

<b>Resource Title:</b>	<b>POLITICOPRO Essential Guide to Presidential Elections</b>	
<b>Source:</b>	<b>POLITICOPRO</b>	
<b>TD Indicator</b>	<b>TD Sub-Indicator</b>	<b>Transition Skill</b>
Independent Living and Community Engagement	Civic Engagement	Decision Making, Leadership, Voting, Self-Awareness skills.

### What is it?

- Lesson Plan
- Tool Kit (package of items)
- Tip Sheet
- Website
- Presentation
- Other

### Who is leading this?

- Stakeholders
- Family
- Youth

### Target audience?

- Stakeholders
- Family
- Youth

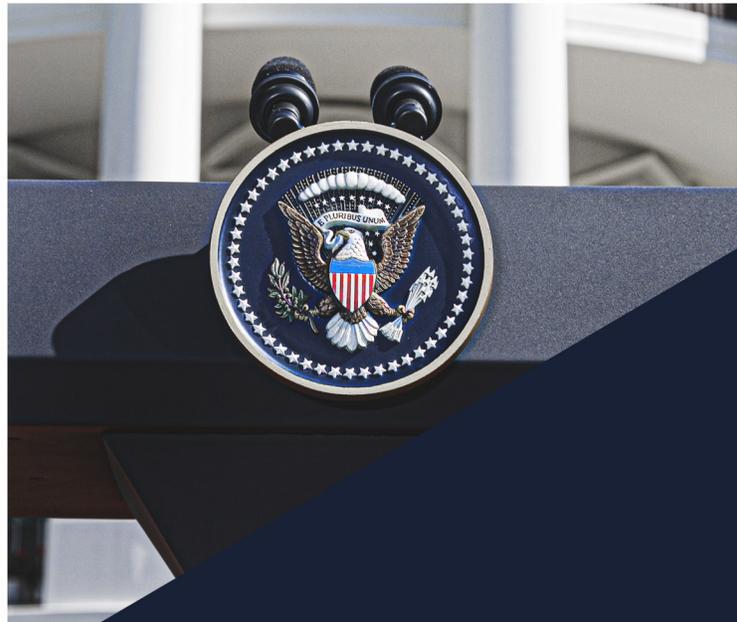
### What is included?

This resource gives you detail guidelines on the Presidential Elections. It uses info graphics to illustrate different concepts such as: requirement for candidates to enter the elections, primaries and caucuses, what are delegates and conventions, and an explanation of both general and electoral college votes.

