

Disputed U.S. election scenarios

Democrats and Republicans are preparing for a potential crisis that could plunge the United States into constitutional turmoil – a tussle for power in the weeks after Election Day

1 Nov 3: Landslide victory for President **Donald Trump** or rival **Joe Biden**

2 “Red mirage:” Delays in counting mail-in ballots in battleground states give Trump a false election night lead

3 Close margins: Challenges to eligibility of mail-in votes – signature matching, and other voter information – prompt litigation

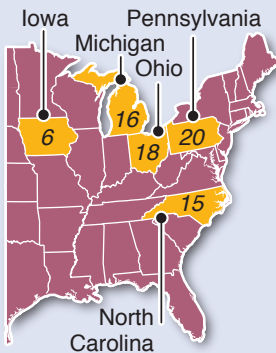


4 Dec 14: Deadline for states' **Electoral College*** votes to be cast. If disputes remain unresolved, Congress could decide winner

**Each state has as many “electors” in Electoral College as it has Representatives and Senators in Congress, total 538 electors. District of Columbia has three electors*



Ballots in five swing states – with 75 electoral votes – can arrive days later, as long as they are postmarked by Election Day



5 Electoral College: Neither candidate wins 270 majority of electoral votes needed. Decision is passed to Congress. **House of Representatives chooses president, Senate selects vice president.** This has happened twice before, in 1800 and 1824

6 Jan 6, 2021: If election goes to new **117th Congress**, each of 50 state delegations in House receives single vote. **Candidate needs 26 votes to win presidency**

7 Deadlock: House's state delegations deadlock at 25 to 25. **Senate's choice for vice president becomes acting president**

8 Jan 20, 2021, Inauguration Day: Senate deadlocks, too, and no president is selected. **House speaker, Nancy Pelosi, (left) resigns her seat in Congress, becomes acting president until dispute is settled**