

# U.S. Presidential Election

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## U.S. Presidential Election: Key Steps and Process

**Context:** The United States will elect its next President in the 2024 general election, scheduled for **November 5, 2024**.

**Background:** Every four years, the U.S. holds a Presidential election on the first Tuesday of November. To run for President, candidates must meet certain requirements, and the election process begins months or even years before Election Day.

### Key Points:

1. **Eligibility Requirements:** To run for President, a person must be:
  - A **natural-born citizen** of the U.S.
  - **At least 35 years old**
  - A resident of the U.S. for **14 years**
2. **The Election Process:** The Presidential election follows several steps, including **primaries, caucuses, national conventions, general elections**, and the final vote by the **Electoral College**.

### Step 1: Primaries and Caucuses

- **Primaries and Caucuses** are held to choose delegates who represent the people at party conventions.
- In a **Caucus**, party members meet to discuss and vote for their preferred candidate. It's a meeting where delegates are chosen for the national convention.
- In a **Primary**, voters cast secret ballots to select their favorite candidate. Most states hold primaries **6 to 9 months** before the Presidential election.

### Step 2: National Conventions

- Each party holds a **National Convention** after the primaries and caucuses. Here, the party's delegates officially choose the **Presidential nominee**. The nominee then selects a **Vice President** to run with them.

### Step 3: General Election

- In the **General Election**, voters across the country vote for their preferred **President** and **Vice President**. However, they are actually voting for **electors** who will later choose the President.

### Step 4: The Electoral College

- The **Electoral College** is the final step. The President is chosen by **538 electors**. Each state gets electors based on its number of representatives in Congress. To win, a candidate needs **270 electoral votes**.

Even though the election happens in November, the **Electoral College** casts its votes in **December**, and Congress counts the votes in **January**. The new President starts their term on **January 20**, known as **Inauguration Day**.

This process ensures that the President is chosen both by the **popular vote** and through the **Electoral College** system.



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