

# \*How to become the President of The United States\*



**YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS**

**YOU!**



To REGISTER, **VOTE** and Get  
**EVERYONE**  
You Know To Do So Also!

# The Election Process

## U.S. Constitution's Requirments for a Presidential Candidate

- At least 35 years old
- A natural born citizen of the United States
- A resident of the United States for 14 years

# Step 1: Primaries and Caucuses

- There are many people who want to be president. Each of these people have their own ideas about how our government should work. People with similar ideas belong to the same political party, this is where primaries and caucuses come in. Candidates from each political party campaign throughout the country to win the favor of their party members.

# Step 1: Primaries and Caucuses

- Caucus: In a caucus, party members select the best candidate through a series of discussions and votes.
- Primary: In a primary, party members vote for the best candidate that will represent them in the general election.

# Step 2: National Conventions

- Each party holds a national convention to finalize the selection of one presidential nominee. At each convention, the presidential candidate chooses a running-mate (vice presidential candidate).

# Step 3: General Election

- The presidential candidates campaign throughout the country in an attempt to win the support of the general population.
- People in every state across the country vote for one president and one vice president.  
When people cast their vote, they are actually voting for a group of people known as electors.

# Step 4: Electoral College

- In the [Electoral College](#) system, each state gets a certain number of electors, based on each state's total number of representation in Congress.
- Each elector casts one electoral vote following the general election; there are a total of 538 electoral votes. The candidate that gets more than half (270) wins the election.
- The president-elect and vice president-elect take the oath of office and are inaugurated in January.



# Primary Election`guide

- According to the United States Constitution, a presidential election is to be held once every fourth year. The process of electing a President and Vice-President begins long before Election Day. Candidates from both major and minor political parties and independent candidates begin to raise money and campaign at least one year in advance of the general presidential election. In order to officially represent a political party, a candidate must be nominated by that party.

# Primary Election`guide

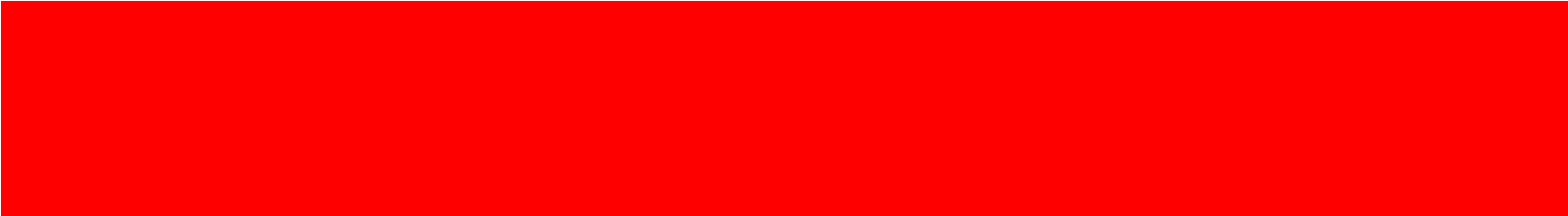
- This primary nomination process is a contest that often produces factions within political parties. These divisions impact the policy stances and agendas of the candidates running for nomination as they attempt to garner the support of party leaders and activists. The nominating process officially begins with the first state primaries and caucuses, which usually occur in the month of February of the election year. It is at these local events that voters are given their first chance to participate in electing the nation's next President.

# Primary Election`guide

- There are many factors that influence who will ultimately become the candidate for a party. The public's perception of the candidates is influenced by such things as media reports, public opinion polls, candidate preference surveys, and advertising. These factors will help determine the perceived strengths and weaknesses of the candidates in the months leading up to the caucuses and primaries.

- The spring of an election year is characterized by vigorous campaigning for primaries and caucuses all over the nation. This process reaches its crescendo at the national conventions of the political parties. Once at the national party conventions, the delegates from the states cast votes for the person who will represent the political party in the November general election. In order to secure a party nomination, a candidate must receive a majority of the votes from the delegates. It is not unusual for delegates to vote several times before one candidate secures the majority of the votes and officially becomes that party candidate for the election to determine the next President of the United States. The candidate for President then must choose a vice-presidential candidate. Generally, a running mate is chosen that will in some way balance the party ticket for the general election. This balance may be geographic (choosing a running mate that is very popular in one region where the Presidential candidate is not) or ideological (choosing a running mate with a different ideological framework than the presidential candidate), and the balance is intended to make the overall general election ticket of a political party acceptable to as wide a range of voters as possible.

