

..... ENGAGING SOCIOLOGY

Political Decisions: Social Processes at the Micro, Meso, and Macro Levels

Imagine that your state legislature is considering a change in the presidential election process. Your state representatives in the Electoral College would be selected according to the percentage of the popular vote in your state going to each candidate (Republican, Democratic, Libertarian, and Green Party). (Note: Currently, most—but not all—states distribute their electors on a winner-takes-all basis.)

* * * * *

Engaging With Sociology

1. Identify two possible micro-level consequences of this policy change. (For example, how might it affect an individual's decision to vote?)
2. Identify three consequences at the macro level. (For example, how might the change

affect how presidential candidates spend their resources and time? How might Congress respond to such an initiative?)

3. How does this proposed change illustrate the influence of meso-level organizations on micro and macro levels of the social system? For example, is it a problem for a *national* democracy when the delegate selection system is so variable at the meso level, or does this make elections even more democratic because states can make their own autonomous decisions? Explain your answer.
4. Which system—winner-takes-all or percentage of the popular vote—would produce the fairest outcome? Why?