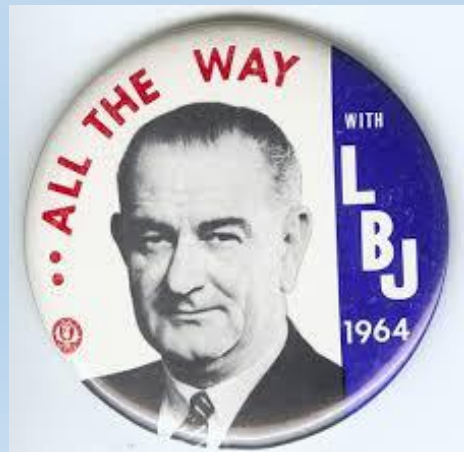


The Electoral College System

How we vote for a new president



What is the Electoral College System?

It is the way the United States of America votes for a new President.

It is specified in Article II, Section I, of the *Constitution of the United States of America*.

It is a unique system of voting performed by electors who act on behalf of the general population.

Definitions of the Electoral College System

- *a body of people representing the states of the U.S., who formally cast votes for the election of the president and vice president.*
- *a body of electors chosen or appointed by a larger group.*

Which means:

A group of persons called electors selected by the voters in each state and the District of Columbia; this group officially elects the president and vice-president of the United States.

The number of electors in each state is equal to the number of each state's representatives in both houses of Congress.

Electoral Collage v. Popular Vote

The Electoral College insulates/stops the president from direct popular control as the president is not elected by the Popular Vote (the vote of the people).

There have been four presidents who did not win the Popular Vote but did win the Electoral College vote:

John Quincy Adams in 1824, Rutherford B. Hayes in 1876, Benjamin Harrison in 1888, George W. Bush in 2000.

Basic Math of how it works

The total number of electors is 538

100 Senators (2 per state)

**435 House of Representatives
(based on the last official census)**

3 for the District of Columbia

How do you win?

The calculation is simple.

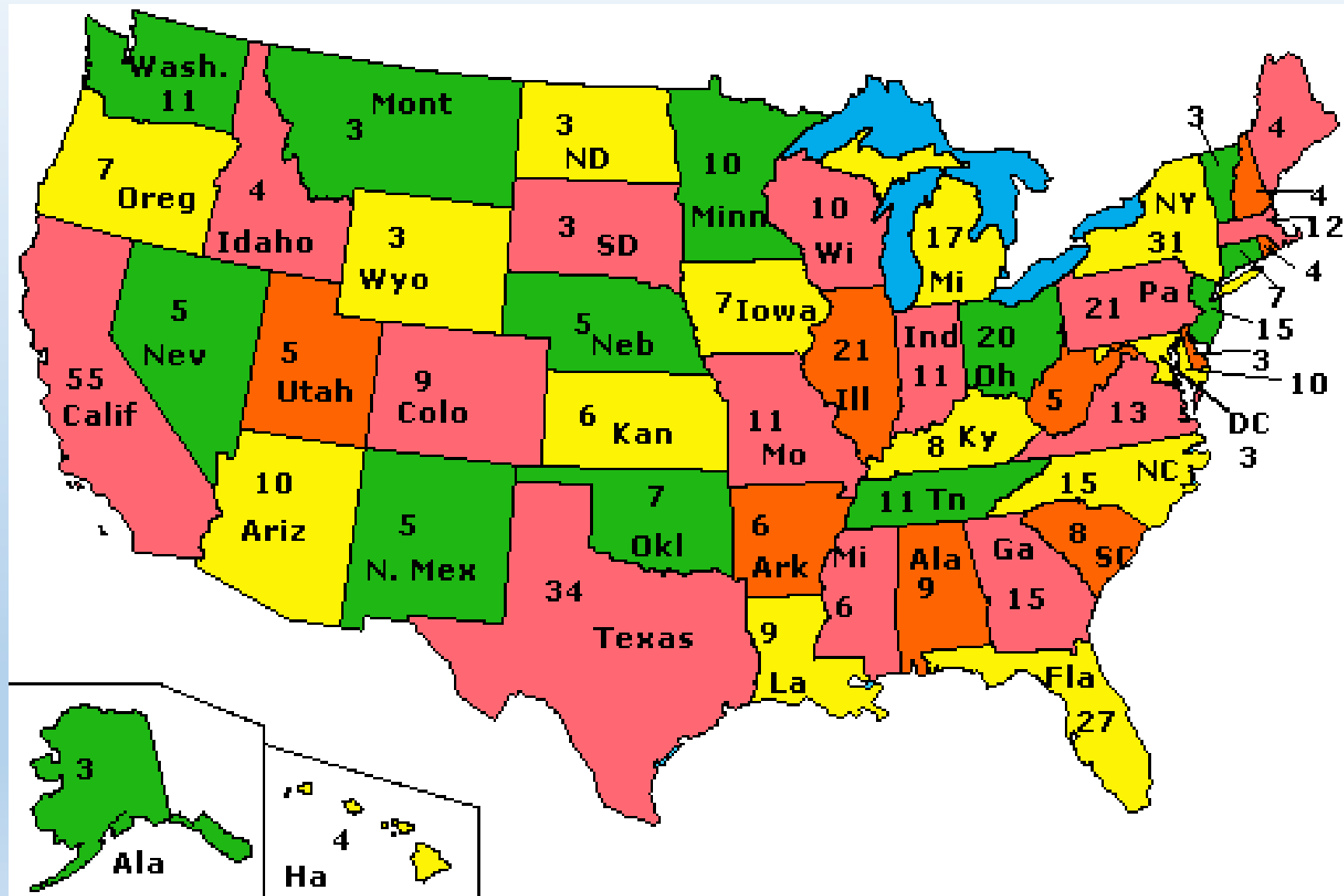
It is based on a majority vote, i.e. who gets 51% or more of the Electoral College vote of the 50 states wins!