- If a President is running for re-election, this nomination process must be completed. Even if the President does not face any opposition from within his own political party, the national convention will still occur. The conventions are extravaganzas, full of pageantry and showmanship. They serve to help jump start the general election campaign for the presidential candidates.

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- The national conventions of the political parties are the culmination of the primary election process. Once the national conventions have been held, and the candidates from the political parties have been nominated and chosen, the presidential election begins in earnest as a contest between the candidates from the political parties. Any divisions or factions that have surfaced within a political party up to the nomination process tend to be set aside and the entire party becomes unified behind its candidate and begins to work to get that person elected.

- Some people choose to run for president without being affiliated with a political party. Such independent candidates need not concern themselves with getting nominated by a party, but must meet other requirements. For example, such candidates are required to collect a large number of signatures to support their nominations. The sources of funding used by independent candidates comes from personal funds and loans as well as fundraising campaigns.

- An independent candidate for President must file a declaration of candidacy and a certification of the candidate's selection for vice president with the secretary of state prior to circulation of the candidate's nominating petitions. The candidate and the candidate's selection for vice president must sign the certification before it is filed. No petition or certificate of nomination may be circulated prior to the first day of January of the year in which the election will be held. Once the required number of signatures is received by the person, s/he is able to run in the general election.



- The candidates campaign right up until Election Day, when the nation finally votes for its President. The candidates travel throughout the country, making public appearance and giving speeches. The parties and the candidates use media advertising, direct mailings, telephone campaigns, and other means to persuade the voters to choose one candidate over the other(s). Often, these measures also serve to point out the weaknesses of the candidates from the other parties involved in the general election.

- In this national presidential election, every citizen of legal age (who has taken the steps necessary in his/her state to meet the voting requirements, such as registering to vote) has an opportunity to vote. However, the President is not chosen by direct popular vote. The Constitution requires that a process known as the Electoral College ultimately decides who will win the general election.

- The Electoral College is a method of indirect popular election of the President of the United States. The authors of the Constitution put this system in place so that careful and calm deliberation would lead to the selection of the best-qualified candidate. Voters in each state actually cast a vote for a block of electors who are pledged to vote for a particular candidate. These electors, in turn, vote for the presidential candidate. Each state is apportioned a number of electors equal to the total number of their Congressional delegation.

- After Election Day, on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December, these electors assemble in their state capitals, cast their ballots, and officially select the next President of the United States. Legally, the electors may vote for someone other than the candidate for whom they were pledged to vote. This phenomenon is known as the "unfaithful" or "faithless" elector. Generally, this does not happen. Therefore, the candidate who receives the most votes in a state at the general election will be the candidate for whom the electors later cast their votes. Two votes are taken, one for President and one for Vice President. Electors are restricted from voting for two candidates from their state. The candidate who wins in a state is awarded all of that state's Electoral College votes, except in Maine and Nebraska where the electoral may be split.

- The votes of the electors are then sent to Congress where the President of the Senate opens the certificates, and counts the votes. This takes place on January 6, unless that date falls on a Sunday. In that case, the votes are counted on the next day. An absolute majority is necessary to prevail in the presidential and the vice presidential elections, that is, half the total plus one electoral votes are required. With 538 Electors, a candidate must receive at least 270 votes to be elected to the office of President or Vice President.

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- Should no presidential candidate receive an absolute majority, the House of Representatives determines who the next president will be. Each state may cast one vote and an absolute majority is needed to win. Similarly, the Senate decides who the next Vice President will be if there is no absolute majority after the Electoral College vote. Elections have been decided by Congress in the past. The House of Representatives elected Thomas Jefferson president in the election of 1800 when the Electoral College vote resulted in a tie.

- When the Electoral College vote was so split that none of the candidates received an absolute majority in the election of 1824 the House elected John Quincy Adams President. Richard Johnson was elected Vice President by the Senate when he failed to receive an absolute majority of electoral votes in the election of 1836.
- The President-elect and Vice President-elect take the oath of office and are inaugurated two weeks later, on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. Why do we have the Electoral College?

