

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE TODAY – BRIEF REVIEW

- Each state is allocated a number of Electors equal to the number of its U.S. Representatives plus its two senators.
- The political parties of each state submit a list of individuals pledged to their candidates for president that is equal in number to the number of electoral votes for the state to the State's chief election official. Each party determines its own way of choosing its electors.
- Members of the Congress or employees of the Federal government are prohibited from serving as Electors.
- After the parties hold their caucuses and the states hold their primaries, the major parties nominate their candidate for the Office of President. The names are then submitted to the state's chief election official (in CA, the Secretary of State) as they will appear on the general election ballot.
- On the Tuesday following the first Monday of the month of November, registered voters in each state cast their ballots for the Office of President and Vice President.
- Whichever presidential candidate gets the most popular votes in a State wins all of the Electors (known as "winner takes all") for that state except for the states of Maine and Nebraska which award electoral votes proportionately.
- On the Monday following the second Wednesday of December, each state's electors meet in their respective state and cast their electoral votes (one for President and one for Vice President).
- Each Elector must cast at least one of their two votes (see above) for a person outside of their state in order to prevent the election of a president and vice president from the same state (however, the presidential and vice presidential candidates choose each other as running-mates and are on the same ticket in the popular vote).
- The electoral votes are sealed and sent to the President of the U.S. Senate and are read aloud to both Houses of Congress on January 6.
- The candidate with the most electoral votes, provided there is an absolute majority (over one half of the total vote), is declared president.
- If no one candidate receives an absolute majority of electoral votes the U.S. House of Representatives selects the President from the top three vote-getters.
- On January 20, at noon, the elected president and vice president are sworn into office.

HOW MANY ELECTORAL VOTES DOES EACH STATE HAVE?

Updated to reflect the 2010 census – 538 Total; 270 needed to win

AL: 9	GA: 16	MD: 10	NJ: 14	SC: 9
AK: 3	HI: 4	MA: 11	NM: 5	SD: 3
AZ: 11	ID: 4	MI: 16	NY: 29	TN: 11
AR: 6	IL: 20	MN: 10	NC: 15	TX: 38
CA: 55	IN: 11	MS: 6	ND: 3	UT: 6
CO: 9	IA: 6	MO: 10	OH: 18	VT: 3
CT: 7	KS: 6	MT: 3	OK: 7	VA: 13
DE: 3	KY: 8	NE: 5	OR: 7	WA: 12
DC: 3	LA: 8	NV: 6	PA: 20	WV: 5
FL: 29	ME: 4	NH: 4	RI: 4	WI: 10
				WY: 3