

# UNDERSTAND THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES



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By

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## Introduction: Background to the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election.

### Brief Presentation of the Issues.

The 2024 U.S. presidential election is a major political event, not only for the United States, but for the entire world. These elections come at a crucial moment in American history, marked by significant socioeconomic, political, and environmental challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic, issues of social and racial justice, international tensions, and climate issues are all strongly influencing the political and electoral landscape.

One of the major issues in this election is the management of the U.S. economy. In the context of a post-pandemic recovery, the president-elect will be tasked with boosting economic growth while tackling unemployment and inequality. In addition, public health issues and access to care remain hot topics, especially due to the impact of the pandemic on the health system.

Internationally, the position of the United States on issues such as climate change, relations with China and Russia, and the management of conflicts in the Middle East, will be decisive. The foreign policy adopted by the next president will influence diplomatic relations and strategic alliances on a global scale.

In addition, civil rights and social justice issues, including debates on racial equality, immigration, and the rights of women and LGBTQ+ communities, will continue to play a central role in the election campaign. The U.S. political climate, which has been polarized for several years, makes these elections all the more significant.

### Comparison with Previous Elections.

The 2024 elections differ from previous elections in several ways. First, they are taking place in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has not only disrupted the lives of Americans, but also changed campaign methods and political priorities. Unlike the 2020 elections, which were marked by health restrictions and a massive use of postal voting, the 2024 elections could see a return to traditional methods of campaigning, although the influence of digital and social media remains predominant.

In addition, the political context for 2024 is shaped by the events and decisions taken during the previous term, particularly with regard to the domestic and foreign policy of the United States. The actions and policies of the outgoing president, as well as key events during his tenure, such as Supreme Court decisions, environmental policies, and economic reforms, have a significant impact on the direction of the debates and issues of 2024.

Finally, lessons learned from the 2020 elections, particularly with regard to the security and integrity of the electoral process, are likely to influence voting patterns and the perception of the legitimacy of the results in 2024. Issues around disinformation, voter turnout, and trust in the electoral system are at the heart of concerns, which differentiates this election from those that preceded it.

## Part 1: Understanding the U.S. Electoral System.

### The Fundamentals of the U.S. Electoral System.

#### *Structure and Role of the Electoral College.*

The Electoral College is a fundamental component of the U.S. electoral system, unique in its structure and functioning. Designed as a compromise between electing the president by a vote of Congress and a direct popular vote by citizens, the Electoral College is a mechanism that reflects both American federalism and representative democracy.

The Electoral College consists of 538 electoral votes, a number that corresponds to the total sum of the representatives and senators in Congress, plus three electoral votes for the District of Columbia. Each state has as many electors as its representation in Congress, which means that representation varies depending on the state's population. For example, California, being the most populous state, has the highest number of electoral votes.

The primary role of the Electoral College is to elect the President and Vice President of the United States. Voters gather in their respective states to vote after the general election, and the results of those votes are then sent to Congress for certification. This procedure emphasizes the federal nature of the electoral process, recognizing state autonomy while preserving a system of balanced representation.

#### *How the Popular Vote Works vs. the System of Electors.*

The operation of the Electoral College differs significantly from direct popular voting. In the U.S. system, citizens vote for electors, rather than directly for the presidential candidate. These electors, in theory, then vote for the candidate who won the popular vote in their state. This mechanism is often confusing and controversial, especially when a candidate wins the national popular vote but loses the election due to the electoral college system.

The system is mostly winner-takes-all, meaning that the candidate who wins the majority of votes in a state wins all the electoral votes in that state. Only Maine and Nebraska use a proportional system, where electoral votes are allocated in part based on the results in each electoral district. This structure can lead to situations where the outcome of the election depends on a few key swing states, which can swing from one party to another.

This part of the U.S. electoral system is often the subject of criticism, with some advocating reform in favor of a direct popular vote. However, the Electoral College is deeply entrenched in the U.S. Constitution, and any change would require a constitutional amendment, a complex and rarely successful procedure.

Designation of the Grand Electors.

*Selection Methods in Different States.*

The designation of electors is an essential step in the U.S. electoral system, and it varies greatly from state to state. Each political party in a state submits a slate of candidates to become electors at state conventions or through their state central committees. These candidates are often chosen for their dedication and service to the party. They may be state political leaders, long-time party activists, or people with close ties to the party.

