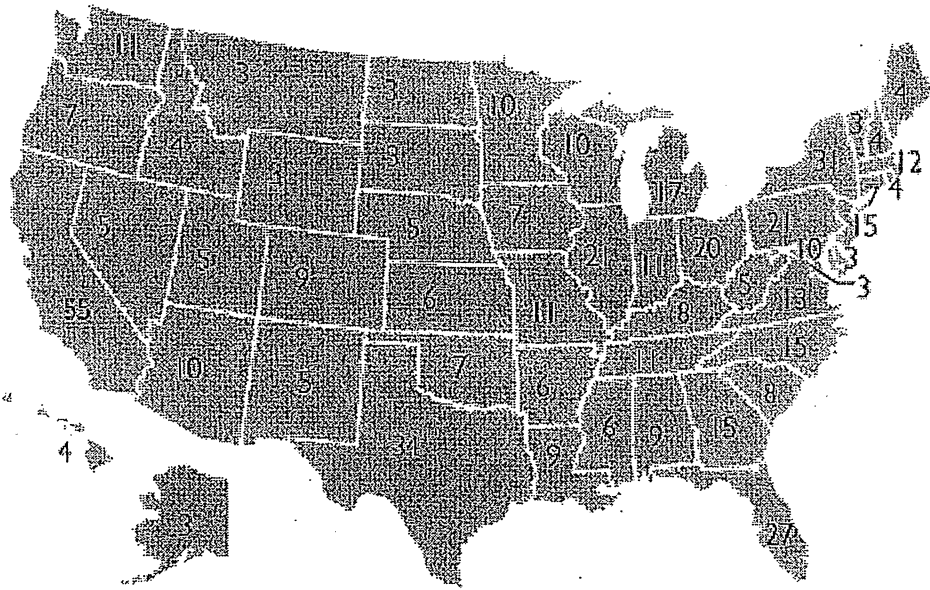


# THE ELECTORAL MAP



To win the Presidency, a nominee needs a majority of electoral votes. On the next Election Night, you'll notice that the TV commentators keep track of the states each nominee wins. They add up the number of electoral votes that each state win represents. As soon as one of the nominees gets one more than half of the total of electoral votes, the race is over.

The Electoral Collegemembers cast their state's votes on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December. The President is officially elected when Congress counts the Electoral College votes on January 6.

When George Washington was elected, there were just 13 states and only 69 electoral votes. Our nation has grown a lot since then, and today there are 538 electoral votes. But the number of electors each state has is still determined in the way that it was in Washington's day. The Constitution allows each state to have as many electoral votes as it has representatives in Congress. That means a state will have no less than three electoral votes. Each state has two Senators and at least one Representative in the House of Representatives.

The number of Representatives depends on the size of the state's population.

As you'll see from the map, the number of electoral votes that states have ranges from 55 (California) to 3 (Alaska, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont Delaware, and the District of Columbia). It is not surprising that the Presidential nominees spend a lot of their campaign in the larger states.

Over the years, there have been many criticisms of the Electoral College system. Some of the attempts to change it have been successful, as you saw in the previous article. But two important criticisms still remain unanswered. First, there is no guarantee that an elector who is pledged to vote for a certain candidate will actually do so. Only a few electors have switched their vote, however, and none changed the outcome of the election. The second criticism, is about the winner-take-all system. A nominee can get all of a state's electoral votes by getting just one more popular vote than the opponent. Because of the system, three nominees have been elected President even though their opponents received more popular votes.

# THE ELECTORAL MAP

1. How many electoral votes does a nominee need in order to win the Presidency?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What are the five states with the highest numbers of electoral votes?

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the total number of electoral votes of these five states? \_\_\_\_\_

3. How many electoral votes does your state have? \_\_\_\_\_

How many Senators \_\_\_\_\_ And how many Representatives \_\_\_\_\_ does it have? \_\_\_\_\_

4. A class of sixth graders is having an election using the Electoral College system. They have divided themselves into four "states." Refer to the chart to answer the questions.

State	No. of Citizens	No of Electors	Votes for Bob	Votes for Sue
Minnesota	15	10	7	8
Kentucky	9	6	4	5
Idaho	6	4	5	1
Alaska	3	3	2	1

a.) Why does Minnesota get more electoral votes than Idaho? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b.) How many popular votes did Sue win? \_\_\_\_\_

c.) How many electoral votes does she get? \_\_\_\_\_

d.) How many popular votes did Bob win? \_\_\_\_\_

e.) How many electoral votes does Bob get? \_\_\_\_\_

f.) Who won the election? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Which three Presidents were elected by the Electoral College even though they had fewer popular votes than their opponents?

