

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE



1. Created by the Constitution; amended by:
 - a. The Twelfth Amendment (1804) gave electors two votes, one for president and one for vice.
 - b. The Twenty-Third Amendment gave D.C. 3 Electoral votes.
2. *Federalist* 68 (Hamilton) defends and explains the electoral college.
3. The total number of electoral votes is equal to seats in Congress plus three for D.C. (currently 538).
4. Each state has the number of electoral votes equal to its seats in Congress.
5. It takes a simple majority of the electoral vote to win the election (currently 270).
6. States calculate the winner of their electoral vote on a winner take all basis (except for ME and NE).
7. If no candidate receives a simple majority of the electoral votes, the House of Representatives picks the president, and the Senate picks the vice president (1800 and 1824).
8. Voters vote for electors on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.
9. Six weeks after the November election, electors meet in their respective state capitols and cast their votes.
10. On January 6, a joint session of Congress led by the sitting vice president counts the electoral votes and certifies the election.