

Topic: US Presidential Elections 2016

The United States presidential election of 2016, scheduled for **Tuesday, November 8, 2016**, will be the **58th quadrennial U.S. presidential election**. Voters will select *presidential electors* who in turn will elect a new president and vice president through the *Electoral College*. The term limit established in the **Twenty-second Amendment** to the United States Constitution prevents the incumbent President, Barack Obama, of the Democratic Party, from being elected to a third term. The series of presidential primary elections and caucuses is taking place between **February 1 and June 14, 2016**, staggered among the 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories. This nominating process is also an **indirect election**, where voters cast ballots for a slate of delegates to a political party's nominating convention, who then in turn elect their party's presidential nominee.

**Election Process:**

Article Two of the United States Constitution provides that for a person to be elected and serve as President of the United States, the individual must be a **natural-born citizen** of the United States, at least **35 years old**, and a resident of the United States for a period of no less than **14 years**. Candidates for the presidency typically **seek the nomination** of one of the various Political parties of the United States, in which case each party devises a method (such as a primary election) to choose the candidate the party deems best suited to run for the position. The primary elections are usually **indirect elections** where voters cast ballots for a slate of party **delegates** pledged to a particular candidate. The party's **delegates then officially nominate** a candidate to run on the party's behalf. The general election in November is also an indirect election, where voters cast ballots for a slate of members of the Electoral College; these electors in turn directly elect the President and Vice President. The **United States Electoral College** is the institution that elects the President and Vice President of the United States **every four years**. Citizens of the United States do not directly elect the president or the vice president; instead, **these voters directly elect** designated intermediaries called "**electors**," who almost always have pledged to vote for particular presidential and vice presidential candidates (though unpledged electors are possible) and who are themselves selected according to the particular laws of each state. Electors are apportioned to each of the **50 states** as well as to **the District of Columbia** (also known as Washington, D.C.). In total, there are **currently 538 electors**, corresponding to the 435 members of the House of Representatives and 100 senators, plus the three additional electors from the District of Columbia. Except for the electors in **Maine and Nebraska**, electors are elected on a "**winner-take-all**" basis. That is, all electors pledged to the presidential candidate who wins the most votes in a state become electors for that state. Maine and Nebraska use the "**congressional district method**", selecting one elector within each congressional district by popular vote and selecting the remaining two electors by a **state wide popular vote**. The Twelfth Amendment, in specifying how a president and vice president are elected, requires **each elector to cast one vote for president and another vote for vice president**. The candidate who receives an absolute majority of electoral votes (**currently 270**) for the office of president or of vice president is elected to that office. The Twelfth Amendment provides for what happens if the Electoral College fails to elect a president or vice president. If no candidate receives a majority for president, then the **House of Representatives** will select the president, with each **state delegation** (instead of each representative) having only **one vote**. If no candidate receives a majority for vice president, then the Senate will select the vice president, with each senator having one vote.

Topic  
Introduction

## US Election Current Scenario:

America's two main political parties -- **Democratic and Republican** -- choose their respective nominees through party-sponsored contests in each of the states and U.S. territories, a process that starts in February and takes up to five months. States have two ways of collecting their party members' votes when choosing a presidential candidate -- "**primaries**" and "**caucuses**." A "primary" is what most people traditionally think of when they imagine **voting** -- people show up at a neighbourhood polling place to vote for their **candidate by ballot**. A "caucus" is very different. It's a neighbourhood event that requires **several hours of active communal participation and debate**, and takes place in the evening in a home or public space, depending on the size of the caucus location. **Thirteen states and territories** held caucuses or primaries on the first Tuesday in March -- also known as "**Super Tuesday**." The results cemented **Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump** as the clear favourites in the race for the Democratic and Republican nominations, but it's far from over.

### Top Republican contenders:

**Donald Trump:** The real estate mogul has led the field for months despite breaking many rules of traditional campaigning, including criticizing prisoners of war, Mexicans, Muslims and women (amongst others). Very few experts predicted he would be so successful.

**Ted Cruz:** The fiercely conservative Texas Senator has made a name for himself as an outsider in Congress. He orchestrated a government shutdown in 2013.

**Marco Rubio:** The Florida Senator came to power with the rise of the anti-establishment "Tea Party" side of his party in 2010, but has shown ability to work with Democrats.

### Top Democrats:

**Hillary Clinton:** She's been planning this campaign almost since the moment she lost in 2008. Wife of Bill, she's seen as somewhat of a continuation of Barack Obama and a safe pair of hands by Democrats.

**Bernie Sanders:** The Vermont Senator represents the most liberal wing of mainstream American politics, but some Democrats see him as too lefty to win a national election.

### At a glance:

- **Donald Trump** won two more states, bringing his total to **12**
- **Ted Cruz's** two victories give him **six wins** in all
- **Marco Rubio** has won only **one state**, while **John Kasich** has **none**
- **Hillary Clinton's** win in Louisiana gives her a total of **11 states**
- **Bernie Sanders'** two victories give him **seven wins** in all

### Read further:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/us-election/11594053/US-election-2016-What-you-need-to-know.html>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electoral\\_College\\_%28United\\_States%29](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electoral_College_%28United_States%29)

[http://www.enchantedlearning.com/vote/presidential\\_elections.shtml](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/vote/presidential_elections.shtml)

<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/03/2016-election/384828/>