



The American Election

Who are the candidates this year? When does the election take place? What are the requirements to be eligible?

Good to know: There are 2 major parties in this election; the Democrats and the Republicans.

Here are the candidates and their Vice-President's choice; there is Joe Biden and Kamala Harris as his Vice-President against Donald Trump and Mike Pence as his Vice-President.

When does this election take place?

The vote which is going to designate the president takes place on the Tuesday after the 1st Monday of November. But, before the election, the candidates made a collection of efforts to try to win.

After the election the President and Vice-President are inaugurated on the 20th of January.

The most important facts; what are the 3 requirements to run for a presidential election?

The first one: you must be a natural-born citizen.

The second: you must be, at least 35 years old.

The third: you need to have been a U.S resident for at least 14 years.

How does the American elections work?

Before being elected the President of the U.S., the candidate will have to go through some ordeals, here are the four steps.

1st step: Primaries and Caucuses.

In primaries, party members vote for the best candidate they want to represent them while in caucuses party members meet, discuss and designate the best candidate.

2nd step: National Convention: Each party holds a national convention to select a presidential nominee and a vice-presidential candidate.

3rd step: General election:

People vote for a group of 538 people called Electors.

4th step: Electoral College:

Each elector casts one vote following the general election.



The candidate who gets 270 electors or more wins the election and becomes the president.



The 'winner-takes-all' system

This system gives a big advantage to the candidate who gets the majority of votes in a state because he gets all the electoral votes of this state. It is not proportional, but majoritarian.

A candidate can win the popular vote but can lose the election vote because it is not proportional, this is what happened to Hillary Clinton in 2016.

In consequence, some American citizens may feel frustrated because they may feel their vote is not being taken into account.

So, it might be pointless to vote for a candidate who's not competitive for your state's electoral vote.



The parties and their symbols

There are 2 major parties: The Democrats and the Republicans. There are also other little parties, but they never won a presidential election.

Democrats and Republicans differ on views and policies, but they both work in the Senate and the Congress to pass laws and to protect the American Nation.

The Democrats' logo is a blue-and-red donkey which symbolizes determination because the donkey is a strong-willed animal.

The Republicans' logo is an elephant. It refers to the phrase "to see the elephant" used by the soldiers during the Civil War. The meaning of the phrase is: "to gain knowledge through experience".