POLITICO PRO

THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO

# PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS



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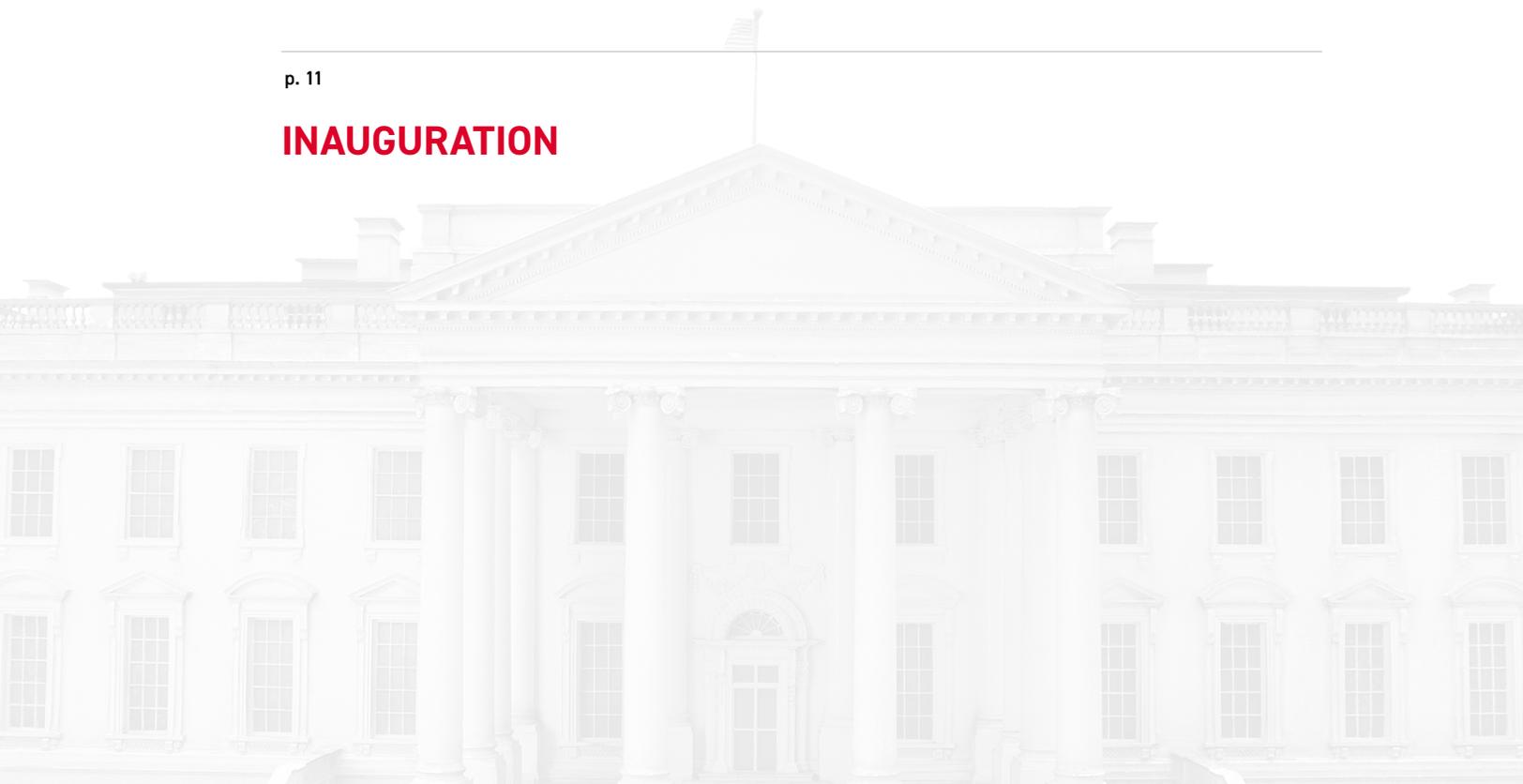
