

2020-21 electoral timeline

(State Dept.)



1

Mid-November through December 14

Governors certify election results.



3

December 14

Electors meet in their respective states and vote for president and vice president on separate ballots.



5

January 6

The vice president, as president of the Senate, presides as Congress counts the votes. If no presidential candidate wins 270 votes (a majority of the 538 available), the House decides a winner. If no vice presidential candidate wins 270, the Senate decides.



7

November 3 Election Day

Voters choose the presidential candidate for whom they want state electors to vote. States use these general election results (also known as the popular vote) to appoint electors.



2

December 8

States make final decisions in any controversies over the appointment of their electors at least six days before the electors meet.



4

December 23

Electoral votes must be received by the president of the Senate and the archivist no later than nine days after electors meet.



6

January 20

At noon, the president-elect takes the oath of office and becomes the president of the United States.

Source: National Archives

The District of Columbia is allocated three electors and treated like a state for purposes of the Electoral College. For this reason, the word "state" here also refers to the District of Columbia and the word "governor" to the District's mayor.