

CHOOSING THE PRESIDENT



Constitutional Requirements

Article II section 1

Native born citizen,

35 years of age,

resident for 14 years

Same for Vice president

Religion Matters (JFK first catholic president) –
all others before were Protestant

Informal Requirement

Political Experience :

- Senators, Governors, Generals
- Experience in lawmaking, compromise,
understanding of how the government works
- alliance with political party

■ Political Beliefs

Republicans v. Democrats

- **Usually moderates win**; - middle of the road presidents

■ Financial Backing

- Expensive to run for president
 - Ads (TV/Social Media), campaign staff, travel
 - FEC – Federal Election Commission
 - Regulates campaign expenditures
- Personal wealth + public funding



LEADERSHIP SKILLS

- Understanding the Public
 - In touch with what the public feels
 - Gain support – can influence lawmakers
 - Congress will pass presidential policies
- Ability to Communicate
 - Power to persuade
 - Inspire public support
 - FDR – Fireside Chats
 - Reagan – Great Communicator
- Sense of Timing
 - Timing of policies / key decisions
 - Public response influences President decisions
- Ability to Compromise
 - Work with both political parties
 - Compromise on bills
- Political Courage
 - Do what is best, even when unpopular
 - Challenge traditions of political parties



10.2

PRESIDENT SALARY + VICE PRESIDENT & SUCCESSION



TERMS, SALARY & BENEFITS

- **Terms of Office**

- George Washington – 2 terms – set a precedent
 - **Peaceful Transfer of power** – essential for a Democracy
 - FDR – 3rd and 4th Term
- 22nd Amendment – 2 terms in office or a max of 10 years
 - Only 14 of 44 have served two complete terms

- **Salary**

- \$400,000/year from
- President also receives a \$50,000 non-taxable expense account.
 - Free Healthcare + lifetime pension (\$199,700/year)



VICE PRESIDENT

- “I am nothing, but I may be everything.”
- The Constitution only gives the Vice President two duties besides becoming President if the President is removed from office:
- Responsibilities
 - **Take over presidency**
 - Death, impeachment, disability, resignation
 - **Preside over the Senate**
 - Break a tie in voting
 - Decide when the president can no longer perform the duties.
- Modern Responsibilities
 - Policy meetings
 - Special assignments – (gun control, 2012)
 - Foreign Policy
 - National Security Council
 - Senate Foreign relations committee
- Influence Election
 - **Balance the ticket**



INTO THE OVAL OFFICE

Vice Presidents Who Succeeded to the Presidency	
Successor	Reason for Succession
John Tyler	Death (pneumonia) of William Henry Harrison, April 4, 1841
Millard Fillmore	Death (gastroenteritis) of Zachary Taylor, July 9, 1850
Andrew Johnson	Death (assassination) of Abraham Lincoln, April 15, 1865
Chester A. Arthur	Death (assassination) of James A. Garfield, September 19, 1881
Theodore Roosevelt	Death (assassination) of William McKinley, September 14, 1901
Calvin Coolidge	Death (undisclosed illness) of Warren G. Harding, August 2, 1923
Harry S Truman	Death (cerebral hemorrhage) of Franklin D. Roosevelt, April 12, 1945
Lyndon B. Johnson	Death (assassination) of John F. Kennedy, November 22, 1963
Gerald R. Ford	Resignation of Richard M. Nixon, August 9, 1974



IMPORTANCE OF THE OFFICE CONT'D

- John Adams – “most insignificant office that ever the invention of man contrived or his imagination conceived.”

- Balance the ticket

- Pick a running mate who can strengthen his chance of being elected
 - Ideology
 - Geographically
 - Racially
 - Personal Characteristics



VP AND SUCCESSION

- **25th Amendment**

- Vice-President succeeds if the president leaves office due to death or resignation or convicted of impeachment (for treason, bribery, or other high crimes)
 - Impeachment is investigated by the House, and if impeached, tried by the Senate with the Chief Justice presiding.
 - President becomes ill
 - President informs congress
 - VP and cabinet determine president is unfit to rule