In most states, voters vote for presidential candidates in general elections, and in doing so, they indirectly vote for a slate of electors associated with that candidate. "Winner-takes-all" is the prevailing rule, where the candidate who gets the majority of votes in a state wins all the electoral votes in that state. This means that the selection of electors depends directly on the outcome of the popular vote in each state. The exceptions to this rule are Nebraska and Maine, which use a proportional system, allowing for a more representative distribution of electoral votes.

It's important to note that, while electors are theoretically free to vote for the candidate of their choice, most states have laws that require them to vote for the candidate they've committed to. Cases of "faithless electors", while rare, have raised questions about the autonomy and role of electoral colleges in the electoral system.

*Role and Powers of the Grand Electors.*

The primary role of the electors is to vote for the President and Vice President of the United States. This responsibility is exercised during the Electoral College, which meets after the general election. The electoral vote process is a formality in most cases, reflecting the outcome of the state's popular vote.

Electors have the power to choose the president, especially in close elections where every vote counts. While their role is widely seen as ceremonial, they have the potential to change the outcome of an election, particularly if a significant number of them decide to vote against the candidate they have pledged for, although this is extremely rare and often regulated by state law.

The electoral college system, while a key component of the federal structure and checks and balances system in the United States, is the subject of debate and criticism. Some suggest that it gives disproportionate importance to certain states and does not adequately reflect the will of the American people. These debates continue to fuel the discussion of electoral reform in the United States.

## Historical Context and Evolution of the Electoral System.

### *Origins of the System.*

The electoral system of the United States, with its single Electoral College, has its origins in the constitutional debates of the late 18th century. At the time, the Founding Fathers of the United States faced an unprecedented challenge: how to elect a head of state in a fledgling democratic republic with no historical precedent to build upon. They had to balance the need for popular representation with the fear of majority tyranny and respect for state sovereignty in a federal system.

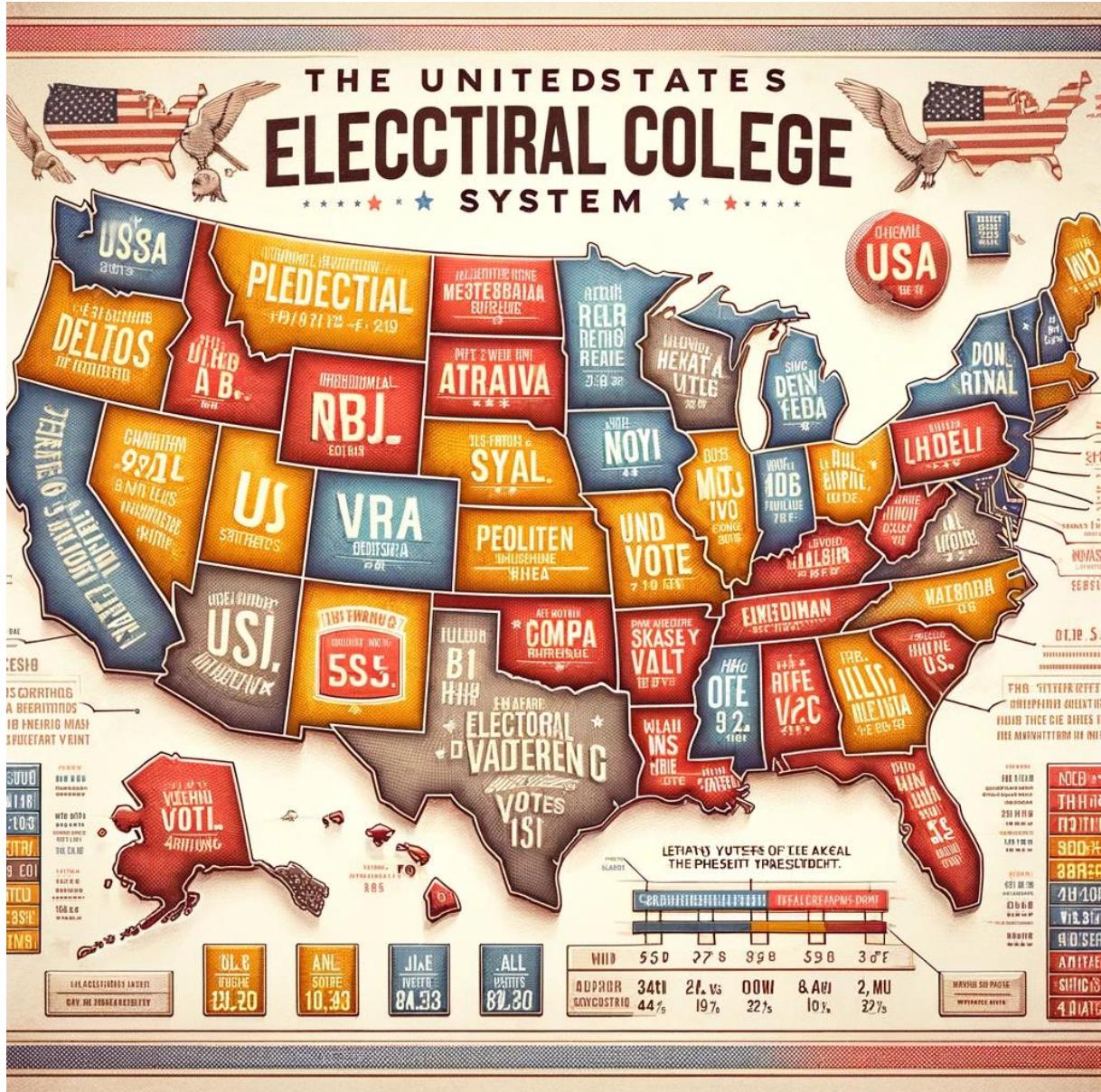
The compromise reached was the Electoral College, a solution that mirrors the U.S. federalist system and aims to balance power between the most and least populous states. The Electoral College was designed to give each state a voice in the electoral process, while preventing an excessive concentration of voting power in a few densely populated areas. This structure also reflects a distrust of direct democracy, common among some of the Founding Fathers, who feared that an uneducated population would be easily manipulated.

