evenly divided in 2012 but swung heavily to Trump in 2016 — and could help Democrats compete for some moderate or conservative voters skeptical of Trump this time around.

As governor, Walz has overseen

a bonanza of progressive policy accomplishments — particularly during his second term, during which Democrats have also controlled both Chambers of the Legislature.

He has signed laws protecting abortion rights, legalizing recreational marijuana, restricting gun access and providing legal refuge to trans youths whose access to gender-affirming and other medical care has been restricted elsewhere. Progressives elsewhere have point-

ed to Minnesota as a case study in how to effectively use the power of a legislative trifecta to achieve policy priorities.

Walz also enacted laws expanding paid family leave, banning most non-compete agreements, providing universal school meals for students and capping the price of insulin in Minnesota (three years before Biden did it nationally) — a list of legislative wins his colleagues and supporters have

said would translate nationally.

Walz doesn't have the same degree of name recognition as many of his presumed competitors to be Harris' running mate, though he spent a year leading fundraising efforts for Democratic Governors as Chair of the Democratic Governors Association. In recent days, Walz has turned up the publicity dial, trying out attack lines against Trump and Sen. JD Vance in a slew of media appearances.

In a late July interview on MSNBC's "Morning Joe," he ripped Trump and Vance as "weird," gaining wider notice. Harris herself began using the "weird" line almost immediately.

"It's not about hate. It's not about collapsing in. The golden rule there is mind your own damn business," Walz said, adding that Republican "policies are what destroyed rural America. They divided us. They're in our exam rooms. They're telling us what books to read."

"And what I think, what Kamala Harris knows is bringing people together around the shared values, strong public schools, strong labor unions that create the middle class, health care that's affordable and accessible, those are the things," Walz said.

State & Local News

Community Group Promotes Marcus Garvey Memorial

Muhammad Yungai
President Garvey Committee/
UNIA-ACL Division 466

The Universal Improvement Association and African Communities League [UNIA-ACL], New Orleans Division 466 has re-organized and embarked upon a significant project in our community. This involves creating a memorial at the Governor Nicholl's Street Wharf for our esteemed ancestor, the Most Honorable Marcus Mosiah Garvey!

Those who know the history know that he was deported from a ship docked at this wharf in the year 1927. Many of us who have worked with the Garvey Committee and the UNIA-ACL have heard



Marcus Garvey

personal testimony from some of our now deceased elders about that particular day. Mother Dara Abubakari and Mother Estelle James are among them.

Our efforts coincide with an initiative by the City of New Orleans and the Audubon Nature Institute to extend the "Moonwalk" all the way to the Spain St. which includes the Gov. Nicholls Street Wharf, according to initial publicity about the project. Preliminary work has already begun on the project, although there is much more work to be done! This is a good time for our input to be impactful and give us the best opportunity for success!

We definitely need, and are asking for, the support of the community to ensure that success! For more information regarding this project contact garveyuniaac1466@gmail.com

Michael E.L. Roberson
of

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condolences to his family
and friends.*

Sincerely,
Terry B. Jones
and

Data News Weekly.

NABJ Convention Controversial Appearance by Donald Trump turns Chaotic, Condemned by Leaders of the Black Press

Leaders of the Black Press Condemn Comments and Behavior of GOP Nominee for President