- **Succession Act 1947**

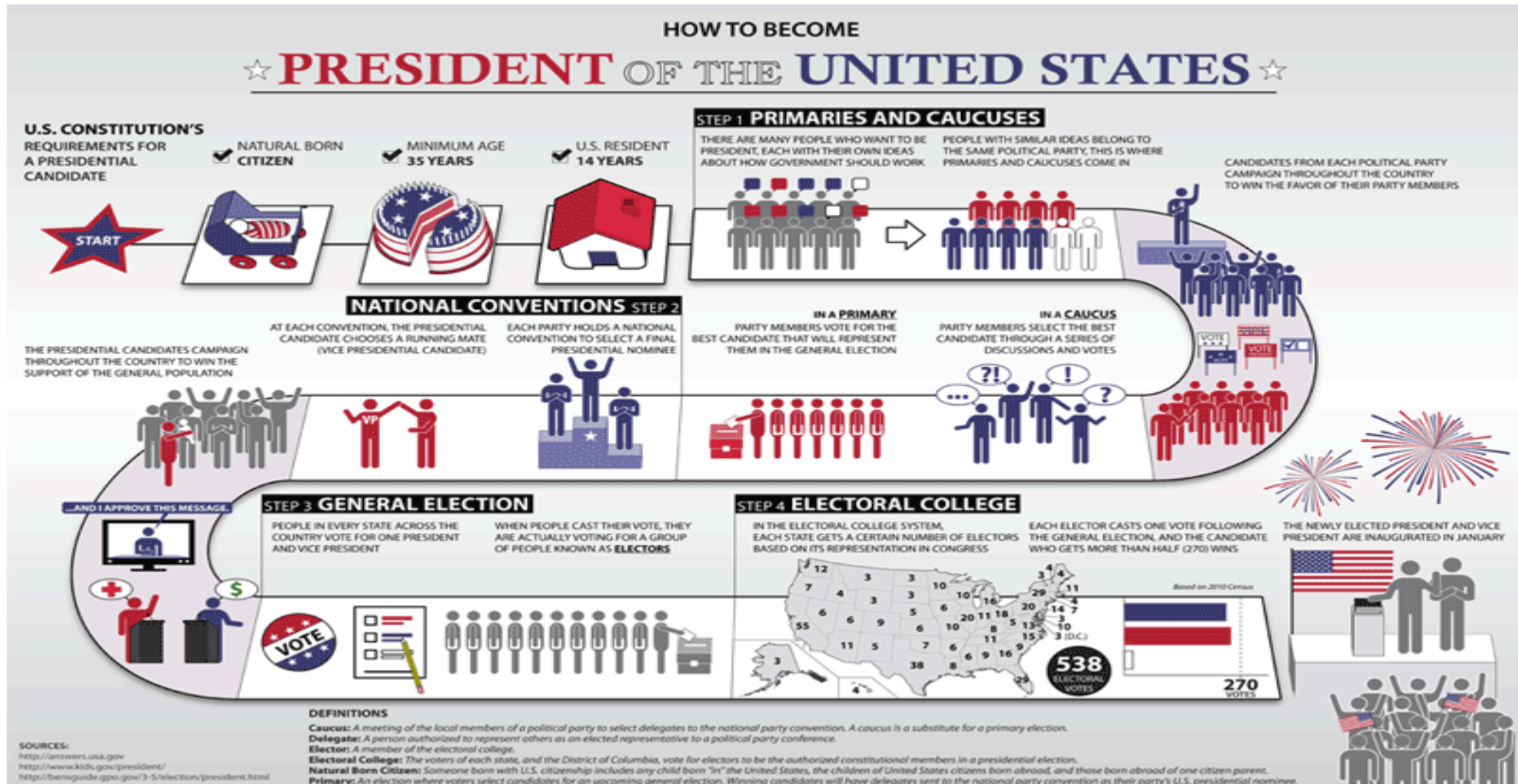
- Order of presidential succession
 - Both President and VP out of office

Presidential Succession	
1	Vice President
2	Speaker of the House
3	President <i>pro tempore</i> of the Senate
4	Secretary of State
5	Secretary of the Treasury
6	Secretary of Defense
7	Attorney General
8	Secretary of the Interior
9	Secretary of Agriculture
10	Secretary of Commerce
11	Secretary of Labor
12	Secretary of Health and Human Services
13	Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
14	Secretary of Transportation
15	Secretary of Energy
16	Secretary of Education
17	Secretary of Veterans Affairs



10.3

ELECTING THE PRESIDENT



ROAD TO THE WHITE HOUSE

- **Electors** – people who promise to elect the President
 - People do not directly elect the President and VP
 - **Electoral College**
 - **12th Amendment**
 - Role of Electoral College
 - Constitution and Framers
 - Framers did not trust the people's judgment about electing the president
 - Difficult for people to become informed of the nominees
 - **Electoral College**
 - Winner take all system – candidate receives states votes – win popular election in a state
 - 538 Electors
 - Based on representatives + senate
 - Ohio – 18 (16 for House + 2 senators)
 - Maine / Nebraska – allocate electors based on districts

