

# HOW TO BECOME PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

## U.S. CONSTITUTION'S REQUIREMENTS FOR A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

- NATURAL BORN CITIZEN
- MINIMUM AGE 35 YEARS
- U.S. RESIDENT 14 YEARS

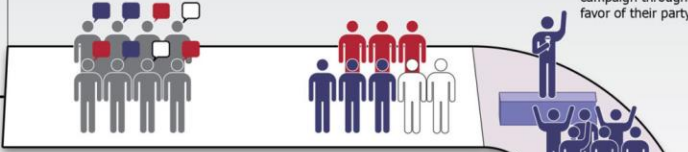


## STEP 1 PRIMARIES AND CAUCUSES

There are many people who want to be President, each with their own ideas about how government should work.

People with similar ideas belong to the same political party. This is where primaries and caucuses come in.

Candidates from each political party campaign through the country to win the favor of their party members.



## STEP 2 NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

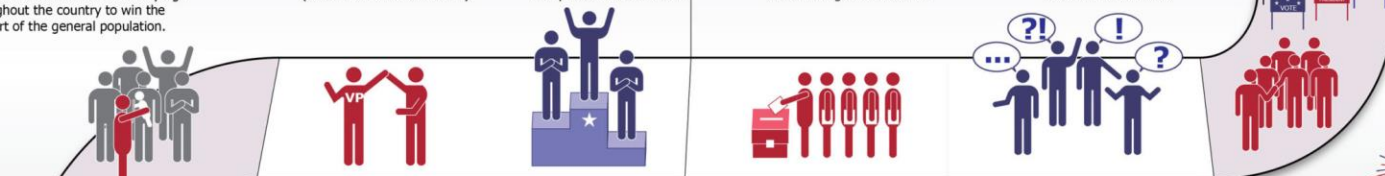
At each convention, the presidential candidate chooses a running mate (Vice Presidential candidate).

Each party holds a national convention to select a final presidential nominee.

The presidential candidates campaign throughout the country to win the support of the general population.

**IN A PRIMARY**  
Party members vote for the best candidate that will represent them in the general election.

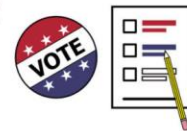
**IN A CAUCUS**  
Party members select the best candidate through a series of discussions and votes.



## STEP 3 GENERAL ELECTION

People in every state across the country vote for one President and Vice President.

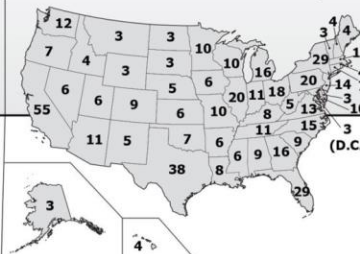
When people cast their vote, they are actually voting for a group of people called **electors**.



## STEP 4 ELECTORAL COLLEGE

In the electoral college system, each state gets a certain number of electors based on its representation in Congress.

Each elector casts one vote following the general election, and the candidate who gets more than half (270) wins.



538 ELECTORAL VOTES

Based on 2010 Census



The newly elected President and Vice President are inaugurated in January.



## DEFINITIONS

- Caucus:** A meeting of the local members of a political party to select delegates to the national party convention. A caucus is a substitute for a primary election.
- Delegate:** A person authorized to represent others as an elected representative to a political party conference.
- Electoral:** A member of the electoral college.
- Electoral College:** The voters of each state, and the District of Columbia, vote for electors to be the authorized constitutional members in a presidential election.
- Natural Born Citizen:** Someone born with U.S. citizenship includes any child born "in" the United States, the children of United States citizens born abroad, and those born abroad of one citizen parent.
- Primary:** An election where voters select candidates for an upcoming general election. Winning candidates will have delegates sent to the national party convention as their party's U.S. presidential nominee.

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