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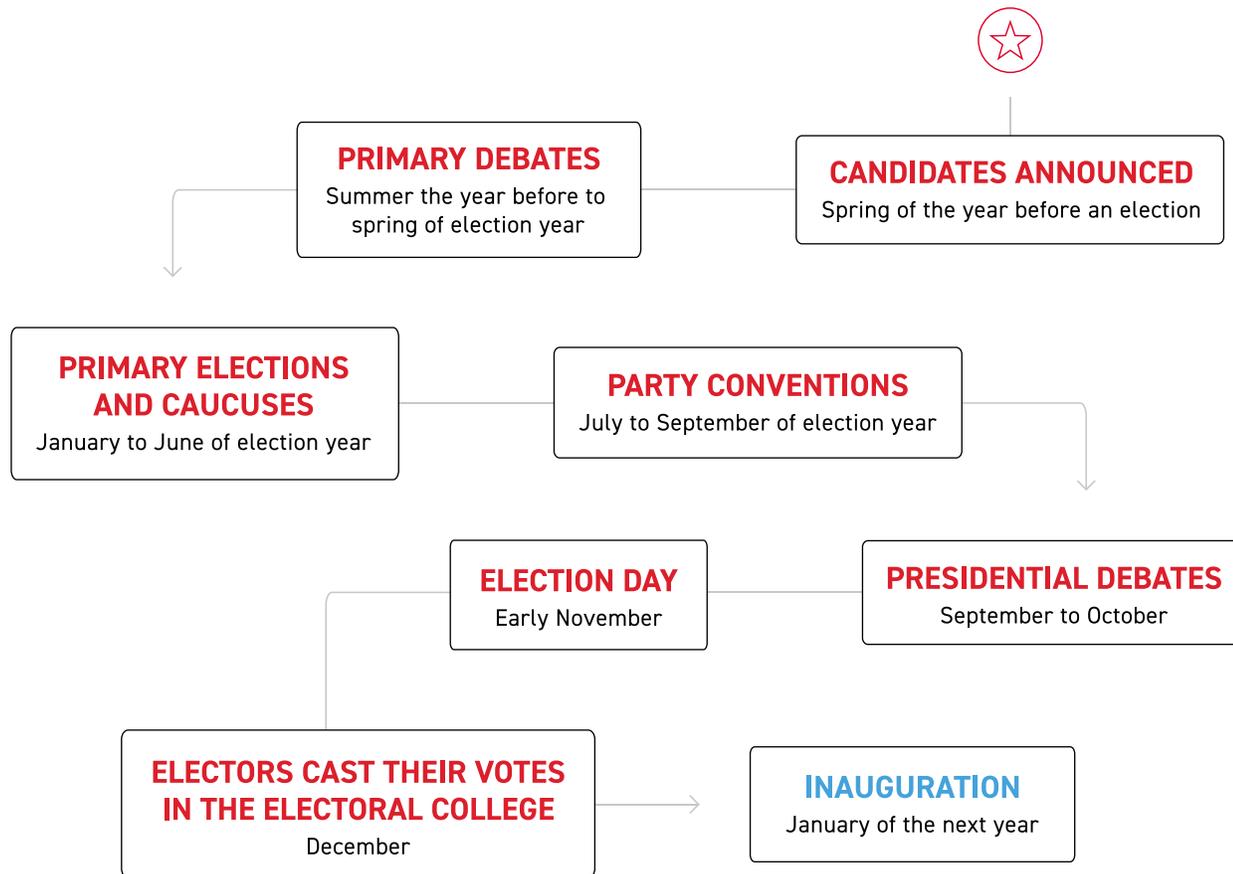
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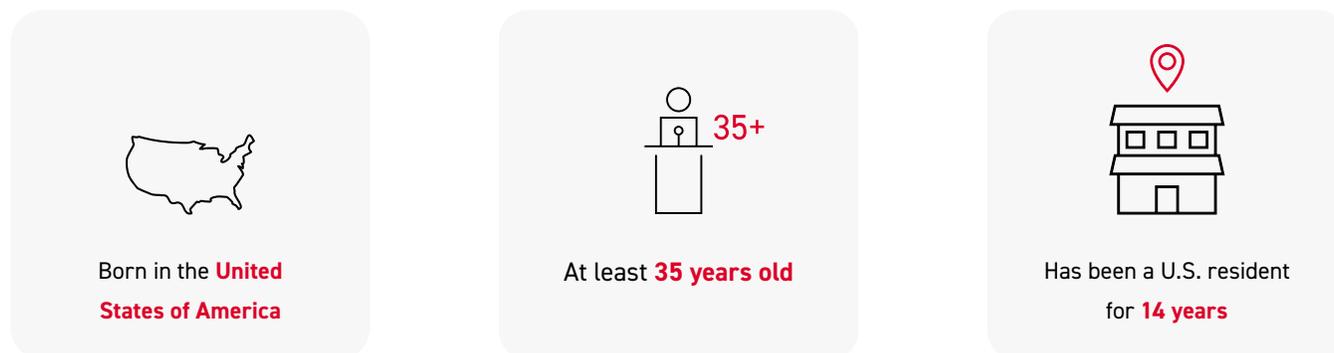
## **INAUGURATION**



