

Independent Electoral Systems Researcher

Proposal for an Electoral College System in Ghana: Aligning with Parliamentary Constituencies

Introduction

Ghana's current presidential electoral system, based on a nationwide popular vote with a "50%+1" threshold, has served the country well since the Fourth Republic began. However, this system has also contributed to regional imbalances, uneven development, and a sense of exclusion among less populous regions (Opoku, 2022). This paper proposes the adoption of an Electoral College system, with the total number of electoral votes set at **275**-matching the number of parliamentary constituencies. This approach is designed to promote regional equity, national unity, and inclusive governance.

Current Electoral System: Strengths and Challenges

Ghana's electoral framework is widely regarded as transparent and credible (Electoral Commission of Ghana, 2025). However, the "50%+1" system encourages candidates to focus on high-population regions, often at the expense of smaller or less populous areas. This has led to:

- **Regional marginalization** and uneven development (Opoku, 2022).
- **Winner-takes-all politics**, which can fuel polarization.
- **Election integrity concerns** and occasional allegations of irregularities (ModernGhana, 2025).
- **Costly and time-consuming run-off elections** when no candidate secures an outright majority.

The Case for an Electoral College System Aligned with Constituencies

1. Regional Equity and Balanced Development

An Electoral College system that assigns one electoral vote per parliamentary constituency ensures that every region and locality has a meaningful voice in presidential elections. This compels candidates to campaign across the entire country, addressing the concerns of diverse communities and promoting balanced development (U.S. National Archives, n.d.).

2. Inclusive Governance and National Unity

By requiring candidates to win support across a broad range of constituencies, the system fosters national unity and reduces the risk of winner-takes-all politics. It empowers local communities and leaders, encouraging grassroots participation and civic engagement (ConstitutionNet, 2022).

3. Cost Savings and Efficiency

The current system often necessitates costly run-off elections. An Electoral College system, by establishing clear thresholds, can eliminate the need for run-offs, reducing the financial burden on the electoral process (Electoral Commission of Ghana, 2025).

4. Democratic Representation

This approach aligns presidential legitimacy with parliamentary representation, ensuring that the voice of every constituency is heard and valued. It promotes fairness, inclusivity, and evidence-based policymaking, as candidates must engage directly with local leaders and communities (ConstitutionNet, 2022).

Proposed Electoral College Model

- **Total Electoral Votes:** 275 (one per parliamentary constituency)
- **Allocation:** Each constituency is assigned one electoral vote. The candidate who wins the popular vote in a constituency receives its electoral vote.
- **Threshold for Presidency:** A candidate must win a majority of electoral votes (i.e., at least 138 out of 275) (U.S. National Archives, n.d.).

Example: How the System Would Work

Suppose there are two main presidential candidates, Candidate A and Candidate B. After the election:

- **Candidate A** wins the popular vote in 140 constituencies.
- **Candidate B** wins the popular vote in 135 constituencies.

Each constituency awards its single electoral vote to the candidate who wins locally. Therefore:

- **Candidate A** receives 140 electoral votes.
- **Candidate B** receives 135 electoral votes.

Since 138 is the majority threshold, **Candidate A** is declared the winner of the presidential election, even if the national popular vote margin is narrow. This system ensures that the winner has broad support across the country, not just in a few populous regions (U.S. National Archives, n.d.).

Comparative and Constitutional Context

Many democracies with diverse populations and federal structures use electoral college or constituency-based systems to ensure fair representation and prevent marginalization (U.S. National Archives, n.d.). Ghana's ongoing constitutional reform process provides a timely opportunity to consider these reforms (ConstitutionNet, 2022).

Recommendations

1. **Adopt an Electoral College System with 275 Votes**

- Assign one electoral vote to each parliamentary constituency.
- The candidate who wins the most votes in a constituency wins its electoral vote.

2. Establish a Clear Threshold

- Require presidential candidates to win a majority of electoral votes (at least 138 out of 275).

3. Engage Stakeholders

- Conduct broad consultations with regional leaders, civil society, and the public to ensure the proposed reforms reflect the needs and aspirations of all Ghanaians (Opoku, 2022).

4. Amend the Constitution

- Incorporate these reforms into the 1992 Constitution through the ongoing review process, ensuring legal clarity and legitimacy (ConstitutionNet, 2022).

Conclusion

Aligning Ghana's presidential Electoral College with the 275 parliamentary constituencies would address persistent issues of regional marginalization, development inequity, and political polarization (Opoku, 2022; ConstitutionNet, 2022). It would promote national unity, balanced development, and inclusive governance, making it a compelling option for electoral reform. The time is ripe for the Constitutional Review Committee to prioritize these changes, ensuring a more equitable and representative democracy for all Ghanaians.

References

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Allocation. <https://www.archives.gov/electoral-college/allocation>

[We Need An Electoral College System In Ghana](#)

[Ghana at a Crossroads: Another Attempt at Reforming its Defective Constitution | ConstitutionNet](#)