50% of 538 is 269

You need to have a majority decision

Therefore the magic number is 270 to win!

Electoral Votes by State



Winner Take All!

48 of the 50 states are under this method. Whoever wins that state's vote takes all of the votes for that state!

There are two exceptions, Maine and Nebraska where the votes are assigned by proportion.

Maine and Nebraska have taken a slightly different approach in recent years. These states allocate two Electoral Votes to the popular vote winner, and then one each to the popular vote winner in each Congressional district (2 in Maine, 3 in Nebraska) in their state. This creates multiple popular vote contests in these states, which could lead to a split Electoral Vote.

2016



Electoral Votes

347 Democrats Republicans 191

Popular vote

53.3% Democrats Republicans 44.9%

IMMIGRATION

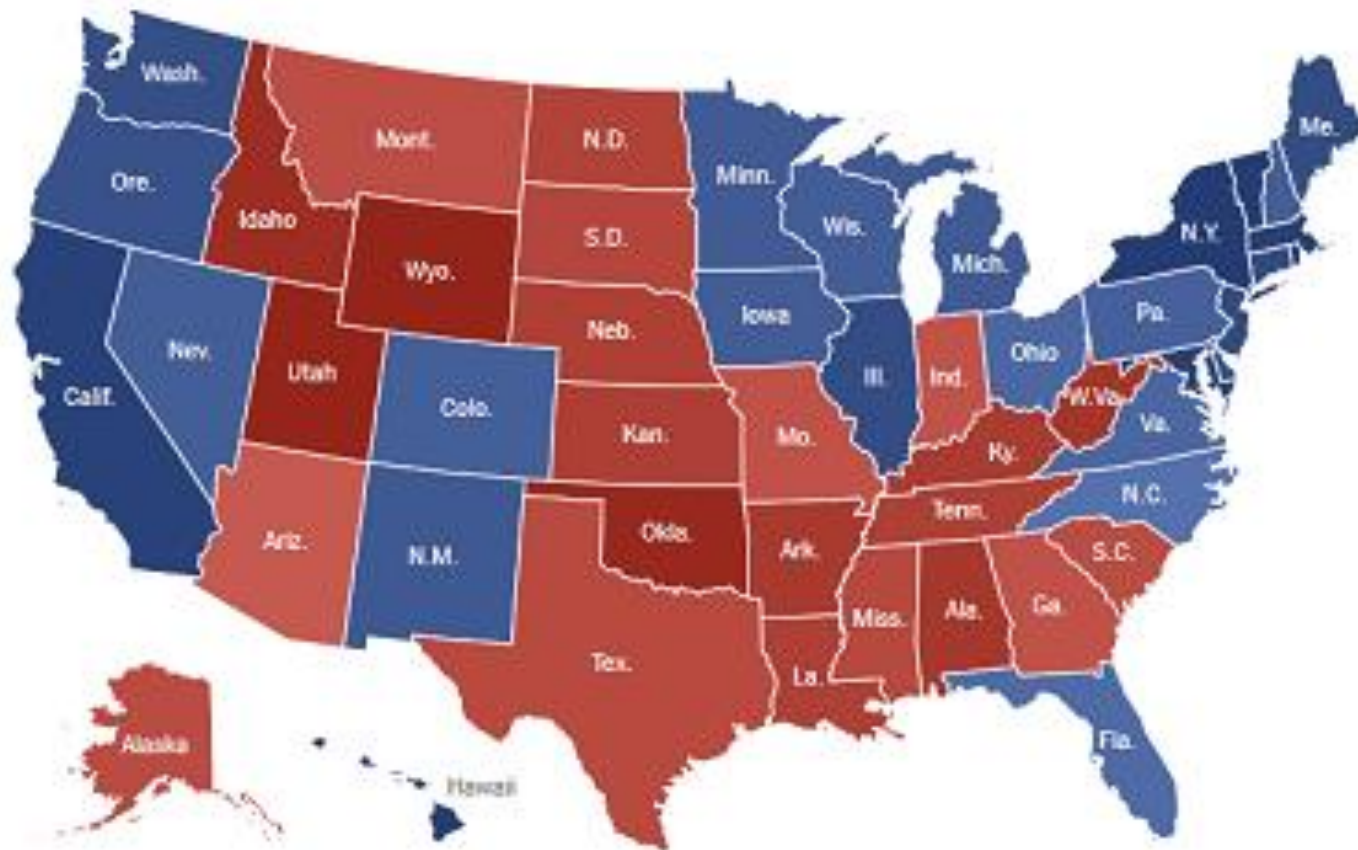
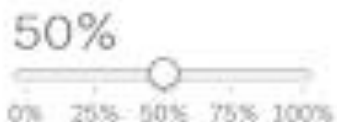
Citizenship

Percent of unauthorized immigrants who will become citizens.



Voting

Percent of new citizens who will vote.



<http://www.270towin.com/>

What is a “Swing State”?

This is in a U.S. state where the two major political parties have similar levels of support among voters, viewed as important in determining the overall result of a presidential election.

POLITICO has identified 11 states where the 2016 election will be won and lost: Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Plurality

This is when the number of votes cast for a candidate is greater than the number of votes for any other candidate, but not necessarily a majority.

For example a 40% vote can win and the person can become president

The popular vote in an American presidential election was first fully recorded and reported in the election of 1824. Since then, 16 presidential elections have occurred in which a candidate was elected or reelected without gaining a majority of the popular vote.

