

Steps in electing a U.S. President

The president is elected every four years and can serve for only two terms. According to the 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 Nomination: Candidates campaign in primaries and caucuses to win their party's appointment at National Conventions



2 Aug, National Conventions: President **Donald Trump** (right) and Vice President **Mike Pence** (inset right) backed for second term. Former Vice President **Joe Biden** (left) selected as Democratic nominee with **Kamala Harris** (inset left) as his running mate



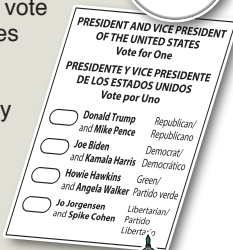
3 Sep 29: Trump and Biden go head-to-head in first of three live TV debates – among top political events of campaign



4 Oct 15, 22: Second and third TV debates. Average of 74 million people watched each matchup between Trump and Hillary Clinton in 2016



5 Nov 3, Election Day: Voters cast single vote for preferred candidates for President and Vice President. When they do so, they are actually voting for **electors** – members of **Electoral College** – committed to support those candidates



6 Dec 14, Electoral College: 538 electors, equal to total membership of Congress – 435 Representatives and 100 Senators, plus three electors from DC – meet in their respective states. Each elector casts one ballot for President and one for Vice President. Electors sign **Certificates of the Vote**

7 Dec 23: Certificates of the Vote are sent to Congress

8 Jan 6, 2021: Congress meets in joint session to count electoral votes – candidate with 270 votes wins. If no candidate wins 270 majority, House of Representatives elects President by majority vote. Senate elects Vice President



9 Jan 20: President-elect takes **Oath of Office** and becomes **President of the United States**