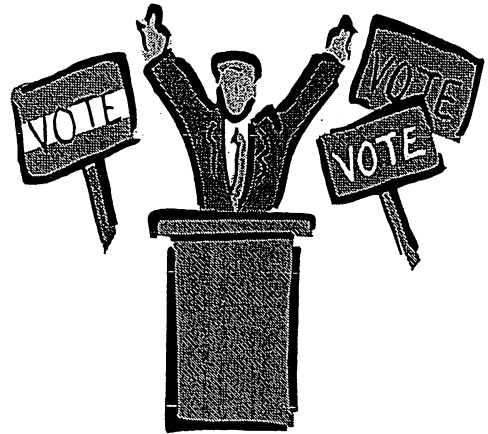
# THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Did you know that voters in the United States don't vote for President? When they go to the polls on Election Day, they are actually voting for a group of electors. These electors have pledged to support a party's nominee for President. Many people believe they are voting for the President, because in many states the ballot lists only the names of the nominees, and not the names of the electors.

The delegates to the Constitutional Convention in 1787 decided on this system of indirect election of the President. They had long debates about how to make sure that the best candidate would be chosen to be President. Some delegates supported a direct election by citizens. Others were in favor of having Congress choose the President. And still others thought that state legislatures should make the choice.

The delegates finally agreed on a compromise: the president would be elected by electors chosen by each state. This way, ordinary citizens in each state would have a say, but the final decision would be made by people who were better informed about the candidates and the issues.

This system of Presidential electors, called the Electoral College, is still in effect today. But some adjustments have been made over the years. At first, the electors voted for two candidates. The one with the highest number of votes became the President, and the one with the second-highest number became Vice President. But in 1796, political foes were chosen for the two posts: Federalist John Adams for President and Democratic-Republican Thomas Jefferson for Vice President. In the next election, there was a tie between Thomas Jefferson and



Aaron Burr. The House of Representatives had to decide which one would be President. It was clear that the system needed to be adjusted. In 1804, the 12<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution was passed. Candidates are now nominated to run only for President or only for Vice President. Electors vote for President and Vice President separately.

There have been changes in how the states elect electors, too. In the beginning some states held direct popular elections for the electors. In others, the state legislatures made the choice. Gradually, all of the states adopted direct popular elections for electors.

When the Constitution was written, there were no political parties. But they soon developed, and the party organizations in each state began proposing a slate, or a list, of electors who were pledged to vote for their party's nominee. Voters no longer chose individual electors; they chose between party slates.

The political parties then began to push for winner-take-all elections for electors. This means that the slate that receives the most popular votes wins all the state's electoral votes. Today, all the states except Maine use this winner-take-all system.

# THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

1. Do voters in the United States vote directly for the President? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Fill in the blank in the following sentences.

a.) The group of people who cast the official votes to elect the President and Vice President is called the \_\_\_\_\_.

b.) A (an) \_\_\_\_\_ election is one where the citizens vote for electors who elect the President.

c.) A (an) \_\_\_\_\_ election is one where the citizens vote for the President.

d.) A (an) \_\_\_\_\_ election is one where the winner of the popular election gets all of the state's electoral votes.

3. What did the 12<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution do?

---

4. Today, all of the states have \_\_\_\_\_ elections to elect Presidential electors.

a. indirect

d. winner-take-all

b. direct

e. b and c

c. popular

f. all of the above

5. The House of Representatives has twice had to choose a President. One was Thomas Jefferson. Who was the other?

---

# WHO CAN VOTE

In the early days of our nation, approximately four out of five adults were not eligible to vote. Today, nearly every citizen who is 18 or older can vote. How did this change come about?

The writers of the Constitution allowed the states to determine who could vote. Most states allowed only white males over 21 who owned property to vote. Women, black people, Indians, and white males who did not own property were not allowed to vote in either state or federal elections.

Today, the people who cast votes in our country's elections included men and women from all economic, racial, and religious groups. The electorate has expanded because the Constitution has been amended several times.