### *Major Changes and Their Impact.*

Since its inception, the U.S. electoral system has undergone several major changes, reflecting the changes in American society and the political challenges of each era. Among the most notable changes was the passage of the 12th Amendment in 1804, which changed the voting procedure for the president and vice president after the disputed election of 1800. This change made it possible to separate the votes for these two positions, eliminating ambiguities and potential conflicts.

During the 19th and 20th centuries, the movement for universal suffrage led to important reforms. The gradual extension of the right to vote to different groups, especially with the 15th and 19th Amendments, profoundly changed the composition of the electorate. More recently, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was a key step in securing the right to vote for minorities, especially African Americans in the Southern states.

Another important aspect of the evolution of the electoral system is the ongoing debate about the relevance of the Electoral College in the modern era. Voices are regularly raised to replace it with a direct popular vote, especially after elections where the winner of the national popular vote does not win the presidency. These debates highlight the tensions between representative democracy and direct popular will, and raise questions about the fairness and representativeness of the current system.



## Part 2: Step-by-Step Electoral Process.

### Conduct of the U.S. Presidential Elections.

#### *Voting Process, Including Early and Postal Voting.*

The voting process in U.S. presidential elections is a complex and varied mix of methods, reflecting the diversity and size of the country. In the United States, the right to vote is regulated at both the federal and state levels, resulting in a wide variety of voting practices. In addition to the traditional Election Day, which is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, many states offer early and mail-in voting options to facilitate voter turnout.

Early voting allows electors to vote in person before election day. This option has grown in popularity in recent years, providing flexibility for those who are unable to attend the polls on election day for a variety of reasons, such as work or health constraints. Early voting can take place over several days or even weeks, depending on the laws of each state.

Voting by mail, on the other hand, allows voters to receive their ballots by mail and return or drop them off at designated locations. While this method was initially designed for electors who could not be physically present, such as military personnel stationed abroad, its use has expanded, particularly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Postal voting has been a topic of intense debate, with some seeing it as a more accessible and secure method of voting, while others express concerns about security and voter fraud.

#### *Counting of Votes and Certification of Results.*

Once voting is complete, the process of counting the votes begins. This process can vary from state to state, but it is usually carried out by local officials and monitored by representatives of political parties. Counting votes, especially for mail-in ballots, can be time-consuming, sometimes leading to delays in announcing results.

After the votes are counted, the results must be certified by the election authorities of each state. This certification is a crucial step in ensuring the accuracy and integrity of the results. Once certified, the results are sent to the Electoral College, where electors vote in accordance with their state's results.

It is important to note that, due to the decentralized nature of the U.S. election system, the counting and certification process can be subject to legal challenges and appeals. Differences in state election laws can also lead to variations in ballot handling and certification deadlines.

## The Wait Between Election and Inauguration.

### *Reasons for Delay.*

The wait between the U.S. presidential election in November and the inauguration in January is a unique feature of the U.S. political system. This period, often referred to as the "presidential transition," lasts about two months and has historical and practical reasons.