The founding fathers established the Electoral College in the [Constitution](#) as a compromise between election of the President by a vote in Congress and election of the President by a popular vote of qualified citizens. However, the term “electoral college” does not appear in the Constitution. [Article II](#) of the Constitution and the [12th Amendment](#) refer to “electors,” but not to the “electoral college.”



## 2. What are responsibilities of The Electors?

On the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December (December 17, 2012), the electors meet in their respective States to cast their votes for President and Vice President of the United States.

# Key Electoral College Dates and Events 2012

- *November 6, 2012—Election Day:*  
The voters in each State choose electors to serve in the Electoral College. As soon as election results are final, the States prepare seven original "Certificates of Ascertainment" of the electors chosen, and send one original along with two certified copies to the Archivist of the United States at the Office of the Federal Register.

# Key Electoral College Dates and Events 2012

- *December 17, 2012—Meeting of Electors:* The electors in each State meet to select the President and Vice President of the United States. The Electors record their votes on six “Certificates of Vote,” which are paired with the six remaining original “Certificates of Ascertainment.” The electors sign, seal and certify the packages of electoral votes and immediately send them to the Federal and State officials listed in these instructions.

# Key Electoral College Dates and Events 2012

- *December 26, 2012—Deadline for Receipt of Electoral Votes:*  
The President of the Senate, the Archivist of the United States, and other designated Federal and State officials must have the electoral votes in hand.
- *January 6, 2013—Counting Electoral Votes in Congress:*  
The Congress meets in joint session to count the electoral votes (unless Congress passes a law to change the date).

## 2. Who verifies if a candidate is qualified to run for President?

The Office of the Federal Register at the National Archives and Records Administration administers the Electoral College process, which takes place after the November general election. The Office of the Federal Register does not have the authority to handle issues related to the general election, such as candidate qualifications. People interested in this issue may wish to contact their state election officials or their Congressional Representatives.

### **3. How is it possible for the electoral vote to produce a different result than the nation-wide popular vote?**

It is important to remember that the President is not chosen by a nation-wide popular vote. The Electoral College vote totals determine the winner, not the statistical plurality or majority a candidate may have in the nation-wide popular vote totals. Electoral votes are awarded on the basis of the popular vote in each state.

#### **4. How many times has the Vice President been chosen by the U.S. Senate?**

Once. In the Presidential election of 1836, the election for Vice President was decided in the Senate.

#### **5. Can citizens of U.S. Territories vote for President?**

No, the Electoral College system does not provide for residents of U.S. Territories, such as Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and American Samoa to vote for President.

# 2012

Election of the President & Vice President:  
Primary Election

President: Barack Obama

Vice – President : Joe Biden



# Short Information

- **Start with the Constitution.** The basic process of selecting the President of the United States is spelled out in the U.S. Constitution, and it has been modified by the 12th, 22nd, and 23rd amendments. Many additional steps have been added over the years, by custom and by state law -- the process has changed quite a bit over time.

- **Who Can Run?** The President and Vice-President are elected every four years. They must be at least 35 years of age, they must be native-born citizens of the United States, and they must have been residents of the U.S. for at least 14 years. (Also, a person cannot be elected to a third term as President.)

- **Candidates for President and Vice-President Run Together.** In the general election, each candidate for President runs together with a candidate for Vice-President on a "ticket." Voters select one ticket to vote for; they can't choose a presidential candidate from one ticket and a vice-presidential candidate from another ticket.

- **The Electoral College.** The national presidential election actually consists of a separate election in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia; in these 51 elections, the voters are really voting for "electors" pledged to one of the tickets. These electors make up the "Electoral College." (In most cases, the names of the electors aren't written on the ballot; instead the ballot lets voters choose among "Electors for" each of the tickets, naming the presidential and vice-presidential candidates each slate of electors is pledged to.)

- Each state has the same number of electors as it has senators and representatives (there are two senators from each state, but the number of representatives depends on the state population in the most recent census). The District of Columbia, although it isn't a state, also participates in presidential elections -- it currently has three electors.

- **The People in Each State Vote for Electors in the Electoral College.** In most of the states, and also in the District of Columbia, the election is winner-take-all; whichever ticket receives the most votes in that state (or in D.C.) gets all the electors. (The only exceptions are Maine and Nebraska. In these states, just two of the electors are chosen in a winner-take-all fashion from the entire state. The remaining electors are determined by the winner in each congressional district, with each district voting for one elector.)