# TIMELINE OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS



# CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CANDIDATES



# PRIMARIES & CAUCUSES

In order to select a candidate to represent their party in the general election, the Republican and Democratic parties each hold state by state primaries and caucuses. Each state has different voting laws and procedures, but there are two main types of elections.

## PRIMARIES:

A primary functions most like a typical election — voters from each party go to a polling place and vote for their preferred candidate.

## PRIMARY PROCESS:

- 01** Citizens of voting age visit their polling place
- 02** Voters select the candidate they wish to represent them in the general election
- 03** Votes are counted, and generally\* the candidate with the most votes wins that state

\*The primary system differs by state — to find information about your state, contact your state Board of Elections

## CAUCUSES:

A caucus is when a group of regular citizens come together to discuss and vote on candidates. Once the discussion is over, head count votes are taken and delegates are assigned to the candidates who receive the most votes.

## CAUCUS PROCESS:

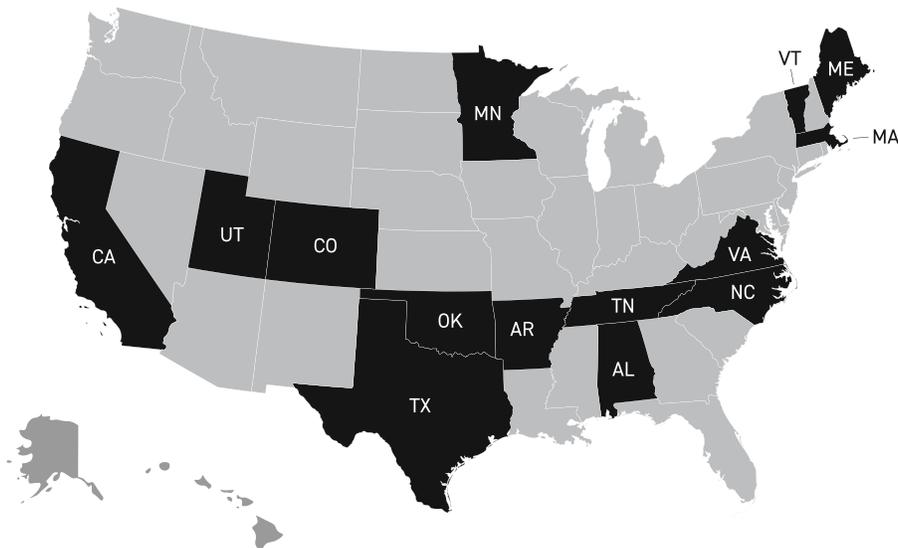
- 01** Citizens gather in a community
- 02** They speak their minds in support of their candidates
- 03** A secret ballot or headcount takes place, and candidates hope to meet the “viability threshold” of at least 15% of the vote.
- 04** The process repeats again, which allows those who caucused for candidates who have not met the “viability threshold” to choose another candidate
- 05** Then delegates are awarded according to the state’s chosen method (more on that in the next chapter)
- 06** District results are reported to each county
- 07** County results are reported to each state
- 08** Either the state results are distributed as national convention delegates, or the winner takes all the delegates
- 09** Delegates then vote for candidates at national conventions

# PRIMARIES & CAUCUSES *cont.*

## “SUPER TUESDAY”

The day during presidential elections where the most states hold **primaries and caucuses**.

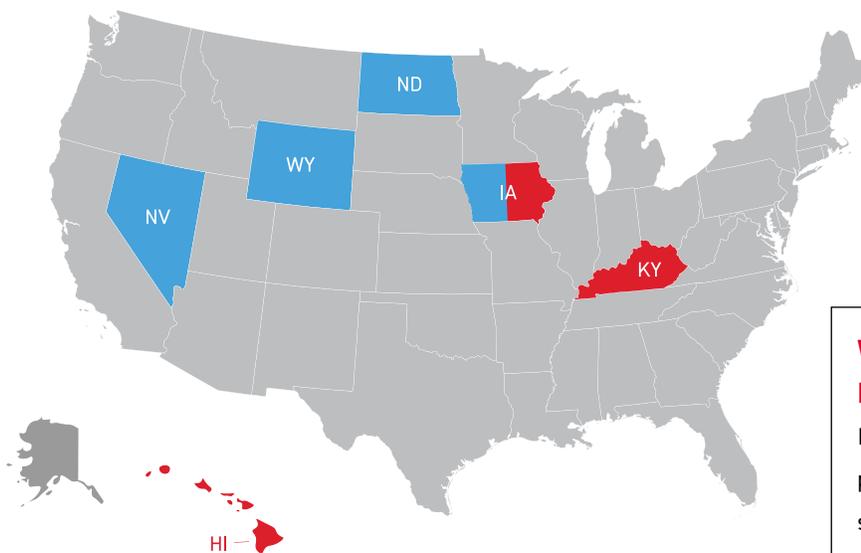
- Alabama
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Maine
- Massachusetts
- Minnesota
- North Carolina
- Oklahoma
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virginia



## THE STATES WITH CAUCUSES THIS YEAR:

- Iowa
- Nevada
- Hawaii
- North Dakota
- Kentucky
- Wyoming

- Democrats
- Republicans



### WHY IS IOWA FIRST?

It has a complex caucus process, so it is first simply because it takes such a long time. [Here's an explainer for the Iowa process.](#)

# AWARDING DELEGATES & CONVENTIONS

**DELEGATE** noun  
del·e·gate

: a person sent or authorized to represent others — in particular, an elected representative sent to a conference

## AWARDING THE DELEGATES:

There are two methods for awarding delegate votes:



### “WINNER TAKES ALL”

The candidate who receives the most votes from a state's caucus/primary gets all of the state's delegate votes at the convention.