Historically, this delay was necessary to give electors time to travel to the capital to vote, a concern that dates back to the days when travel was long and difficult. Although this reason is no longer relevant in the modern era, the deadline has stood and is now codified in the U.S. Constitution, with the inauguration set for January 20 by the 20th Amendment.

From a practical point of view, this period allowed for an orderly and careful transition of power. The transition includes a multitude of tasks, such as appointing cabinet members, planning policies, and coordinating with the outgoing administration to ensure a smooth transfer of power. This period is also critical to national security and the stability of government, as it ensures effective continuity of leadership and governance.

### *Activities of the President-Elect during this period.*

During the transition period, the President-elect and his team focus on several key activities. One of the most important is the formation of the cabinet and the appointment of other senior officials. These appointments are crucial because they set the direction and effectiveness of the future administration. The president-elect also spends much of this period planning his policies and agenda for the first few days and months of his term.

In addition to administrative preparations, the president-elect often engages in dialogues with national and international leaders. These discussions are aimed at building relationships and setting the stage for future foreign policies. It is also a time when the president-elect can begin to implement his vision and priorities through public statements and commitments.

The transition is also a time for the president-elect to prepare for the immense responsibility of leading the country. This includes briefings on national security and other critical topics. These briefings are intended to ensure that the president-elect is fully informed of current issues and potential threats to national security.

Finally, the preparation for the investiture ceremony itself is an important part of this period. The inauguration is a symbolic and important event, officially marking the beginning of the new president's term.

### Part 3: Influence of Political Parties and Media.

#### Primaries and Candidate Selection.

##### *Party Primary Process.*

The primary process in the U.S. political system is a crucial and complex step in the selection of presidential candidates. Primaries are internal elections held by political parties, primarily Democrats and Republicans, to select their candidate for the presidential election. This process allows party members and, in some cases, the wider public, to participate in deciding who will represent their party in the presidential race.

Primaries are conducted in a variety of ways. Some are "closed primaries," where only registered members of the party can vote. Others are "open primaries," where any registered voter, regardless of partisan affiliation, can participate. There are also "caucuses," meetings of party members who debate and then vote for their preferred candidate. These methods vary from state to state, adding to the complexity of the process.

The primary schedule typically begins in February of the election year and spans several months, with key states like Iowa and New Hampshire playing an important role in voting early in the process. The results of these early primaries can significantly influence the dynamics of the race, as they are often seen as indicators of a candidate's viability.

At the end of the primaries, the delegates elected in these elections meet at each party's national convention to officially nominate their presidential candidate. This convention is also an opportunity to define the party's program and to bring together members and supporters for the general campaign.

##### *Impact on the Presidential Race.*

The primaries have a huge impact on the presidential race. They are the first real test of a candidate's popularity and ability to mobilize voters. A strong or weak performance in the early primaries can either propel a candidate to the forefront or signal the end of his or her campaign.

Moreover, primaries often shape the issues and themes of the presidential campaign. The issues and debates that emerge in the primaries can set the political agenda and influence the candidates' positions. This means that issues of concern to primary voters can become central to the general election campaign.

Finally, primaries can also reveal divisions within parties. The internal power struggles and ideological differences that manifest themselves during the primaries can have a lasting impact on the unity and strategy of the party for the general election.

## Impact of Media and Polls.

### *Role of the Media in the Formation of Public Opinion.*

The media plays a vital role in shaping public opinion, particularly in the context of the U.S. presidential elections. With a multitude of communication channels – television, radio, print, and now digital platforms and social media – the media has a profound impact on how voters perceive candidates and understand political issues.

Media coverage of election campaigns provides voters with essential information about candidates' political positions, backgrounds, and performance. Reporting, analysis, and televised debates shape the public image of candidates and can significantly influence voters' perceptions and preferences. In this environment, candidates and their campaign teams devote considerable attention to managing their image and communicating with the media, seeking to maximize their visibility and appeal to the electorate.

With the rise of social media and online platforms, the media landscape has become even more diverse. These new media provide candidates with direct and interactive ways to communicate with voters, while allowing for the viral dissemination of information, whether accurate or not. Social media has also become an arena for public debate, where voters share and discuss issues and candidates, influencing the opinions of their peers.