- **The Electoral College Votes for the President.** The Electoral College then votes for President and for Vice-President, with each elector casting one vote; these votes are called electoral votes. Each elector is pledged to vote for particular candidates for President and Vice-President. In most elections, all the electors vote in accordance with the pledge they made; it is not clear what would happen in the unlikely event that a large number of electors violated their pledge and voted differently.
- Normally, one of the candidates for President receives a majority (more than half) of the electoral votes; that person is elected President. That candidate's vice-presidential running mate will then also receive a majority of electoral votes (for Vice-President), and that person is elected Vice-President.

- **If There's No Electoral College Winner, the House of Representatives Chooses the President.** In the rare event that no presidential candidate receives a majority of the electoral votes, then the President is chosen instead by the House of Representatives, from the top three presidential vote-getters in the Electoral College; each state delegation in Congress casts one vote. (The Vice-President would be chosen from the top two vice-presidential vote-getters by the Senate.)



# Elections Quiz 1.

1. What are the two Chambers of Parliament called?

- A. Senate and House of Representatives
- B. House of Lords and Lower House
- C. Federal Council and National Council

2. What is the parliament building called?

- A. Congress
- B. White House
- C. Capitol
- D. Oval Office

3. What national organization is in charge of spying worldwide?

- A. FBI
- B. CIA
- C. YMCA



7. How long is the president's term of office?

- A. 2 years                      B. 4 years                      C. 5 years

8. What is the basic law in the USA?

- A. Administration              B. Condition
- C. Constitution

9. What is the government called in the USA?

- A. Admiration                      B. Frustration
- C. Administration

10. Who is the leader of the government ?

- A. Prime Minister      B. Governor
- C. President

11. Where is the President's home and office?

- A. Capitol              B. White House
- C. Pentagon

# QUIZ 2.

**1.U.S presidential elections are held once \_\_\_\_\_ years.**

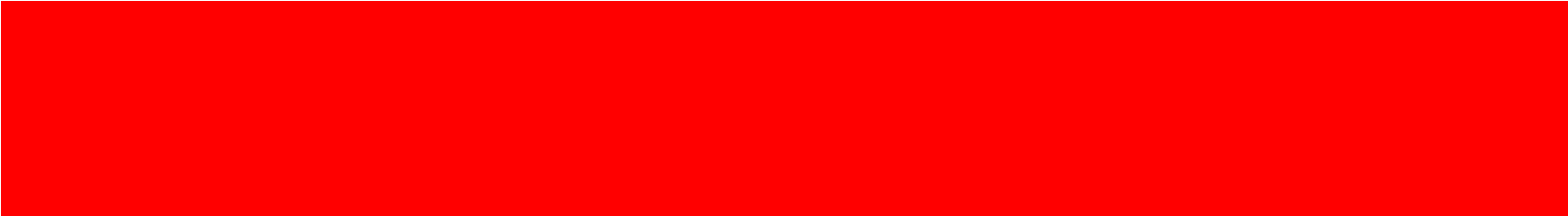
A. two B. five C. eight D. four

**2.What are the current major national political parties in the USA?**

A. Whig and Tory B. Democratic and Republican  
C. Conservative and Liberal

**3.Members of the House of Representatives are elected every \_\_\_\_\_ years.**

A. Two B. five C. eight D. four



**4.. Who is responsible of running U.S. presidential elections?**

- A. The Federal Election Commission (FEC)
- B. The states
- C. Congress

**5. How long are the terms served by U.S. Senators?**

- A. two years B. four years C. six years D. eight years

**6. What is maximum number of terms a U.S. president can serve?**

- A. One year B. two years C. three years D. four years

**7. Which of the following words means „the right to vote“?**

- A. Suffrage, B. Canvas C. Ballot D. Naturalization

**8. General Elections in the U.S. usually held in which month:**

- A. September B. October C. November D. March

**9. The inauguration of the president takes place in:**

- A. March B. November C. January D. December

**10. How many electoral votes are needed to be elected president?**

- A. 325 B. 50 C. 785 D. 270

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**11. How many electoral voice does the District of Columbia have?**

A. One B. Twelve C. Six D. Three

**12. Which two states allow their electoral votes to be divided by proportions of the vote in that state?**

A. Maine and Nebraska B. California and New York  
C. California and Texas