Electing Our Presidents: How Do We Vote?

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Elections are always local.
The Constitution and Elections

Article II:

Gives power to hold Presidential Elections to the states.

Election Administration at the State Level

Each state has a chief election official who has ultimate authority over elections in the state.

- 24 states have an elected secretary of state as the chief election official—Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Vermont, Washington and Wyoming.

- Two states—Alaska and Utah—have an elected lieutenant governor as the chief election official.

- Three states—Maine, New Hampshire and Tennessee—have a chief election official selected by the legislature.

- Five states—Delaware, Florida, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Texas—have a chief election official appointed by the governor. In all but Delaware, the chief election official is called the secretary of state; in Delaware the position is Commissioner of Elections.

- Nine states—Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, North Carolina, New York, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Virginia and Wisconsin—have a board or a commission that oversees elections. Appointments to these commissions are usually made by the governor, and confirmed by the Senate. They are most often structured so as to be bipartisan, with a certain number of members from each of the major political parties.

- Seven states—Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Rhode Island and West Virginia—use a combination of a chief election official and a board or commission.
Reforms

1800 Reforms

- Voter registration
- Voter list maintenance
- Australian, or secret ballot, introduced
- Voting machines introduced
12th Amendment

“Passed by Congress December 9, 1803, and ratified June 15, 1804, the 12th Amendment provided for separate Electoral College votes for President and Vice President, correcting weaknesses in the earlier electoral system which were responsible for the controversial Presidential Election of 1800.”

20th Amendment

“The terms of the President and the Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3d day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.”

https://hoover.blogs.archives.gov/2021/02/24/the-20th-amendment-the-obscure-amendment-that-changed-inauguration-day/
Electoral Voting System in the U.S.

Requirements for a Presidential Candidate

- Natural Born Citizen
- Minimum Age 35 Years
- U.S. President 14 Years

**Step 1: Primaries and Causes**
People with similar ideas belong to the same political party. This is where primaries and caucuses come in.

**Step 2: National Conventions**
The presidential candidates campaign throughout the country to win the support of the general population.

**Step 3: General Election**
People in every state across the country vote for one president and vice president.

**Step 4: Electoral College**
In the electoral college system each state gets a certain numbers of electors based on it’s representation in congress.

BlackMenVote
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