### PROPORTIONAL

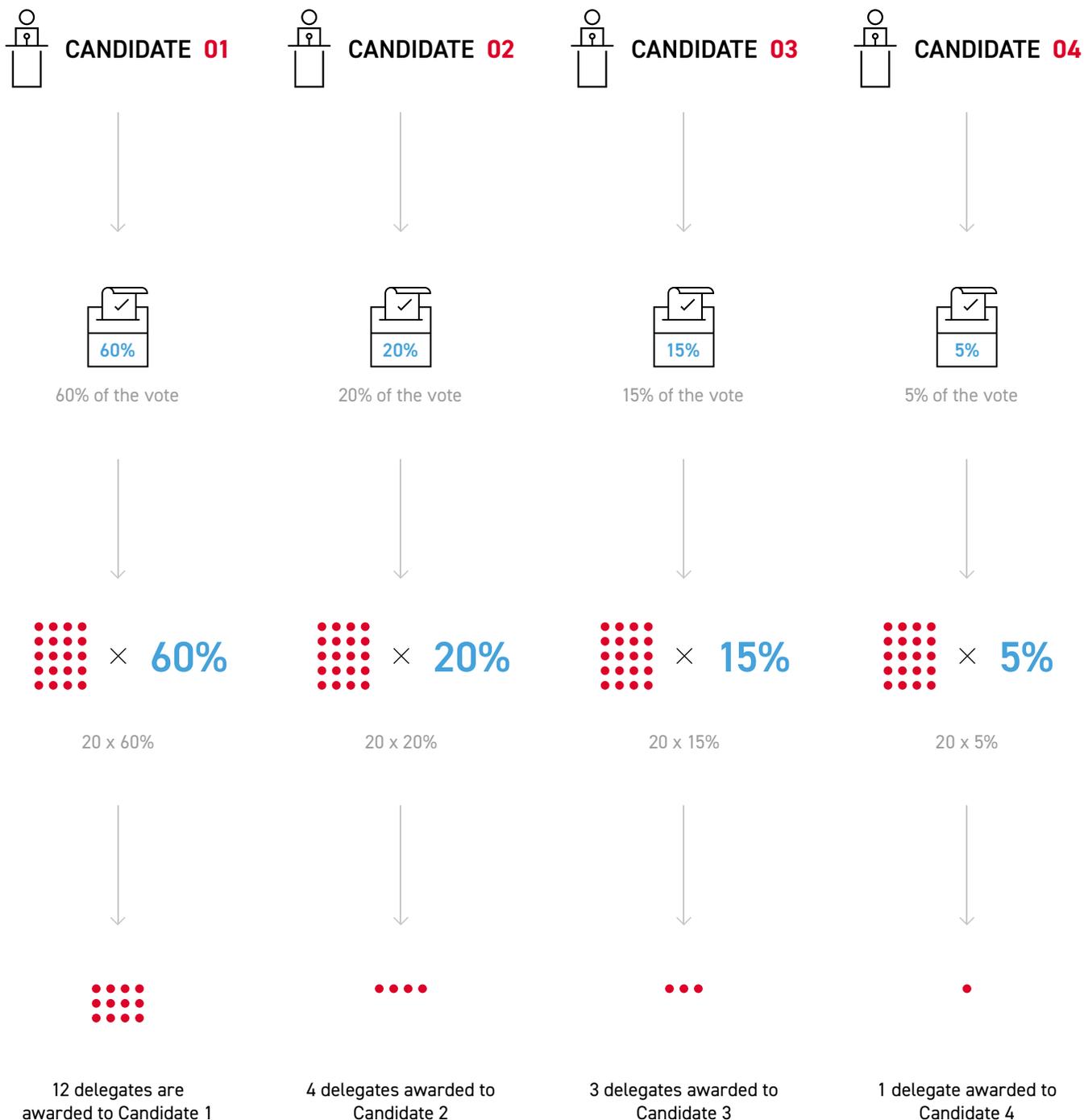
The number of delegates awarded to each candidate is proportional based on the number of primary votes a candidate receives in that state.

