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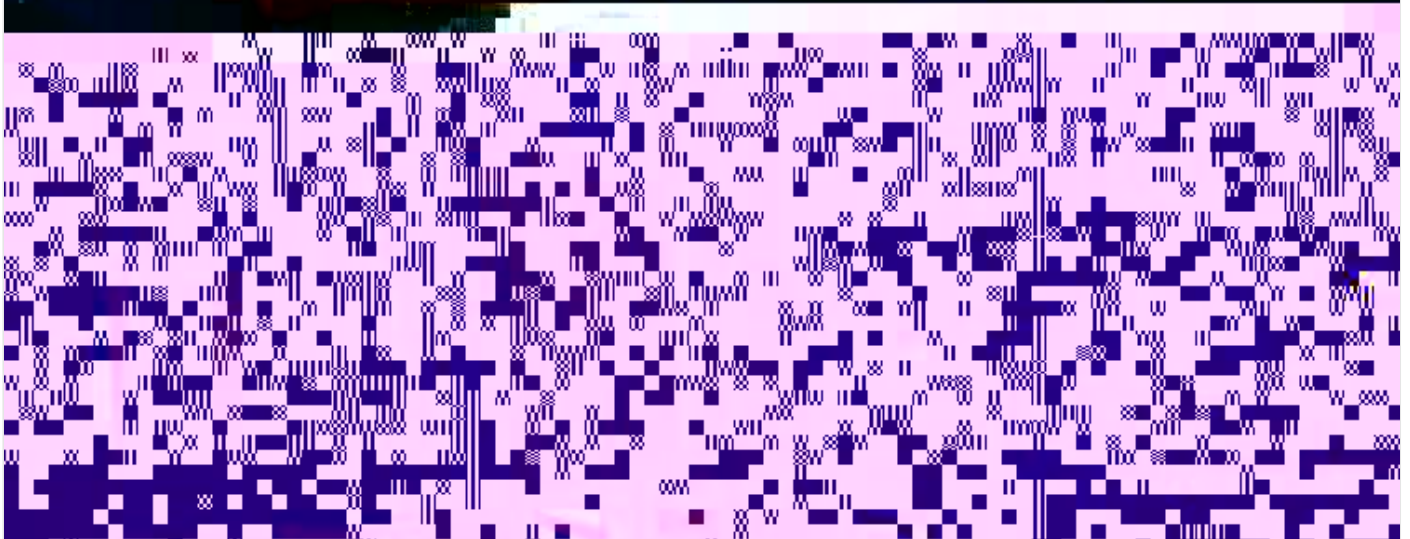- *+$!)Y' Y!, *V' !&U-UYX&+-XU*"\ha `

Where are local drop box locations for the upcoming election?

The Electoral College has representatives from each state, who are not members of Congress, who are appointed as electors. They cast their state's votes for president and vice president.

"That is the mechanism that determines who wins the presidency and the vice presidency," Abernathy said.

The number of electors in each state is based on the number of representatives in the House of Representatives plus two people representing the two senators, Abernathy said. A person needs 270 electoral votes to be named president.

Nation's eyes on Van Drew,   ennedy race

In 29 of the 50 states, there is some type of requirement for the electors' vote to reflect the will of the people or penalty involved if the electors' vote is out of line, Abernathy said.

New Jersey doesn't have this requirement, Abernathy said.

Electors who vote for or attempt to vote for a candidate they are not pledged to are called faithless electors. In 2016, faithless electors voted for Colin Powell, John Kasich, Ron Paul, Bernie Sanders and Faith Spotted Eagle.

New Jersey and most other states use a winner-take-all formula. If you win the state, you earn all the electors. Maine and Nebraska use a state district allocation plan, Abernathy said.

"They give two electoral votes to the statewide popular vote winner," she said. "The remaining electoral votes go to the winner of the popular vote in each congressional district."

Another reform would be proportional allocation, where candidates would receive electoral votes based on the proportion of the vote that they earned in the state.

"So if you had a Democratic candidate get 60% of the vote in New Jersey, they would get 60% of the electoral votes, which would be eight instead of 14," Abernathy said.

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Vincent Jackson

Staff Writer

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