### *Influence of Polls on Campaign Strategies.*

Polls play a crucial role in presidential candidates' campaign strategies. They provide regular and detailed data on voter preferences, trends in public opinion, and receptivity to campaign messages. Campaign teams use this data to guide their strategies, including geo-targeting, political messaging, and advertising.

Polls can also influence the perception of a candidate's "feasibility." Favourable survey results can generate momentum, attract additional support and funding, and give a sense of viability and competitiveness. Conversely, low numbers can deter donors and undecided voters.

However, the reliability and influence of polls are up for debate. Sampling methodologies, sample representativeness, and data interpretation are often questioned. Recent elections have shown that polls can sometimes be inaccurate, leading to surprises on election day. This reality prompts campaigns to balance their reliance on polls with other forms of evaluation and electoral strategy.

In short, the media and polls significantly shape the American electoral landscape. They influence not only the strategies of candidates and political parties, but also how voters perceive and respond to issues and candidates.

## Part 4: Comparison with the French System.

Key Differences Between Presidential Elections in France and the United States.

### *Method of Voting.*

The voting system used for presidential elections differs significantly between France and the United States, reflecting distinct political traditions and electoral systems.

In the United States, the president is elected indirectly by the Electoral College, a unique system where the electors, rather than the general population, vote for the president. As discussed earlier, each state has a certain number of electors, proportional to its representation in Congress. Although voters vote for a candidate in the presidential election, they are technically voting for a group of electors who, in turn, vote for the president. This system can result in situations where a candidate wins the national popular vote but loses the election due to the distribution of electoral votes.

In France, the president is elected directly by the people, through a two-round majority voting system. If no candidate wins an absolute majority (more than 50%) of the votes in the first round, a second round is held between the two leading candidates. This system aims to ensure that the president-elect has broad popular support, reflecting a more direct and majoritarian approach to democracy.

