

# THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE VS. POLITICAL EQUALITY



**ONE PERSON,  
ONE VOTE?**

A DOCUMENTARY BY MAXIMINA JUSON



# ONE PERSON, ONE VOTE?

A feature length documentary that examines The Electoral College with a focus on how slavery and race shaped the electoral process.



NATIONAL  
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**\$500,000** Grant Recipient

*National Endowment for the Humanities (2021)*




# WATCH THE TRAILER

PASSWORD: OPOV2021

**HUM** One Person, One Vote? Trailer (9/21/21)  
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a documentary by maximina juson

02:51

vimeo



ELECTORAL  
COLLEGE



VOTER  
SUPPRESSION

## SYNOPSIS

The presidential elections of 2000, 2016, and most recently 2020 have rudely awakened scores of Americans to how little we know about an institution that ultimately determines who wins the highest office in our land. The events surrounding the 2020 presidential election placed the Electoral College center stage, leaving millions of voters confused about why it exists and how it works. **One Person, One Vote? (OPOV?)** pulls back the curtain on a uniquely American system for electing a president – a system divisive and fraught since its creation more than 200 years ago.

**OPOV?** traces the Electoral College from its inception at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 to the present, highlighting critical elections in our nation's history when the Electoral College has dramatically and decisively undermined the ideals of democracy. The film takes special care to connect the largely overlooked role of slavery in establishing the Electoral College and its role in black voter disenfranchisement that continues to this day.

As the film weaves through time, we meet real-world 2020 presidential electors and follow one of the most historical elections of our times, culminating in never-before-seen footage at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, when violence broke out in an effort to prevent Congress from certifying the final Electoral College votes. **OPOV?** also tracks a growing movement and legislative initiative, the National Popular Vote Bill, an interstate compact that would *guarantee the presidency* to the national popular vote winner.



## ARTISTIC APPROACH

### AN ON-SCREEN MULTI-MEDIA EXPERIENCE

The words of the Framers are brought to life with actors – shot in stark black and white. These are not re-enactments but black box theater monologue performances. The choice of African American actors is intentional. Made evident as arguments around “people” versus “property” resound.

Scenes from the 1700s and 1800s are depicted with the animation of award-winning artist, Pierre Bennu, whose edgy and poetic visual style goes beyond the literal to strike a visceral and emotional chord.

Carefully cast scholars, authors, and subject matter experts are shot with multi-camera setups on backgrounds that evoke a timeless antiquity.

Real-world presidential electors and grassroots activists are shot in verité as they reflect on their roles in the electoral process and reveal whether or not they support the Electoral College.

Score and sound design is key. We draw upon influences that allow the audience to feel the passage of time. The music evolves as we move through different periods to reflect the moods and musical influences of each era.





# THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE HOTSPOT



Colorado has been a recent hotspot for all things Electoral College, and is the case study featured in ***One Person, One Vote?***

From the rural, conservative Front Range of Colorado to the liberal urban and suburban enclaves of Denver and Boulder, we zoom into a microcosm of America's democracy at play.

We see the inner workings of the Electoral College through the eyes of four dynamic electors from four different political parties, and witness the passionate work of grassroots activists campaigning for and against Colorado's participation in the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.





## THE SERIAL ELECTOR

Polly Baca, 2020 Democratic Elector

*"I'm passionate about assuring that every single American citizen has an equal right to vote - that we have one person, one vote and that the national popular vote winner ascends to the presidency."*

Polly Baca is a Democratic Party elder who has served as an elector four times. She was the first Latina elected to both the Colorado State House and Senate, and has worked in several Democratic presidential administrations. For decades, Polly has been a fierce advocate for racial and gender equity.





BLACK, PROUD & CONSERVATIVE  
Derrick Wilburn, 2020 Republican Elector

*“Not voting is a dereliction of responsibility. It’s one thing to be ignorant, it’s another thing to remain ignorant.”*

Derrick is founder of the Rocky Mountain Black Conservatives, founder of The Colorado Black Tea Party, and the former Vice Chair of Colorado’s Republican Party.

Derrick was a 2020 presidential elector on the Colorado Republican slate and ardent supporter of President Donald J. Trump.







## EIGHTEEN AND GREEN

Patricia McCracken, 2020 Green Party Elector

***“We’re told that we shouldn’t waste our votes on a third-party candidate, but if we continue to compromise our values then our voices will never be heard.”***

Patricia is an audio-engineering student at the University of Colorado Denver. At just 18-years old, she has only recently become eligible to participate in elections but is thoughtful, dynamic, passionate and engaged. Wanting to see change at all levels of government, Patricia decided the Green Party aligned most closely with her political convictions.



# THE KANYE ELECTOR

Kit Maclean, 2020 Birthday Party Elector

***"My message to America.  
Don't vote for Kanye!"***

Kit Maclean is a 27 year-old Data Analyst living in Denver. When a Republican operative knocked on his door to recruit him as an elector for Kanye West, he signed on simply because he thought it would be a "funny" thing to do.

Kit's quirky and curious account regarding his time serving as an elector delivers both comedy and concern around America's system of electing a president.





# THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE BATTLE

**OPOV?** tracks a growing movement and legislative initiative, the National Popular Vote (NPV), an interstate compact that would *guarantee the presidency* to the popular vote winner if enough states – with electoral votes adding up to the required 270 – agree to participate. Fifteen states and D.C., which collectively possess 196 electoral votes, have already signed on. But the battle to obtain the remaining 74 electoral votes needed to enact the bill is fierce.

**OPOV?** Follows the unfolding events in Colorado as our case study. In 2019, Colorado's state legislature passed the NPV but received immediate blowback from angry opponents. The film features Mesa Count Commissioner, Rose Pugliese, who, with the help of own-gun-carrying political newbie, Lauren Boebert, gathered over 200,000 signatures in opposition to the NPV. Rose and those opposing NPV, fear their votes for president won't matter if Colorado remains in the compact. They believe it would give densely populated metropolitan areas and large states more electoral power at the expense of smaller states and rural areas. Their grassroots efforts led to a referendum to repeal the NPV in Colorado, galvanizing activists on both sides of the debate. Our cameras captured this unfolding drama as it played out in rural, suburban and cosmopolitan communities throughout Colorado.





## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I am a Filipino-American woman who immigrated to the United States at just eight months old. As an immigrant growing up in the United States, America's history felt foreign to me. But eventually, as a voter, I became very curious about the Electoral College. The more I dug into its story, the more shocked I became.

I quickly realized how big the information gap is around the institution that elects the leader of the free world. It became my mission to share its story so that Americans can have an informed dialogue and thoughtful debate around the Electoral College and our democracy.

From a personal perspective, it's been incredibly empowering to go deep into the history of the country in which I was raised. One of our Founding Fathers, James Wilson, was an early and fervent believer in everyday people participating in our democracy. He, too, was an immigrant, born and educated in Scotland, but ultimately became one of the Constitution's signers. The story of America is inseparable from the story of immigrants. I now realize America's history belongs to all of us – including me.

Through ***One Person, One Vote?*** I hope to open up history and invite a far more diverse range of Americans – from many communities, both young and old, no matter which side of the aisle they sit – to feel less cut off from the men who shaped the country we call home. To hear their words. To understand their intentions. And in so doing, become owners of their legacy – and act – when action is needed.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive script that reads "Maximina Juson".

Maximina Juson



# THE CREATIVE TEAM







MAXIMINA JUSON  
Director & Producer

Maximina is a director, producer, and writer. In addition to *One Person, One Vote?* She is Consulting Producer for *Mama Bears* and Producer for *Harlem Rising*, a documentary film about The Harlem Children's Zone. She is a 2021 National Endowment for the Humanities grant recipient.



SARAH OLSON  
Producer

Sarah produced the award-winning *Knock Down the House* which won at Sundance and was acquired by Netflix for a record-breaking amount. Her past work also included the award-winning documentaries *Fed Up* and *Tapped*.



TRACIE HOLDER  
Co-Producer

Tracie is a filmmaker, fundraising specialist and a 2016 Sundance Creative Producers Fellow. She teaches at the New York Film Academy and leads workshops in the U.S. and abroad, and serves on juries at international pitching and training sessions.





MARTINA RADWAN  
Director of Photography

Martina Radwan, an award-winning cinematographer of documentaries and narrative films. Her recent films include Sundance Grand Jury prize winner *Boys State*, *The Final Year* (a film about President Barack Obama's final year in office) and *Inventing Tomorrow*.



SARI GILMAN  
Editor

Sari Gilman credits include *Saving Capitalism*, *Ghosts of Abu Ghraib*, among others. Gilman is an Oscar and Emmy nominee and Academy member whose films (many of which have opened at Sundance) have aired on HBO, Netflix, PBS, and screened worldwide.



DARESHA KYI  
Consulting Producer

Daresha is an Emmy award winner who is director for the upcoming feature doc *Mama Bears*. In 2017 she co-directed and co-produced the award-winning documentary, *Chavela*.





DALE FRANZEN  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Dale Franzen has over 40 years experience in the creative arts industry as an Artistic Director, Tony-Award winning Producer, Educator, Public Speaker and Mentor. She is an 8-time Tony-Award winning Lead Producer on the 2019 Best Musical "Hedestown" on Broadway.



DON FRANZEN  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Don Franzen is an Entertainment and Business Lawyer who represents leading figures in the music and recording industries. He is also the Legal Affairs Editor for the Los Angeles Review of Books and Adjunct Professor in the Music Industry Program at the Herb Alpert School of Music, UCLA.



# FUNDERS



**NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE  
HUMANITIES**

*"This is a well-conceived, creatively constructed, timely, and significant historical documentary. The topic feels especially current today, but it is clear Maximina Juson, and the producing team have recognized the need for such a project for some time. They have gathered a range of historical perspectives, broken barriers with casting, have "well-used" their impressive team of consultants, and above all, have created what appears to be a documentary that presents a range of viewpoints and will make an outstanding contribution to public understanding of the Electoral College and add to our national understanding and discussion in an important way." - NEH GRANT PANELIST*

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We appreciate any donation large or small. Thank you in advance for supporting the making of ***One Person, One Vote?***

## **DONATE VIA ACH**

Contact: [maximina@humovies.co](mailto:maximina@humovies.co) for ACH instructions



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