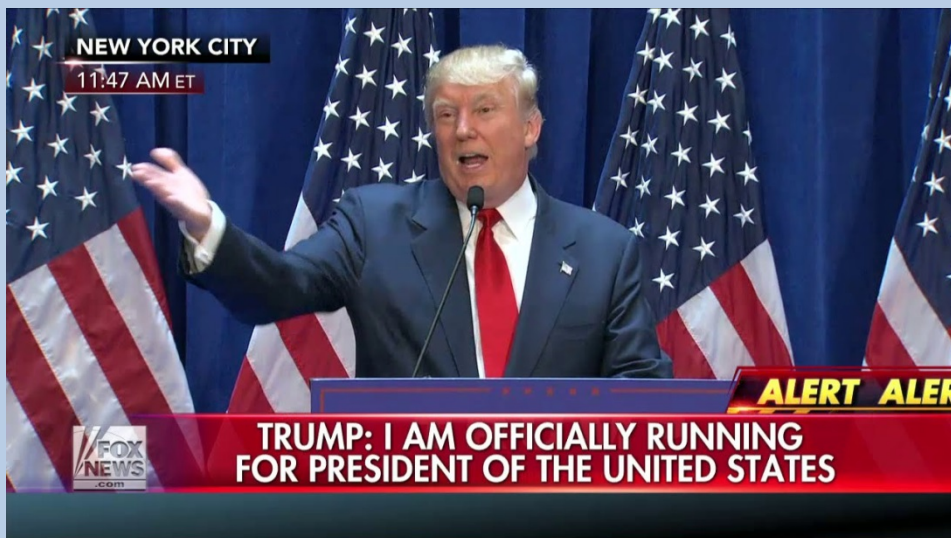


Presidential Elections



Announcement

- Announce: formal declaration at press conference that an individual is seeking the party's nomination
- At this point, they have already checked to make sure he/she can get enough money, political support and media coverage



Primary and Caucus

- Primaries and Caucuses are used to pick delegates to the presidential nominating conventions for both parties
- Who are the delegates? Elite group with high income and education
- <http://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/presidential-elections/videos/primaries-caucuses-and-conventions>

Primaries (VOTE)

- 1st in New Hampshire
- Winner-take-all (Republicans): candidate who wins the most votes gets all the delegates
- Proportional Representation (Democrats): candidates get delegates in proportion to # of popular votes

Caucus (Meeting)

- 1st in Iowa
- Party members meet in small groups around the state to select the delegates from that area

National Convention

- Delegates chosen at Primary/Caucus attend this event!
- R= Tampa
- D = Charlotte
- In Democratic Party, Super Delegates also attend (national party leaders who automatically go to convention)
- Republican delegates are not bound to choose the same candidate as the ppl did in the primary

The Campaign Game

- Paint the perfect picture of the candidate
- Travel to the “swing states” (those neither party dominates)
 - Examples: Florida, Iowa, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, Wisconsin

The “Players”

- Parties: focus on campaign, stay moderate
- Media: info source
- The people’s demands
- Interest groups: support/influence
- Funding: where the \$ comes from (campaign finance)

General Election

- When? Tuesday after 1st Monday in November, even years (Every 4)
- We are actually voting for the electors who promise to vote for the party's candidate
 - Elector: member of EC chosen by appointment (most common) or popular vote, varies by state
 - How many? Representatives + Senators; 538 total, 270 to win, GA has 16.
 - **Why not 535?

The Electoral College

- After election day, the winner of the popular vote in that state gets all the Electoral college votes (winner-take-all)
- D and R electors are waiting to hear the popular vote results; elector “promises” to vote for that candidate
- The electors go to State Capital to cast ballots on Monday after 2nd Wednesday in December
- It is mailed to the President of the Senate and opened and read at a joint session of Congress on Jan. 6th

Why make the electoral college?