Example of this process laid out on the next page.

# AWARDING DELEGATES & CONVENTIONS *cont.*

## AN EXAMPLE OF THE PROPORTIONAL METHOD

A state has 20 delegates and 4 primary candidates:



# AWARDING DELEGATES & CONVENTIONS *cont.*

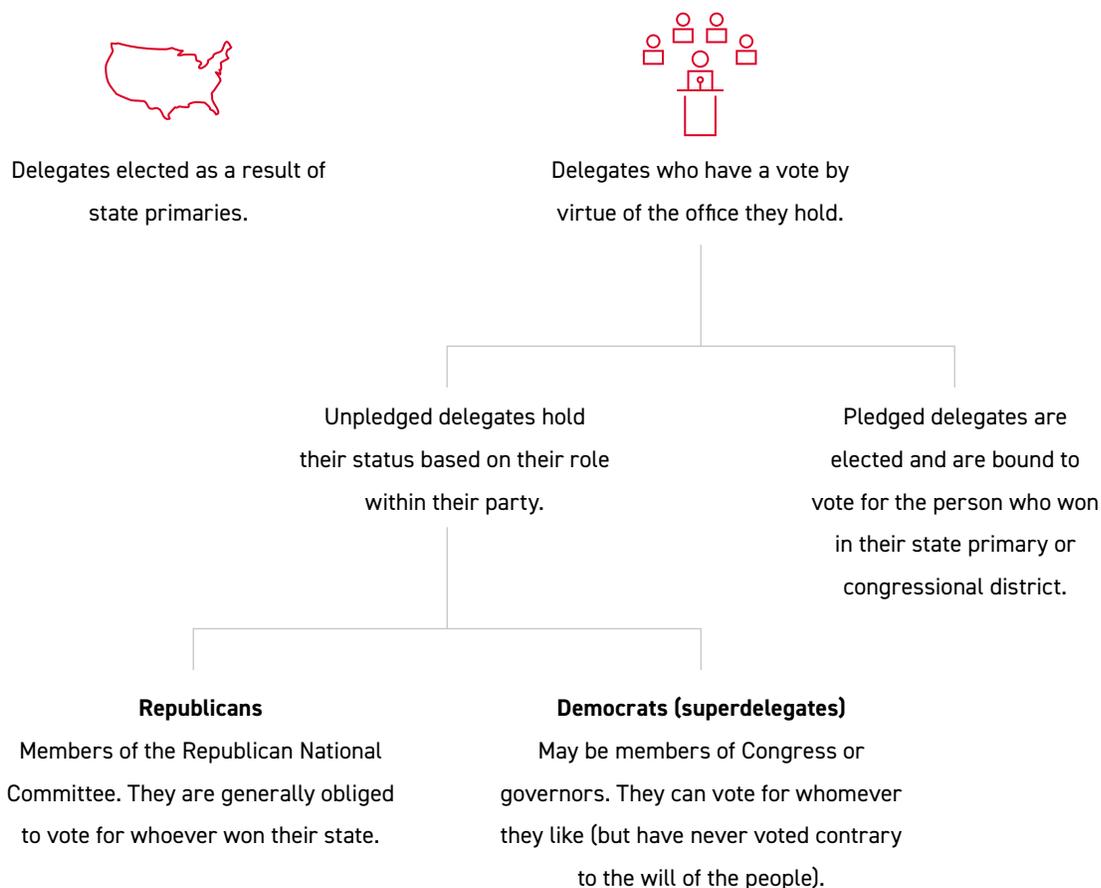
## DEMOCRATS

Democrats use the proportional method by state.

## REPUBLICANS

Each state can decide whether to use the “winner takes all” method or “proportional” method.

## TWO KINDS OF DELEGATES:



# AWARDING DELEGATES & CONVENTIONS *cont.*

## CONVENTIONS

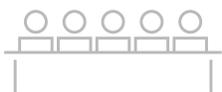
Conventions are where each party's nominee for president is selected and the party platform and rules are established.