[TED TALK: Who Elects the President](#)



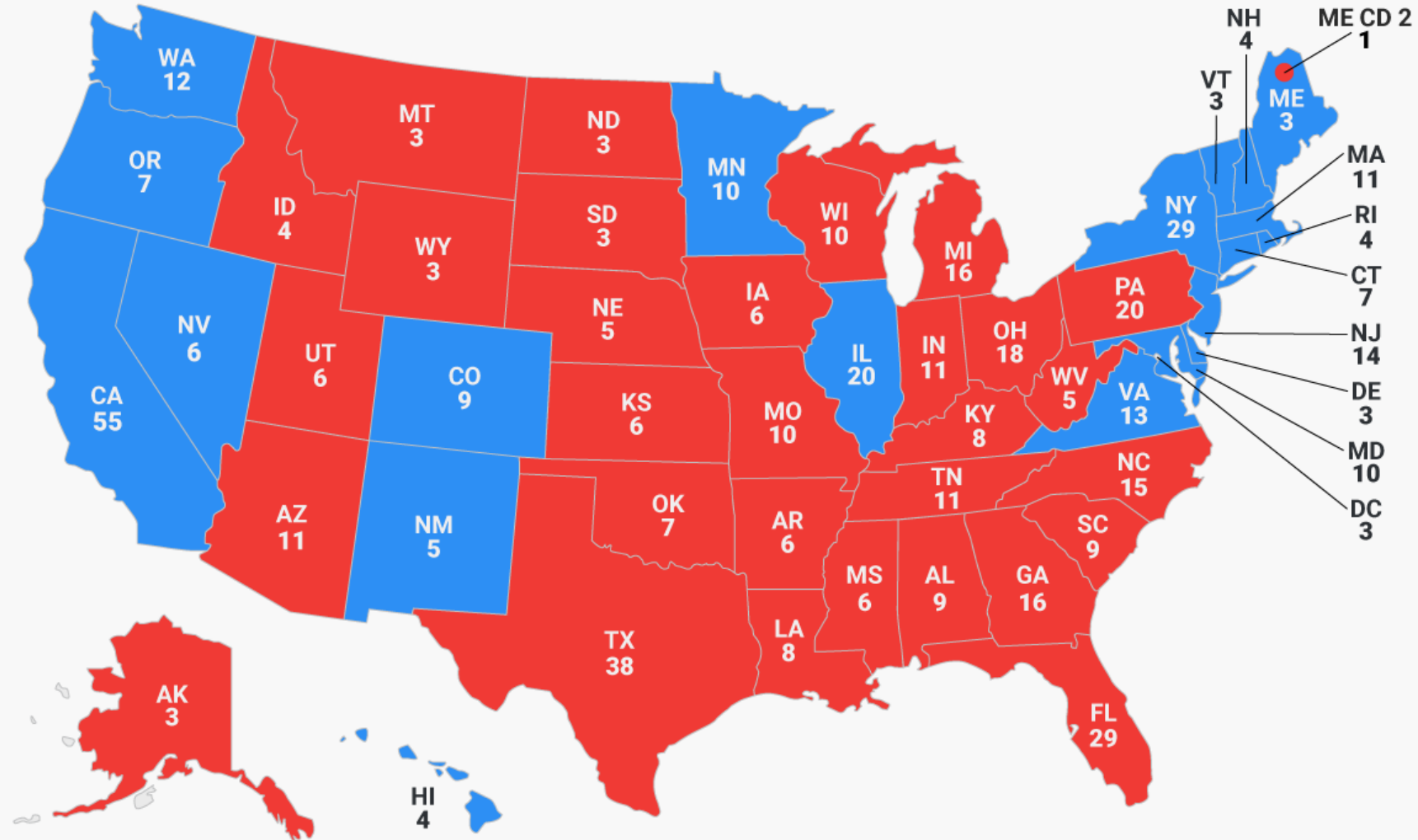
CLINTON

232

270 ELECTORAL
VOTES TO WIN

TRUMP

306



RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT

- Campaign
 - PAC – Political Action Committee
 - Like minded supporters
 - Determine if a candidate has a chance to win
 - Raise money to support a candidate
 - Campaign committees –
 - Public figures who support candidate
 - Develop campaign slogans
 - Recruit others to help candidate
- Federal Election Commission (FEC) – independent agency to enforce federal election laws
 - Candidates must register
 - Must report all funding to the FEC



