

Who can become US President?

- Natural born citizen
- minimum 35 years old
- US resident for 14
- you can only be president twice (22nd amendment, since 1951)

What is a caucus?

Party members select the best candidate through a series of discussions and votes. Caucuses are organized directly by the political parties.

What are primaries?

That's primary elections run by state and local governments. Party members vote for the best candidate that will represent them in the general election.

What is the national convention?

Each party holds a national convention to select a final presidential nominee. There the delegates chosen by primaries and/or caucuses vote for their favourite candidate.

What is a
„running
mate“?

At the national convention the presidential candidate chooses a running mate. He or she might be the future vice president.

What are
the 2 leading
US parties?

- Republicans and Democrats.
- Republicans are conservative, Democrats more liberal.

What are
the general
elections?

US citizens in every state all around the country vote for one president (and vice president).

When are
the general
elections?

On the 3rd November 2020. It is always the first Tuesday in November. Elections occur quadrennially.

What is an „elector“?

At the general elections people actually cast their vote for a group of people called electors. They finally elect the president.

What is the electoral college?

The electors get together and cast their vote based on the result of the general election.

How many electors are there?

538. Each state gets a certain number, based on its representation in Congress.

Who finally becomes president?

If you get more than half of the 538 electors' votes (270) in the electoral college.

What are
„popular
votes“?

That is the actual number of the American people's votes for a candidate. But not the candidate with the most votes wins. The candidate who gets the most votes in a state wins all the electors of that state.

Who are the
presidential
candidates?

Joe Biden (Democrat),
Donald Trump (Republican),
Bonus: Jo Jorgensen
(Libertarian)

Who are the
'running
mates'?

Kamala Harris (Democrat),
Mike Pence (Republican),
Bonus: Jeremy Cohen
(Libertarian)

Who is
allowed to
vote?

- all US citizens - but in most states prisoners are excluded!
- 18 or older
- registered in one of the 50 states

What is
'Inauguration
Day'?

It is a ceremony to mark the commencement of a new four-year term of the president of the United States. Since 1937, it has taken place at noon EST on January 20,

What if there is no majority for one candidate in the electoral college?

If no candidate receives a majority of the electoral vote (at least 270), the House of Representatives elect the president, the Senate elect the vice president. (12th amendment)

What is the
'winner-take-all
system'?

The ticket that wins a plurality of popular votes wins all of that state's allocated electoral votes, and thus has their slate of electors chosen to vote in the Electoral College.

What are
'swing
states'?

States in which no single candidate or party has overwhelming support. Such swing states like Ohio are inundated with campaign visits etc..

What are
'superdelegates'?

A superdelegate is an unpledged delegate to the Democratic National Convention who is seated automatically and chooses for themselves for whom they vote. These include party leaders and elected officials.

What are 'write-in
candidates'?

The final way to be elected for president is to have one's name written in at the time of election. This method is used for candidates who did not fulfill the legal requirements to be pre-listed on the voting ticket.

What's so
special about
Guam?

Because U.S. territories are not represented in the Electoral College, U.S. citizens in those areas do not vote in the general election for president.

What is the
'ballot
access'?

The rules regulating the conditions under which a candidate is entitled to appear on voters' ballots (such as: minimum age, residency, citizenship or to collect a specified number of qualified voters' signatures the payment of filing fees, etc.)