

Notions abordées : Lieux et formes de pouvoir, L'idée de progrès & Espaces et échanges

An interview with Constance Borde by Shelly De Vito

American Voices

The United States Electoral College

Shelly: Constance Borde, the President of Democrats Abroad in France. Can you just explain the Electoral College, what it is, why it still exists, and... if you think it's truly representative of the vote?

Constance: It's a compromise, in fact, the Electoral College, written in the Constitution, between what we had at the origin of the United States which was a President that was elected by Congress, and then, when the idea came that maybe it should be broadened, and people should elect the President, many people didn't agree. A lot of people thought it should be a more educated vote; that people who understood politics more than the populous did, or the normal population, there should be something in between. Every ten years in the United States, you have a census. The State is divided up into counties or districts. According to the population of the state, every district will get one electoral vote, per, let's say, 1,000 people. So, you have an election; let's say you have an election in a district that has 1,000 people; you get one electoral vote, if you win 999 of the popular votes, or if you win 501, so you see the difference there? It means that you can get a lot of people out to vote for you, but you will still only get that one Electoral College vote.