

## The Electoral College

Created by the framers of the U.S. Constitution as a compromise for the presidential election process.

1. Some politicians believed a purely popular election was too reckless.
2. Some objected to giving congress the power to select the president.

The compromise set up an Electoral College system that allowed voters to vote for electors, who would then cast their votes for candidates, a system described in Article II, section 1 of the constitution

### HOW IT WORKS:

Each state has a number of electors equal to the number of its U.S. Senators (2 in each state

Each state also has the number of its U.S. representatives, which varies according to the state's population.

Currently the Electoral College includes 538 electors, 535 for the total number of congressional members and 3 (three) who represent Washington, D.C., as allowed by the 23rd Amendment

On the Monday following the second Wednesday in December, the electors of each state meet in their respective state capitals to officially cast their votes for president and vice president. These votes are then sealed and sent to the president of the Senate, who on January 6 opens and reads the votes in the presence of both houses of Congress. The winner is sworn into office at noon Jan. 20.

Most of the time, electors cast their votes for the candidate who has received the most votes in that particular state. However, there have been times when electors have voted contrary to the people's decision, which is entirely legal.

### HOW DOES SOMEONE BECOME AN ELECTOR?

IT CAN DIFFER FROM STATE TO STATE. THE TWO MOST COMMON WAYS ARE:

- \* The elector is nominated by his or her state party committee (perhaps to reward many years of service to the party.
- \* The elector "campaigns" for a spot and the decision is made during a vote held at the state's party convention.

The final electors for each state are voted on by the state's residents on voting day. They appear directly under the presidential candidates' names,, or simply grouped by party somewhere on the ballot. It usually says " A vote for the candidates for President and Vice-President named on the ballot is a vote for the electors." It is known as the WINN-TAKE- ALL system

It is the electors who get voted"in" who end up casting the "real" vote.