During the day, party activists hold meetings and rallies to work on the party's platform. The platform is essentially a list of broad policy goals. Lower-profile party figures address the convention during the day, while voting and speeches by notable party or public figures are held in the evening.

On the last day of the convention, there are formal acceptance speeches from the presidential and vice presidential nominees.

## 3 KINDS OF CONVENTIONS:

### NO CONTROVERSY



Nominee is already decided

### CONTESTED CONVENTION



No single candidate has the majority of delegates

### BROKERED CONVENTION



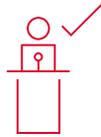
No candidate wins on the first vote — the voting goes on until they have a nominee

# GENERAL ELECTION

After the party conventions, ballots are announced and the general election begins. The Republican and Democratic candidates for president and vice president participate in debates and campaign across the country.

Voting takes place on the first Tuesday in November. **In 2020 that will be Nov. 3.**

There are two measures of success for presidential elections, but only one produces an official winner.



## THE POPULAR VOTE

the total number of votes each candidate received. The winner of the popular vote does not always win the election.



## THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Delegates chosen by each state vote for the candidate who won the popular vote in their state.

# ELECTORAL COLLEGE

After the general election, the governor of each state writes a Certificate of Ascertainment, which lists the electors for that state and how many votes for each candidate that each elector received.

Each state gets a number of electors based on the number of congressional districts in that state. All the states but Maine and Alaska have a "winner takes all" system where whoever wins the most votes gets all of the state's electoral votes.

Electors are typically party insiders or individuals who represent certain demographics or issue areas in that party. Each elector casts one electoral vote after the general election.

# ELECTORAL COLLEGE *cont.*

## CURRENT ALLOCATIONS

The allocations below are based on the 2010 Census.

*Total electoral votes: 538; majority needed to elect: 270*

Alabama — <b>9 votes</b>	Illinois — <b>20 votes</b>	Montana — <b>3 votes</b>	Rhode Island — <b>4 votes</b>
Alaska — <b>3 votes</b>	Indiana — <b>11 votes</b>	Nebraska — <b>5 votes</b>	South Carolina — <b>9 votes</b>
Arizona — <b>11 votes</b>	Iowa — <b>6 votes</b>	Nevada — <b>6 votes</b>	South Dakota — <b>3 votes</b>
Arkansas — <b>6 votes</b>	Kansas — <b>6 votes</b>	New Hampshire — <b>4 votes</b>	Tennessee — <b>11 votes</b>
California — <b>55 votes</b>	Kentucky — <b>8 votes</b>	New Jersey — <b>14 votes</b>	Texas — <b>38 votes</b>
Colorado — <b>9 votes</b>	Louisiana — <b>8 votes</b>	New Mexico — <b>5 votes</b>	Utah — <b>6 votes</b>
Connecticut — <b>7 votes</b>	Maine — <b>4 votes</b>	New York — <b>29 votes</b>	Vermont — <b>3 votes</b>
Delaware — <b>3 votes</b>	Maryland — <b>10 votes</b>	North Carolina — <b>15 votes</b>	Virginia — <b>13 votes</b>
District of Columbia — <b>3 votes</b>	Massachusetts — <b>11 votes</b>	North Dakota — <b>3 votes</b>	Washington — <b>12 votes</b>
Florida — <b>29 votes</b>	Michigan — <b>16 votes</b>	Ohio — <b>18 votes</b>	West Virginia — <b>5 votes</b>
Georgia — <b>16 votes</b>	Minnesota — <b>10 votes</b>	Oklahoma — <b>7 votes</b>	Wisconsin — <b>10 votes</b>
Hawaii — <b>4 votes</b>	Mississippi — <b>6 votes</b>	Oregon — <b>7 votes</b>	Wyoming — <b>3 votes</b>
Idaho — <b>4 votes</b>	Missouri — <b>10 votes</b>	Pennsylvania — <b>20 votes</b>	

Electors vote on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December.

## INAUGURATION

The president elect and vice president elect take the oath of office and are inaugurated in January. Inauguration day after the 2020 election will be held January 21st, 2021.