- It works without parties
- Covers the nominating and selection process of presidential elections
- Make sure president is qualified and worthy

270 wins

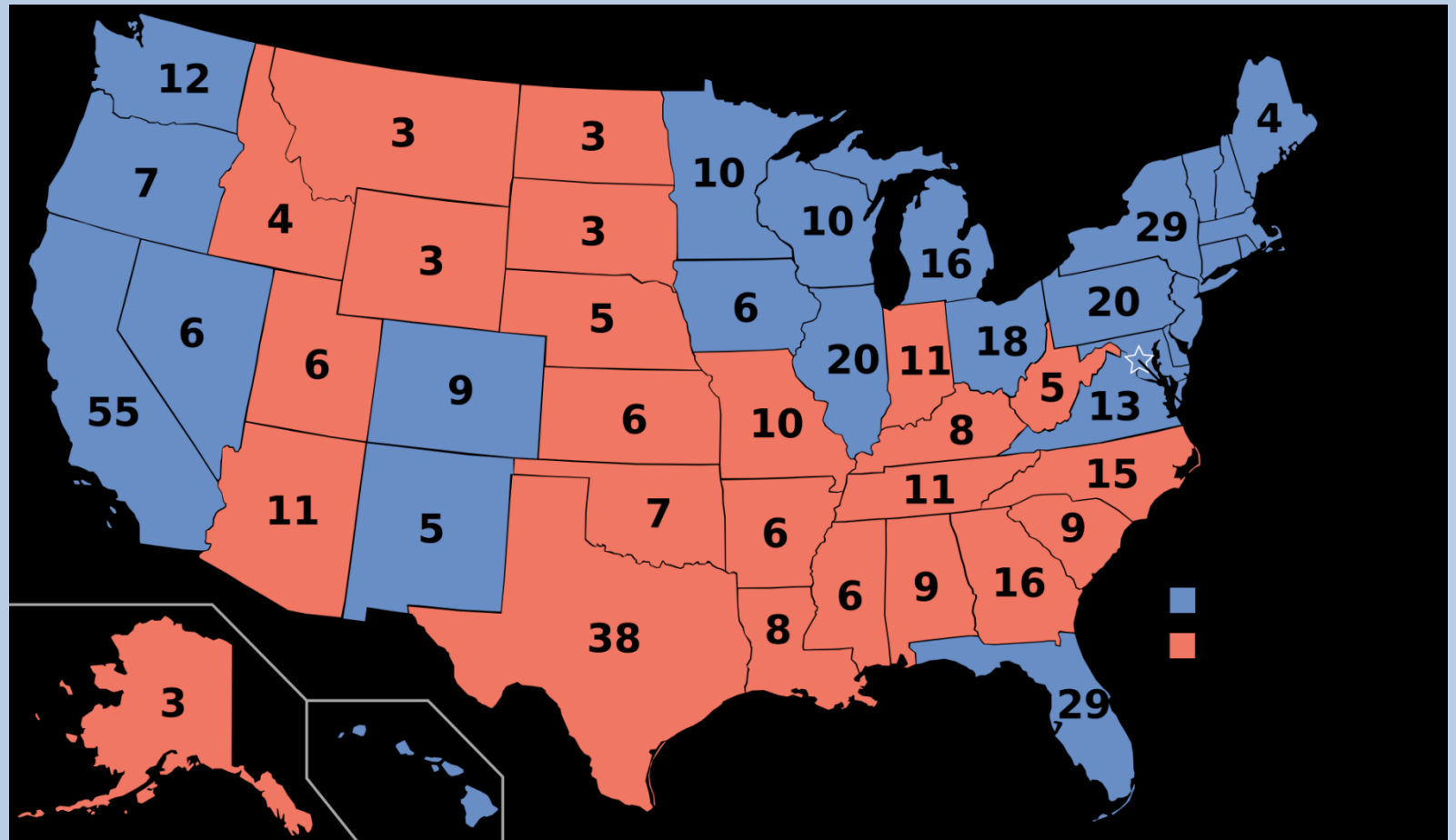
- If no one gets the majority
- House chooses President
- Senate chooses VP

Inauguration

- January 20 (20th amendment)
- Lame Duck (Nov to January) – President still in office, even though new President already elected