PRIMARIES + CAUCUSES

- Candidates must win their political party
 - **Primary**
 - Members of political party vote on candidate for their party
 - **Caucus**
 - Members of political party gather together discuss candidates
 - Select delegates to send to National Convention to vote on candidate
- Appeal to voters
 - Candidates travel, give speeches
 - Appeal to specific states/groups
- **National Convention (RNC + DNC)**
 - Political parties host a nominating convention
 - Delegates vote for candidate
 - Based on election results during primary elections + caucuses



GENERAL ELECTION

- Candidates win party nomination
 - Appeal to the American Public
 - Especially undecided voters
 - Swing States – states where voters are divided
 - Ohio, Florida, Penn. Nevada
- Political Debates
 - See the candidates
 - Learn about the issues
- Election Day – 1st Tuesday, after the 1st Monday in November
 - Electors report to official votes (represent popular vote for state)



FLAWS IN THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

There are three major defects in the electoral college:

- (1) It is possible to win the popular vote in the presidential election, but lose the electoral college vote. This has happened five times in U.S. history (1824, 1876, 1888, 2000 and now 2016).
- (2) Nothing in the Constitution, nor in any federal statute, requires the electors to vote for the candidate favored by the popular vote in their State.
- (3) If no candidate gains a majority in the electoral college, the election is thrown into the House, a situation that has happened twice (1800 and 1824). In this process, each State is given one vote, meaning that States with smaller populations wield the same power as those with larger populations.



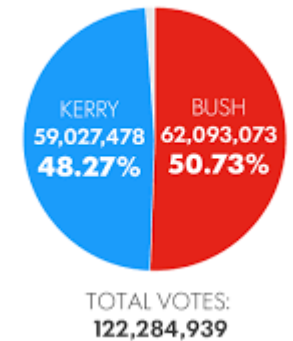
FLAW 1

- Winner takes all approach
 - Winner takes entire states electoral votes
 - Bush had 51% Ohio voters , Kerry 2.7 Million votes
 - Distribution of Electoral Votes
 - California 1 electoral vote for 615,848 people
 - Wyoming 1 vote for 164,594 people
 - Popular vote presidents fail to win election
 - 1824, 1876, 1888, 2000.
 - Al Gore 50,992,335 (500 thousand more than Bush
 - Bush – won Electoral Vote (25 votes from Florida)
 - Bush v Gore Supreme court case
 - Counties were recounting votes in various ways, which violated the 14th Amendment, Equal protection clause

2016 Election Results



2004 ELECTION



FLAW 2 + 3



- Electors are not required to vote for the candidate favored by the popular vote.
 - Several states do have laws
 - Electors are expected to vote for the candidate who carries the state.
- Election maybe decided in the House of Representatives
 - Voting is done by states not individual members
 - Small states would have same weight as larger states
 - State could lose its ability to vote if candidates are split
 - Requires 26 states to vote
 - Third party candidates make the process more challenging



PROPOSED REFORMS

- In the **district plan**, electors would be chosen the same way members of Congress are selected: each congressional district would select one elector (just as they select representatives), and two electors would be selected based on the overall popular vote in a State (just as senators are selected).
- The **proportional plan** suggests that each candidate would receive the same share of a State's electoral vote as he or she received in the State's popular vote.
 - Win the accurate percentage of the states electoral votes
 - 40 % of a state with 20 electoral votes, the candidate would get 8 electoral votes
 - This eliminates the “winner take all” method



Proposed Reforms

- A commonly heard reform suggests that the electoral college be done away with altogether in favor of **direct popular election**. At the polls, voters would vote directly for the President and Vice President instead of electors.
- The **national bonus plan** would automatically offer the winner of the popular vote 102 electoral votes in addition to the other electoral votes he or she might gain.
 - Almost guarantees the winner of the popular vote would win the presidential election



ELECTORAL COLLEGE SUPPORTERS

There are two major strengths of the electoral college that its supporters espouse:

- It is a known process. Each of the proposed, but untried, reforms may very well have defects that could not be known until they appeared in practice.
- In most election years, the electoral college defines the winner of the presidential election quickly and certainly ■