- The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified in 1868, just after the Civil War. It said that any eligible 21-year-old male had the right to vote. They could vote even if they did not own property.
- The 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified two years later, in 1870. It said that the right to vote cannot be denied "on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude." Now, black as well as white males over 21 could vote.
- The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified in 1920. Until that time, few states allowed women to vote. This amendment said that the right to vote cannot be denied "on account of sex."
- The 23<sup>rd</sup> Amendment was ratified in 1961. It gave the citizens of the District of Columbia the right to vote for electors in Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections. Although it has as many people as some states, the District of



- Columbia is not a state. The early leaders of our nation established this federal district. Because there had been much disagreement about which state would be the site of the nation's capital, they decided to put it on land that did not belong to any state.
- The 24<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified in 1964. It declared that the states could not require citizens to pay a poll tax in order to vote in federal elections. Some states had instituted this tax in the 1890s. Many people believed that it was aimed at poor people, especially poor black people, to keep them from voting.
  - The 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified in 1971. It lowered the voting age to 18 for national, state, and local elections.

Today, the only people who are not eligible to vote are those who have been convicted of a felony and those who are severely mentally disturbed. Otherwise, all citizens who are at least 18 years of age have the right to vote in the United States.

# OUR CONSTITUTION AND THE PRESIDENCY

1. Name the three branches of government set up by the Constitution and briefly tell what each branch does.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

2. List three of the duties the Constitution gives to the President of the United States.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

3. The Constitution lists three qualifications for a President. First, the President must be a native-born citizen of the United States. What are the other two?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. How many four-year terms may a President serve? \_\_\_\_\_

5. In the oath of office what important document does the President pledge to "preserve, protect, and defend"?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Why do you think the Constitution requires a person to have reached a certain age before becoming President? Do you think age is important?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. In 1951 an amendment to the Constitution set a limit on the number of terms a President may serve. Why exactly was this amendment passed?

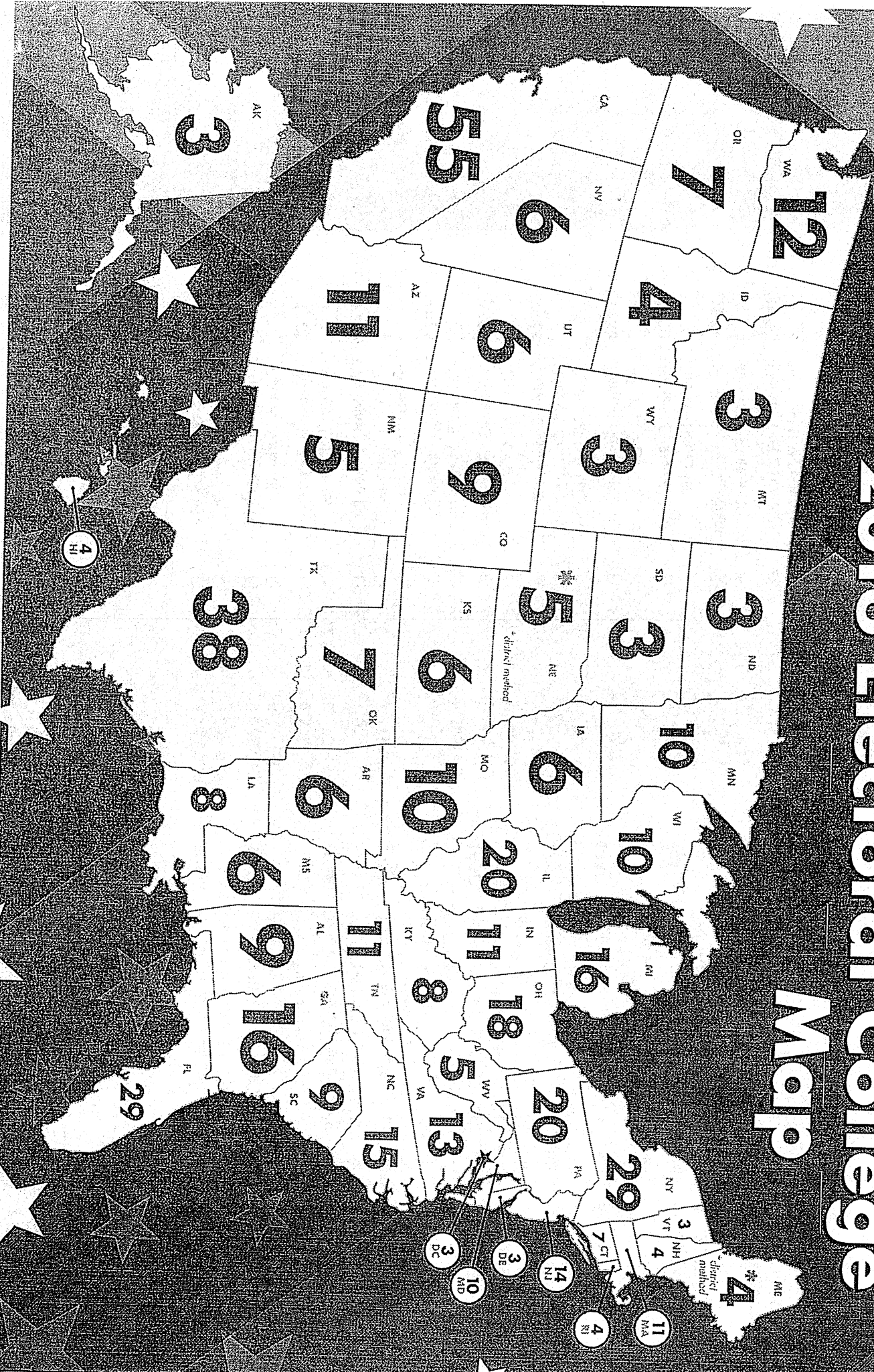
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CAMPAIGN  
2016

