



## How do I register to vote?



**You can register** at the Department of Public Safety when applying for or making changes to a driver license.

**You can register** at your county Voter Registrar's office. (In most Texas counties, the Tax Assessor-Collector is also the Voter Registrar. In some counties, the County Clerk or Elections Administrator registers voters.)

**You can register** by mail

by obtaining an application from your county Voter Registrar's office or the Secretary of State's office. You can also pick up applications at libraries, many post offices and government offices, major grocery stores, high schools, malls, or download one at [www.sos.state.tx.us](http://www.sos.state.tx.us).

**You're Eligible to Vote**

**in Texas if:**

1. You are a U.S. Citizen
2. You are at least 18 years old on Election Day
3. You are not a convicted felon (you may be eligible to vote if you have completed your sentence, probation, and parole)
4. You have not been declared by a court of law to be either totally mentally incapacitated or

partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote

In order to be eligible to vote in the upcoming Presidential election, you must register **prior to October 6, 2008.**

Source: [www.sos.state.tx.us](http://www.sos.state.tx.us)

## What types of Elections are there in the U.S.?

**There are two basic types of elections** – primary and general. In addition to the primaries and general elections held in even-numbered years, which include political races for the U.S. Congress, some states and local jurisdictions also hold “off-year” elections in odd-numbered years for their elected officials.

**A primary election** is the candidates who will run in the general election if

chosen. Victory in a primary usually results in a candidate being nominated or endorsed by a political party for the general election.

**A general election** is an election held to choose among candidates nominated in a primary (or by convention, caucus or petition) for federal, state and/or local office. The purpose of a general election is to make a final choice among the various

candidates who have been nominated. by parties or who are running as independents (not affiliated with a major political party) or, in some cases, write-in candidates. Measures such as proposed legislation (referendums), bond issues (approving the borrowing of money for public projects) and other mandates on government also can be placed on the ballot.

**In addition, many states provide for special elections**, which can be called at any time, to serve a specific purpose, such as filling an unexpected vacancy in an elected office.

Source: [www.america.gov](http://www.america.gov)

*“In 1876, one vote gave Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency of the U.S.”*

(Source: [historychannel.com](http://historychannel.com))

# What is the Electoral College?

U.S. presidents are not elected directly by the people but by a group of designated citizens known as electors. This group of electors makes up the Electoral College. The process for selecting electors varies from state to state, but usually the political parties nominate electors at state party conventions or by a vote of the party's central committee.

On Election Day the voters in each state, by casting votes for president and vice president, actually are voting for the set of electors who will vote for the voters' preferred candidate.

**How does the Electoral College work?** Each state elects the number of representatives to the

Electoral College that is equal to its number of Senators – two from each state – plus its number of delegates in the House of Representatives. The District of Columbia, which has no voting representation in Congress, has three Electoral College votes. There are 538 electors in the Electoral College; 270 votes are needed to win the presidential election.

