

Steps in electing the U.S. President

The president is elected every four years and can serve for only two terms. According to the U.S. Constitution, the president must be a native-born citizen of at least 35 years of age and a resident for at least 14 years

1 The ticket: Presidential candidates choose their running mate to be vice-president

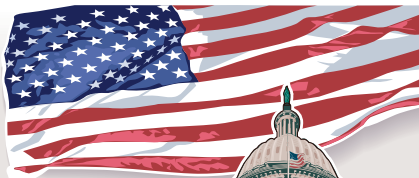
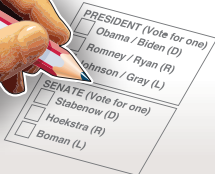
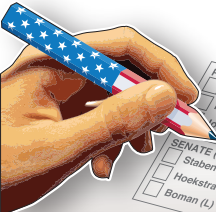


Democrat President **Barack Obama** and Vice President **Joe Biden** (inset)



Republican candidate **Mitt Romney** and running mate **Paul Ryan** (inset)

2 Nov 6, Election Day: The president is not chosen directly by the people but by an **Electoral College**. The winner of the **popular vote** takes all the Electoral College votes in every state apart from Maine and Nebraska*



3 Dec 17, Electoral College: President and vice-president formally elected by body of 538 electors – candidate with 270 electoral votes wins. Electors equal to total membership of Congress – 435 Representatives, 100 Senators, plus three electors from District of Columbia

4 Jan 6, Congress: Electoral votes formally counted. If no candidate wins 270 majority, president is selected by House of Representatives

5 Jan 20, 2013: Inauguration oaths taken – new presidential term starts



Since 1824, four presidents have lost popular vote but won presidency: **John Quincy Adams** (1824), **Rutherford Hayes** (1876), **Benjamin Harrison** (1888), and **George W. Bush** (2000)