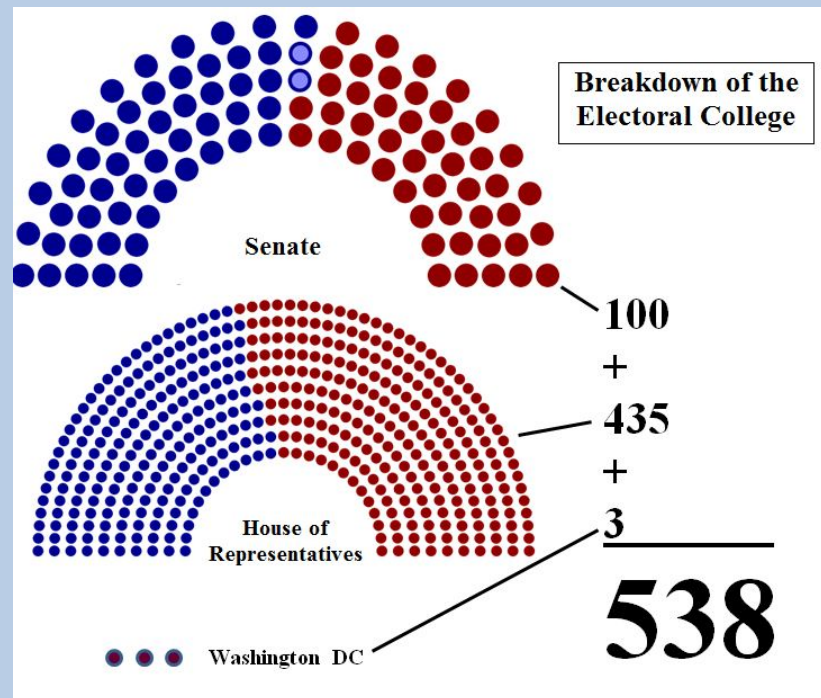


The Electoral College



What is it?

- The official group that elects a President and Vice President



What is the magic number?

- 270 to win!
- 538 total electors



How does it work?

1. We go to the polls and vote (November)
 - We really vote for electors, not the P or VP but it's listed this way to make it easier
2. The “winning” group of electors (grouped by who they promised to vote for) goes to state capital and vote for P and VP. (December)
3. Votes go to Congress and opened during joint session (January)

How are electors chosen?

- Elected at state party convention or by party central committee in each state
- Only rule – they can't currently hold a federal position
- Most likely are influential members of state party, state officials, people with ties to candidate, etc.

Flaws

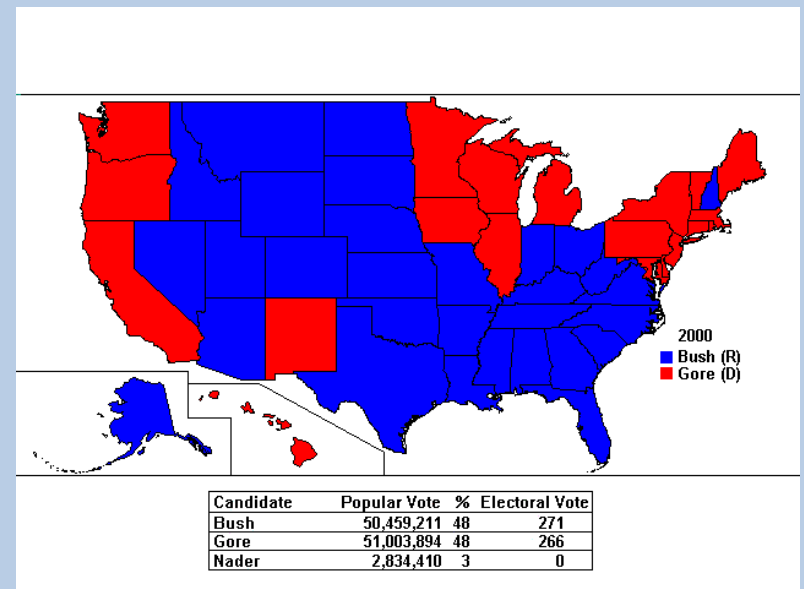
Sorry the Electoral College has made your vote completely irrelevant.

your eCards
someecards.com



But, I am the most popular!

- Winner of the popular vote is not guaranteed the presidency
- Winner-take-all system: candidate who wins majority in a state gets all electoral votes for that state
- 1824, 1876, 1888, 2000



- So, let's recap!
- What are the steps?

Steps in Presidential Elections

1. Announcement
2. Primaries/caucuses
3. National convention
4. General election
5. Electoral college
6. Inauguration