1844: James K. Polk

1856: James Buchanan

1880: James A. Garfield

1912: Woodrow Wilson

1948: Harry S Truman

1992: Bill Clinton

1848: Zachary Taylor

1860: Abraham Lincoln

1892: Grover Cleveland

1916: Woodrow Wilson

1968: Richard Nixon

1996: Bill Clinton

The elections of 1824, 1876, 1888, and 2000 are not on this list because in those elections the winning candidate actually received *less* than a plurality.

Why no Third Parties?

Sometimes a strong Third Party candidate can take away valuable votes from a presidential candidate. However history has seen that voters do not vote for them as they have a low percentage of winning, even if their candidate is the better person for the job!

A list of previous Third Party candidates can be seen at

<http://www.presidentsusa.net/thirdparty.html>

What if you do not get 270 votes?

If no candidate receives a 270 majority of Electoral votes, the House of Representatives elects the President from the 3 Presidential candidates who received the most Electoral votes. This is called a Contingent Election.

Each state delegation gets one vote, regardless of the number of congressional districts it has. As there are 50 states, 26 votes, representing a majority of the states, are required to win.

It has only happened twice, in 1800 and 1824.

Can we change the system?

Changing the Electoral College System is not a simple task.

In 2007, the *National Popular Vote Movement* was formed and several states have shown interest in changing the way we elect a president.

However, it is not easy. Any change to our national election requires an Amendment to the *Constitution of the United States* as the system was created by our “Founding Fathers” back in 1787.

So for now, it is still 270 to Win!