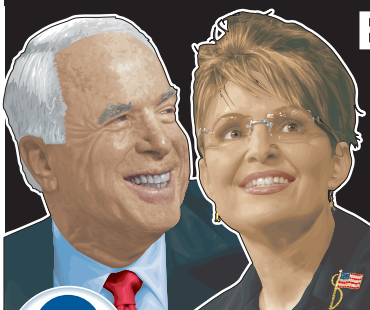


# Battle for the presidency

U.S. voters do not directly elect their president and vice president. Instead, in all states except Maine and Nebraska\*, the candidate who wins the popular vote is allotted electoral votes – representing the population size of each state – in the 538-member Electoral College. The candidate who wins a simple majority of electoral votes wins the presidency



**REPUBLICAN: John McCain / Sarah Palin**

**DEMOCRATIC: Barack Obama / Joe Biden**

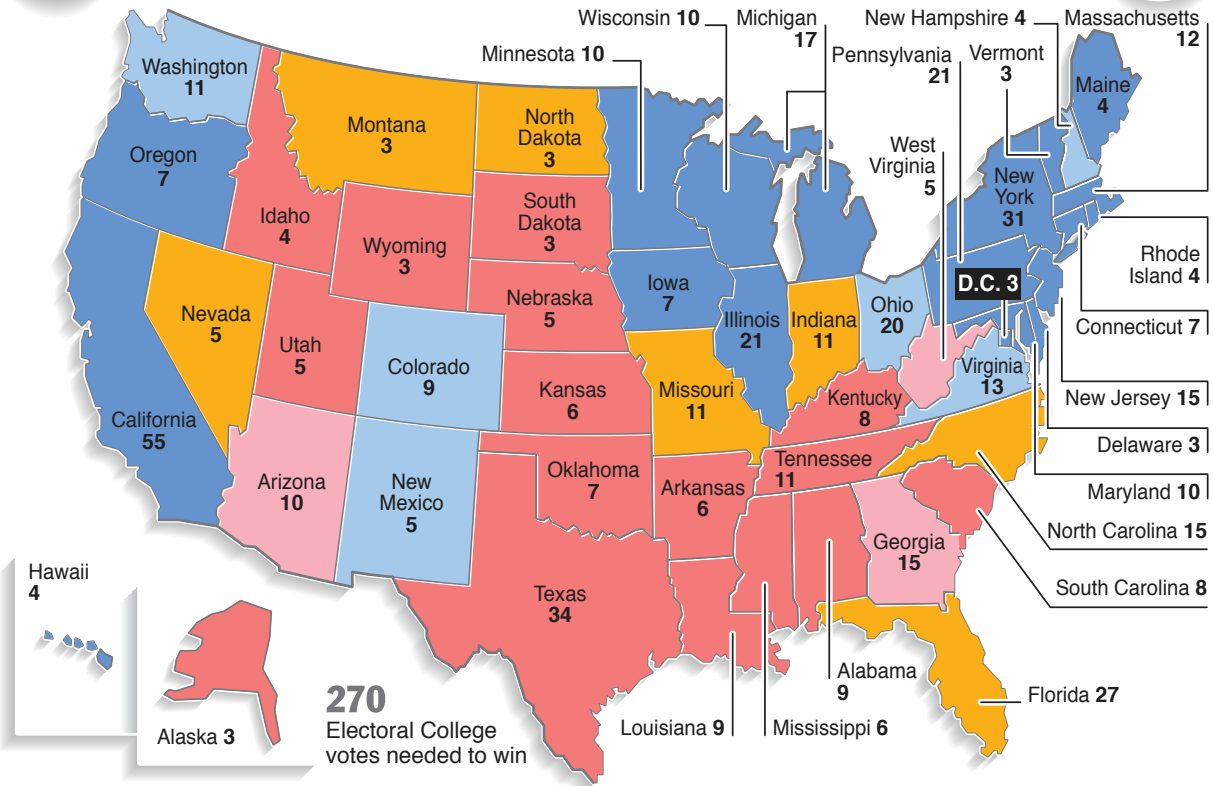
Solid McCain

Leaning McCain

Battleground states

Solid Obama

Leaning Obama



**270**  
Electoral College  
votes needed to win

Electoral count

**McCain 157**

**Toss up 75**

**Obama 306**

\*Maine and Nebraska both use an alternative Congressional District Method to distribute their electoral votes

Source: [www.realclearpolitics.com](http://www.realclearpolitics.com) – polls taken between October 23-27

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