

# The Electoral College

In the U.S., the people don't vote directly for the president and vice president. Instead, a system called the Electoral College is used. This system allows voters to vote for electors, who then cast their votes for candidates, a system described in Article II of the Constitution.



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## How it works

Each state is entitled to a number of electors equal to that state's representation in Congress.

Example



2 senators (every state)

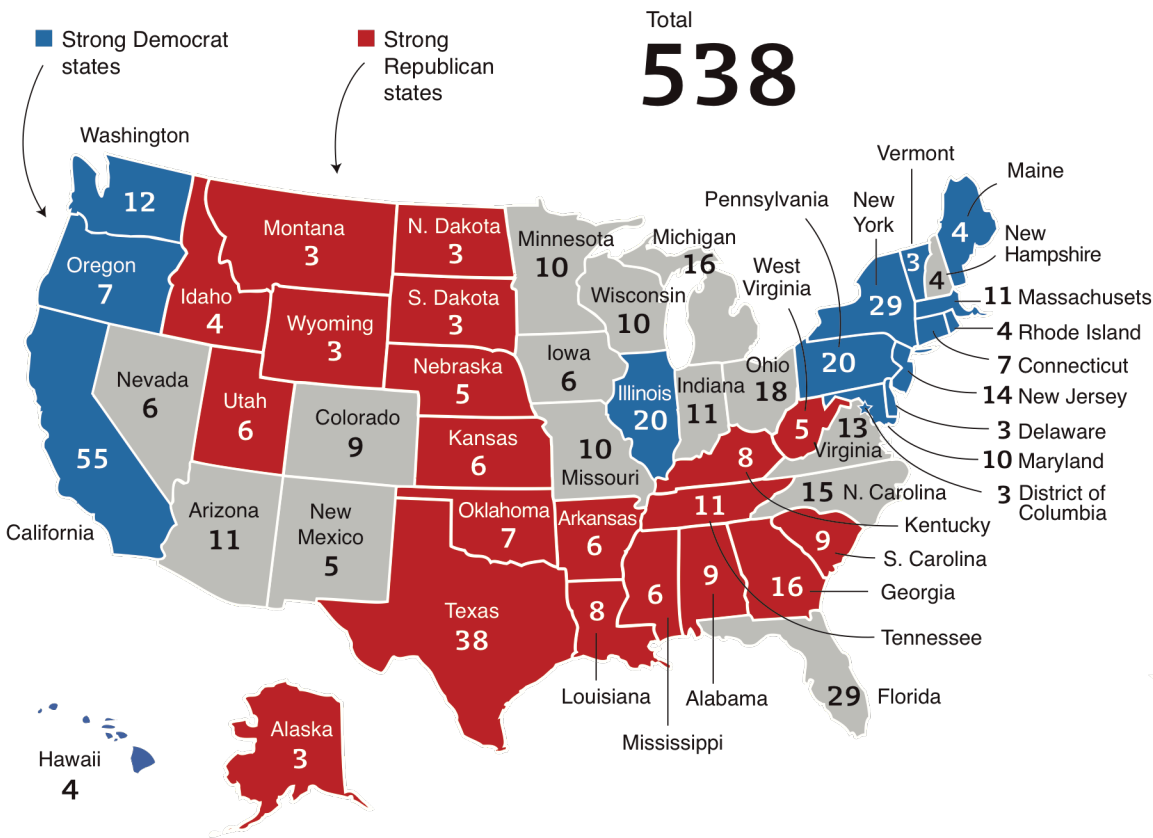
+ 8 members of the House of Representatives

= 10 electors for that state

Every four years, on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November, each state holds an election in which citizens vote for a "ticket" that includes a president and vice president.



## How many electors



But what the voter actually votes for are the electors for their state. These electors then vote for the president and vice president the voter has chosen.

Rep.  Dem.

President  Vice President

The electors for your state

10 electors for your state

**Who you actually vote for**  
These are the electors who make up the Electoral College.

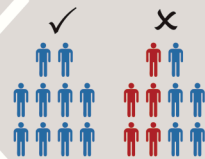
## Finally

On the Monday following the second Wednesday of December, the electors meet in their state capitals and cast their official votes for president and vice president.

All electors are counted up. A simple majority of the 538 electors is needed for the presidential and vice presidential candidates to win.



Electors are not split.



51% or more of the votes are needed for the candidate to win all of the state's available electors.

**Winner takes all**  
Vote result