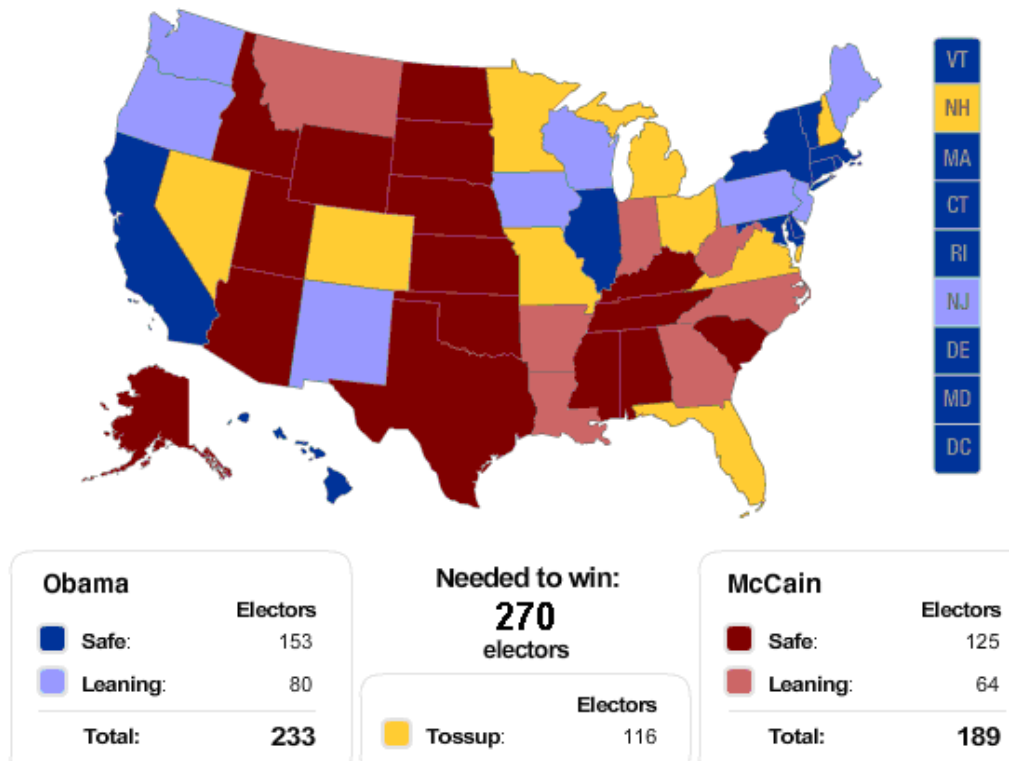
If no presidential candidate wins a majority of electoral votes, the 12th Amendment to the Constitution provides for the presidential election to be decided by the House of Representatives. In such situations, the House selects the president by majority vote, choosing from the three candidates

who received the greatest number of electoral votes. Each state casts one vote.

**How can a candidate win the most votes but lose the presidency?** Every state except Nebraska and Maine award all of their Electoral votes to the winner of the state's popular vote. It is possible that a candidate can win more Electoral votes but less votes nationwide. This has happened three times in U.S. history, most recently in 2000. Typically this scenario happens when the Electoral College winner wins some states by narrow margins and loses others by large margins.

Source: [uspolitics.america.gov](http://uspolitics.america.gov)

## ELECTORAL COLLEGE



*“In 1845, one vote brought Texas into the Union”*

(Source: [historychannel.com](http://historychannel.com))

Source: [CNN.com](http://CNN.com)

## FAQ's

### WHERE DO I VOTE?

Most Texas newspapers publish the location of polling places prior to every election.

You may also contact the person that handles the election duties in your county to find out the location of your polling place. If you have your voter registration certificate, it will list your precinct number. When you call, tell the person that answers the phone your precinct number to find out where your polling place is located. Remember, on election day you must vote in the precinct where you are registered.

**EARLY VOTING:** Early voting will be conducted October 20-31 in many different locations. During the early voting period, you can vote at any early voting site within the county.

**VOTING BY MAIL:** Only specific reasons entitle a registered voter to vote early by mail (no longer called absentee voting). You may request a ballot by mail if you:

- are 65 years of age or older on Election Day.

- are sick or disabled;

- will be away from your county on

Election Day and during early voting;

**SPECIAL ASSISTANCE:** You are entitled to receive assistance if you cannot read or write; or have a physical disability that prevents you from reading or making the ballot. Tell the election official that you need help to vote. You do not have to provide proof of your disability.

The hours of voting on election day are 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

All this information and much more can be found at:

<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections>

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2008**

## OFFICIAL DEBATE SCHEDULE

**When:** October 7, 2008

**Location:** Belmont University, Nashville, TN

**Attending:** Presidential debate, town hall format

**When:** October 15, 2008

**Location:** Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY

**Attending:** Presidential debate, foreign policy

All debates will begin at 8pm, and last for hour and a half (90 minutes), and will be broadcast on the major broadcast networks, including CBS, NBC, ABC, FOX and major news channels such as CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, and C-SPAN.

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16th District Court—Republican



*Election Day: November 4, 2008*

*Early Voting: October 20-31*

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