

If you don't regularly receive my reports, request a free subscription at [steve\\_bakke@comcast.net](mailto:steve_bakke@comcast.net) !  
Follow me on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@BakkeSteve> and receive links to my posts and more!  
Visit my website at <http://www.myslantonthings.com> !

## **Electoral College and the three-fifths compromise**

By Steve Bakke  December 21, 2020



The USA Today supplement to the December 11 News-Press e-edition featured an article titled “Here’s a primer on how the electoral College works.” The word “primer” implies essential, foundational information about a topic.

The “primer” implies that the electoral college was constructed to support the imposition of slavery. Allocation of electors to each state was based partially on population, and since slaves were counted as three-fifths of a person, slave states did end up with a representation advantage for legislative governance as well as for selecting the president. But the primer omitted how that number was arrived at.

Southern states had lobbied for slaves to be fully counted as persons in determining representation. In contrast, with a goal of limiting the influence of southern slave states, the northern states lobbied for no slave representation.

The “three-fifths” measurement was a compromise, without which there would be no United States. Fortunately, partly because of limiting slave state influence, the Constitution set up a structure that led to the eventual abolition of slavery. Sadly, Lincoln had to force the issue before it became reality.

The Founders’ speeches, letters, debates and voting records demonstrate their full intentions. I encourage everyone to check them out.