

# THE ROAD TO

# BECOMING PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

## ELIGIBILITY



**Citizenship:**  
Natural born citizen



**Minimum age:**  
35

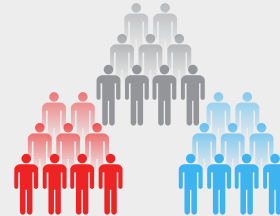


**U.S. resident:**  
14 years

## STEP 1:

### PRIMARIES AND CAUCUSES

People with similar ideas belong to the same political party.



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

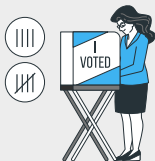


Each state has either a primary or a caucus.

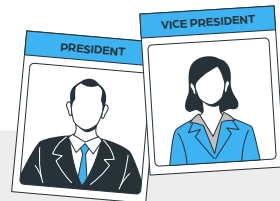
## STEP 3:

### GENERAL ELECTION

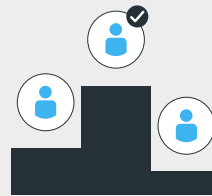
Eligible voters in every state vote for one president and vice president



When each person votes, their vote goes towards a state-wide tally for electors.



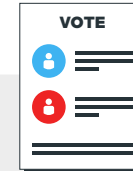
At each national convention, the selected party candidate will choose a running mate (Vice President candidate)



## STEP 2:

### NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Each party holds a national convention to select their presidential candidate



In a **primary**, party members vote in a state-wide election for who they believe is the best candidate to represent their party.

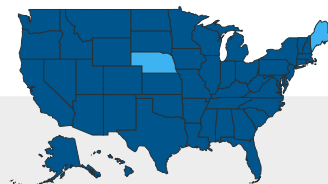
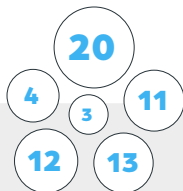


In a **caucus**, party members meet, discuss, and vote for who they believe is the best candidate to represent their party.

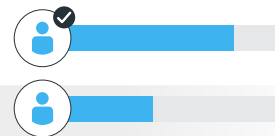
## STEP 4:

### ELECTORAL COLLEGE

In the electoral college system, each state is provided a certain number of electors based on its representation in Congress (the combined number of Senators and Representatives).



48 of the 50 states\*, including the District of Columbia, have a winner-take-all electoral method. This means whoever wins the popular vote in the state, receives all the electoral votes for the state.



The candidate who wins a majority (270) of the electoral votes wins the election.

## STEP 5:

### INAUGURATION



The newly elected President and Vice President are inaugurated in January of the following year.

There are 538 electors in all.

*\*Nebraska and Maine use a proportional electoral method, allocating electors based on the percentage of the vote each candidate receives.*