

Time to Vote









As the results are announced in each state, color them in: red for Republicans, blue for Democrats.

On Tuesday, Nov. 3, American voters will choose a president and vice president of the United States. The **general election** is always on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

Candidates for president and vice president from one political party run as a team. We call the team a **ticket**.

The tickets this year are:

Republican Ticket		Democratic Ticket	
			
Donald Trump	Mike Pence	Joe Biden	Kamala Harris

Electing a president

The rules for electing a new president are laid out in the U.S. Constitution. Each state gets a certain number of votes, called **electoral votes**.

The number of electoral votes that each state gets is based on how many senators and representatives the state has in the U.S. Congress. How many does your state have?

The Electoral College

Voting is an extremely important duty that adults perform as citizens of the United States. But we don't directly elect our presidents.

Instead, the U.S. uses the Electoral College method. The Electoral College isn't a university where people go to study. Another

meaning of **college** is a group that meets and has special duties.

The Electoral College has the duty of choosing the president of the U.S. Its vote is based on how the people in each state voted.

Electors

The political parties for each state choose a set of electors. The number of electors is equal to the state's number of members of Congress.

For example:
South Carolina has

2 senators
+ 7 representatives
9 electors for each party

Eight Republican electors from South Carolina would be expected to vote for the Republican ticket. The eight Democratic electors would be expected to vote for the Democratic ticket.

Other political parties and independent candidates choose a set of electors, too.

The popular vote

American citizens who are 18 years old or older are eligible to vote. In most states, the winning ticket in each state gets all of that state's electoral votes.

Sometimes the candidate who gets the most **popular** votes does not get the most electoral votes. This happened in 2016, when Hillary Clinton received 65,845,063 votes, but only 227 electoral votes. President Donald Trump received 62,980,160 popular votes, but he won 304 electoral votes.

Electoral Votes	
Alabama	9
Alaska	3
Arizona	11
Arkansas	6
California	55
Colorado	9
Connecticut	7
Delaware	3
District of Columbia	3
Florida	29
Georgia	16
Hawaii	4
Idaho	4
Illinois	20
Indiana	11
Iowa	6
Kansas	6
Kentucky	8
Louisiana	8
Maine	4
Maryland	10
Massachusetts	11
Michigan	16
Minnesota	10
Mississippi	6
Missouri	10
Montana	3
Nebraska	5
Nevada	6
New Hampshire	4
New Jersey	14
New Mexico	5
New York	29
North Carolina	15
North Dakota	3
Ohio	18
Oklahoma	7
Oregon	7
Pennsylvania	20
Rhode Island	4
South Carolina	9
South Dakota	3
Tennessee	11
Texas	38
Utah	6
Vermont	3
Virginia	13
Washington	12
West Virginia	5
Wisconsin	10
Wyoming	3
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TOTAL	538

Needed to win

A presidential ticket needs 270 electoral votes to win. In most years, we know late on election night who the winners are. However, the pandemic this year has changed the way many people will vote. Some will vote by mail, and those votes may not be counted until days or weeks after the election.

Resources

On the Web:

- kidsvotingusa.org

At the library:

- "Voting for the President of the United States" by Shannon H. Harts

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of the presidential election are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

BIDEN, CITIZEN,
COLLEGE, DEMOCRATIC,
DUTY, ELECTION,
ELECTORAL, GENERAL,
HARRIS, NOVEMBER,
PARTY, PENCE, POPULAR,
PRESIDENT, REPUBLICAN,
TICKET, TRUMP, VICE,
VOTE, WIN.

F I E K E G E L L O C C R Y P
T I L E L E C T I O N P S V R
C U E B I D E N U J A P I L E
N A C I L B U P E R O T R A S
C I T I Z E N C T P A I R R I
T V O T E I I Y U M D C A E D
D G R H W V C L B D V K H N E
U Z A C I T A R C O M E D E N
T W L O C R P E N C E T Z G T
Y L P M U R T N O V E M B E R



Cook's Corner

Quick 'n' Easy Baked Beans

You'll need:

- 1 (16-ounce) can baked beans
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

What to do:

1. Mix all ingredients in a medium-sized glass baking dish.
2. Microwave on high for 3 minutes.
3. Stir well to mix flavors. Makes 4 servings.



* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. Luigi's video game brother (5) _____
2. place to store a car (6) _____
3. they open locks (4) _____
4. very smart (11) _____
5. rings and bracelets (7) _____
6. fruit that grows on a vine (5) _____
7. moving stairway (9) _____

TOR	PE	GAR	YS
MAR	ELLI	ALA	JEWE
GENT	ESC	GRA	IO
LRY	AGE	INT	KE



Answers: Mario, garage, keys, intelligent, jewelry, grape, escalator.

Mini Jokes

Vince: Why does Mississippi see so many voters at the polls?
Valerie: Because it has four eyes!

Eco Note

Even if you don't live near a coast, your plastic waste can still find its way to the ocean. A plastic water bottle blown into the street can travel down a stormwater sewer, into rivers and streams, and out into the ocean. Birds, turtles, fish and other marine life eat the plastic pieces, mistaking them for fish eggs, plankton, jellyfish or other food sources. What can you do? Participate in park cleanups. Use reusable water bottles. Stop using plastic straws. And recycle!

adapted from NPS.gov

For later:

Watch your newspaper for articles about the upcoming election.

Teachers: Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



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