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# HOW THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT ARE ELECTED 

## The Electoral College Timeline



The Electoral College as established by the Constitution and the $\mathbf{1 2}^{\text {th }}$ Amendment

| All 538 electors cast a vote <br> for president and a vote for <br> vice president as established <br> in the $12^{\text {th }}$ Amendment | Top presidential candidate receives <br> 270 votes or more | president <br> elected |
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What happens if the top presidential and vice presidential candidates receive fewer than $\mathbf{2 7 0}$ electoral votes? The decisions are made in the House and the Senate based on the $12^{\text {th }}$ Amendment of the U.S. Constitution

|  | Presidential candidate receives 26 votes or more $\longrightarrow$ | president elected |
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| House of Representatives vote by state <br> for president from top 3 candidates Majority of states (26 votes) needed to win | If no presidential candidate receives 26 votes by January $20^{\text {th }}$ and the vice president has been elected, vice president becomes acting president until president is elected by the House <br> If neither candidate is elected by January $20^{\text {th }}$, House Speaker becomes acting president until president is elected by House |  |
| Senators vote individually <br> for VP from top 2 candidates Majority of senators (51 votes) needed to win | Vice presidential candidate receives 51 votes or more $\longrightarrow$ | vice president elected |
|  | If no vice presidential candidate is elected by January $20^{\text {th }}$ and a president has been elected, a vice president is appointed by the president, $25^{\text {th }}$ Amendment |  |

