

TASK 10

Introduction

Before the 2016 election, NPR reported that a candidate could win with just 23% of the popular vote based on the 2012 data. My program's analysis confirms that candidates can consistently secure the presidency with only 20% to 30% of the popular vote, highlighting a significant flaw in the U.S. electoral system.

Findings

I calculated the minimum percentage of popular votes needed to win:

2020: 21.56%

2012: 21.09%

2008: 21.79%

1992: 21.94%

1980: 21.35%

1960: 17.56%

1940: 16.39%

These results reveal that a candidate can win with less than half of voter support, leading to scenarios where the majority loses.

Implications

- Electoral Strategy: Candidates focus on key states rather than the popular vote, skewing elections.
- Voters not voting: Potential for reduced voter turnout as individuals feel their votes carry less weight.
- Third-Party Viability: The system's structure makes the success of third-party candidates possible.

Recommendations

- Electoral Reform: Consider transitioning to a popular vote system to ensure equitable representation.
- Implement Ranked-Choice Voting: This would allow for broader candidate support and enhance third-party chances.

Conclusion

The electoral framework can lead to significant disparities between popular support and electoral success, emphasizing the need for reform to improve representation in the U.S.