

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.



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.



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.

How many electors

Strong Democrat states

Strong Republican states

Total
538