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

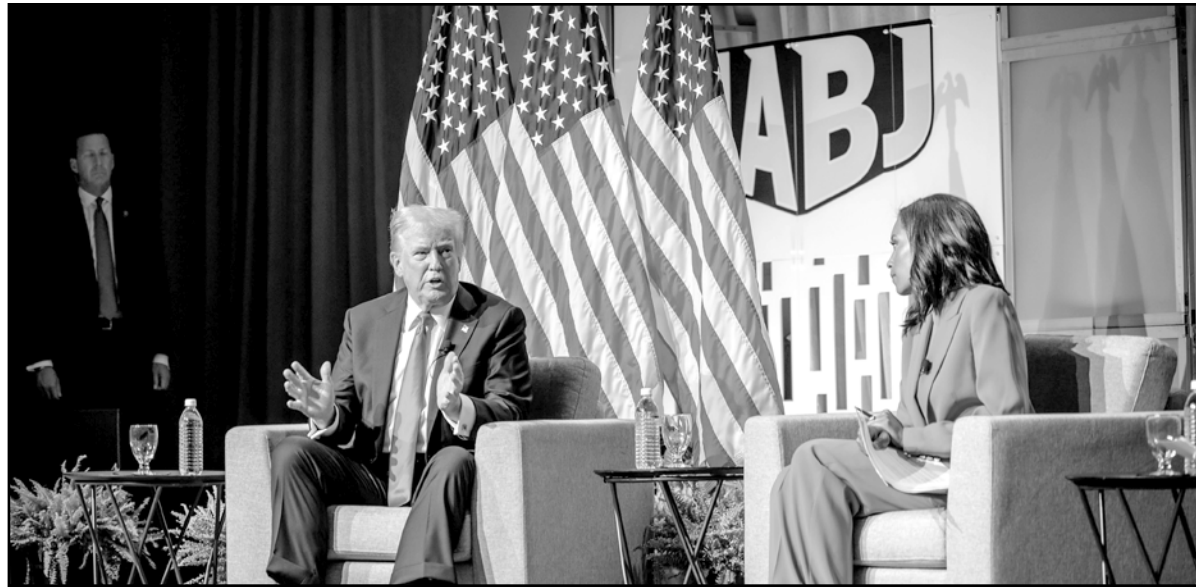
Donald Trump's controversial appearance at the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) Annual Convention in Chicago may have been even more of a disaster than most had anticipated. The nasty vitriol, the twice-impeached former president immediately brought, should only heighten calls for the hierarchy of NABJ to resign.

The disgraceful event began with tension as well-respected ABC News Journalist Rachel Scott asked Trump about his past racist comments and why Black voters should trust him. "First of all, I don't think I've ever been asked a question in such a horrible manner," Trump responded. His statement was met with audible gasps from the audience, setting a combative tone for the 34-minute discussion that followed a nearly hour-long delay.

During the discussion, Trump, among his many rant-filled and off the rail's diatribes, questioned Vice President Kamala Harris's racial identity, asking, "Is she Indian or is she Black?" He falsely claimed that Harris, who has long identified as Black and attended a Historically Black University, previously identified as Indian before "all of a sudden" becoming Black. White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre condemned Trump's comments as "repulsive" and "insulting," asserting that "no one has any right to tell someone who they are."

The 34 times convicted felon, and former president also reiterated his openness to pardoning January 6th rioters, stating, "If they're innocent, I would pardon them." When Scott drew attention to their convictions, Trump dissembled by asserting falsely that pro-Palestinian protesters had attacked the Capitol last week, confusing it with the recent protests at Washington, D.C.'s Union Station.

Trump also addressed his running mate, J.D. Vance, downplaying the significance of a running mate following Vance's controversial remarks about childless women. He also doubled-down on his insult to



African Americans by stating that illegal immigrants were taking "Black jobs," to which the audience again hissed and booed.

The aftermath of the event has led to significant fallout within the NABJ. Karen Attiah, a Washington Post Columnist and co-chair of the convention, resigned in protest over the decision to invite Trump. In her resignation announcement on X (formerly Twitter), Attiah expressed disappointment over not being consulted about the decision.

Prominent members of the journalism community also voiced their disapproval. Jim Trotter, a sports writer for The Athletic and NABJ's 2023 Journalist of the Year, called the decision "difficult to put into words." CBS Sports Analyst Ashley Nicole Moss, Journalist-turned-Publicist Dave Jordan, and Media Strategist April Reign joined the chorus of criticism.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) also condemned the invitation, with NNPA National Chair Bobby Henry and President & CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis denouncing the decision as harmful and contrary to NABJ's values of inclusion and solidarity. "They invited him to disrespect a Black woman and did nothing to protect or back her up," Journalist and Author David Dennis Jr. tweeted. "The single most disgraceful thing I've ever seen at NABJ."

Harris communication's Director Michael Tyler also de-

nounced Trump's hostile engagement with NABJ.

"The hostility Donald Trump showed on stage today is the same hostility he has shown throughout his life, throughout his term in office, and throughout his campaign for president as he seeks to regain power and inflict his harmful Project 2025 agenda on the American people," Tyler stated.

"Trump lobbed personal attacks

and insults at Black Journalists the same way he did throughout his presidency – while he failed Black families and left the entire country digging out of the ditch, he left us in. Donald Trump has already proven he cannot unite America, so he attempts to divide us. "Today's tirade is simply a taste of the chaos and division that has been a hallmark of Trump's MAGA rallies this entire campaign."



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