# C-SPAN's 2016 Electoral College Map



# KEY

Numbers represent how many electoral votes each state will have in 2016.

Red states: Electors voted Republican in 2012.

Blue states: Electors voted Democratic in 2012.

Purple states: Electoral vote was split in 2008.

States with an \* do not have a winner-take-all system.

## A History of Modern Electoral College Results 1900-2012

E: Electoral votes  
P: Popular votes

1900	William McKinley (R)	E: 292	P: 7,218,039	1944	Franklin D. Roosevelt (D)	E: 432	P: 25,612,610
	William J. Bryan (D)	E: 155	P: 6,358,345		Thomas E. Dewey (R)	E: 99	P: 22,117,617
1904	Theodore Roosevelt (R)	E: 336	P: 7,626,593	1948	Harry S. Truman (D)	E: 303	P: 24,179,345
	Alton B. Parker (D)	E: 140	P: 5,082,898		Thomas E. Dewey (R)	E: 189	P: 21,991,291
1908	William H. Taft (R)	E: 321	P: 7,676,258		Strom Thurmond (SRD)	E: 39	
	William J. Bryan (D)	E: 162	P: 6,406,801	1952	Dwight D. Eisenhower (R)	E: 442	P: 33,936,234
1912	Woodrow Wilson (D)	E: 435	P: 6,293,152		Adlai Stevenson (D)	E: 89	P: 27,314,992
	Theodore Roosevelt (P)	E: 88	P: 4,119,207	1956	Dwight D. Eisenhower (R)	E: 457	P: 35,590,472
	William H. Taft (R)	E: 8			Adlai Stevenson (D)	E: 73	P: 26,022,752
1916	Woodrow Wilson (D)	E: 277	P: 9,126,300		Walter B. Jones (no affiliation)	E: 1	
	Charles E. Hughes (R)	E: 254	P: 8,546,789	1960	John F. Kennedy (D)	E: 303	P: 34,226,731
1920	Warren G. Harding (R)	E: 404	P: 16,153,115		Richard M. Nixon (R)	E: 219	P: 34,108,157
	James M. Cox (D)	E: 127	P: 9,133,092		Harry F. Byrd (D)	E: 15	
1924	Calvin Coolidge (R)	E: 382	P: 15,719,921	1964	Lyndon B. Johnson (D)	E: 486	P: 43,129,566
	John W. Davis (D)	E: 136	P: 8,386,704		Barry Goldwater (R)	E: 52	P: 27,178,188
	Robert M. LaFollette (P)	E: 13		1968	Richard M. Nixon (R)	E: 301	P: 31,785,480
1928	Herbert Hoover (R)	E: 444	P: 21,437,277		Hubert Humphrey (D)	E: 191	P: 31,275,166
	Alfred E. Smith (D)	E: 87	P: 15,007,698		George C. Wallace (AI)	E: 46	
1932	Franklin D. Roosevelt (D)	E: 472	P: 22,829,501	1972	Richard M. Nixon (R)	E: 520	P: 47,169,911
	Herbert Hoover (R)	E: 59	P: 15,760,684		George McGovern (D)	E: 17	P: 29,170,383
1936	Franklin D. Roosevelt (D)	E: 523	P: 27,757,333		John Hospers (I)	E: 1	
	Alfred M. Landon (R)	E: 8	P: 16,684,231	1976	Jimmy Carter (D)	E: 297	P: 40,830,763
1940	Franklin D. Roosevelt (D)	E: 449	P: 27,313,041		Gerald R. Ford (R)	E: 240	P: 39,147,793
	Wendell L. Willkie (R)	E: 82	P: 22,348,480		Ronald Reagan (R)	E: 1	

Representatives

DC

The Electoral College 435 + 100 + 3 = 538 Total Electors

Senators

Votes needed to win

# 270