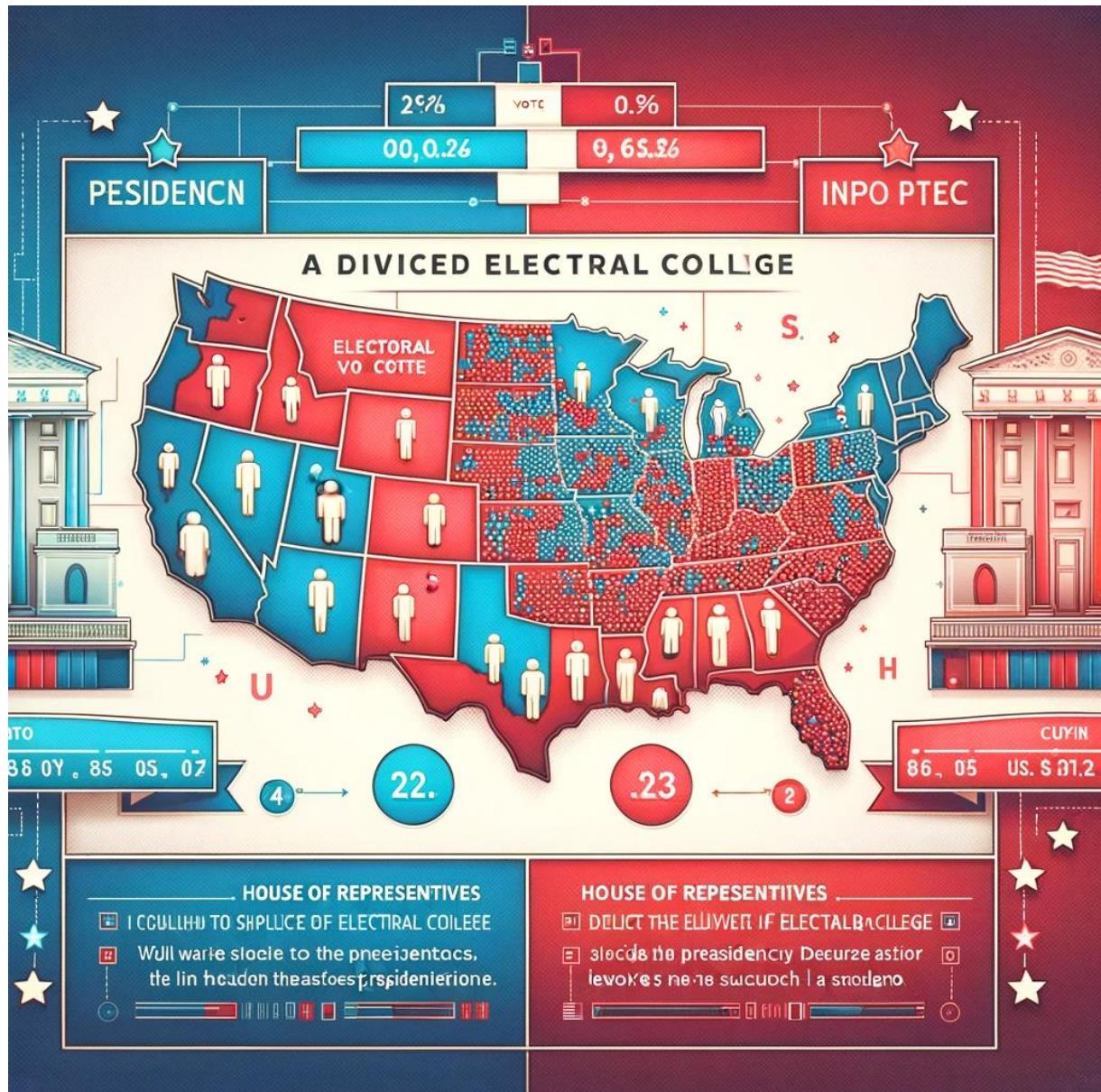
### *Cultural and Political Influence.*

The cultural and political influence of the electoral systems of France and the United States is deeply rooted in their respective histories and political structures.

In the United States, the Electoral College system is closely tied to the country's federalist tradition, where state autonomy and balance between the populations of different states are key values. This structure influences campaign strategy, with candidates often focusing on "swing states" – key states that are likely to swing from one party to another – rather than a unified national strategy.

In France, the direct election of the president favours a more individual-centred approach, with particular attention paid to the personalities and programmes of the candidates. Political debates and media coverage in France tend to focus more on the specific policies and proposals of candidates, as well as their ability to represent the nation on the international stage.

In conclusion, these differences between the French and American electoral systems are not just procedural issues, but reflect distinct political and cultural philosophies. They influence the way campaigns are conducted, how candidates interact with voters, and how democracy is expressed and experienced in each country.



## Part 5: From the Sitting President to the President-Elect.

The incumbent president vs. the president-elect.

### *Definitions and Responsibilities.*

In the U.S. political context, the terms "sitting president" and "president-elect" refer to two distinct phases in the presidential leadership cycle. The incumbent president is the current head of state and government of the United States, who has been sworn in and performs all the functions and responsibilities of the presidency. This role includes directing domestic and foreign policy, commanding the armed forces, signing legislation, and vetoing power. The incumbent president remains in charge of these tasks until the official end of his term, which coincides with the inauguration ceremony of the new president.

The president-elect, on the other hand, is the candidate who won the presidential election but has not yet been officially inaugurated. This period runs from election day in November to inauguration in January. Although the president-elect does not yet have formal authority, this period is crucial for the planning and preparation of the future administration. The president-elect selects his cabinet, develops policy plans, and participates in national security briefings. It can also begin to build relationships with foreign leaders and articulate its policy priorities to public opinion.

### *Transition of Power.*

The transition of power from the outgoing administration to the new one is a fundamental aspect of American democracy. This transition period is characterized by collaboration between the current administration and the president-elect's team to ensure a smooth and orderly transfer of responsibilities. The transition involves the transfer of critical knowledge, including national security information and details of ongoing federal government operations.

The quality and effectiveness of the transition can have a significant impact on the new administration's ability to govern effectively from the outset of its term. To facilitate this process, there is often close cooperation between outgoing cabinet members and those appointed by the president-elect, as well as between various officials and advisers.

The transition of power is also a symbolic moment, representing the stability and continuity of American democracy. The inauguration ceremony, marking the end of this transition period, is not only a political event but also a celebration of democracy and respect for constitutional principles.

Investiture Protocol.

*Handover of Power Ceremony.*

The inauguration ceremony of the President of the United States is a solemn and symbolic event officially marking the transfer of power from the outgoing president to the president-elect. This ceremony, rich in tradition and protocol, takes place on January 20 following the presidential election, in accordance with the 20th Amendment of the United States Constitution. It is usually held on the steps of the Capitol in Washington, D.C., although the location and nature of the ceremony may vary depending on the circumstances and preferences of the president-elect.

The centerpiece of the inauguration ceremony is the presidential oath, administered by the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. In taking the oath of office, the president-elect pledges to "preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States." This moment officially marks the beginning of the new president's mandate.

The ceremony also includes opening speeches, prayers, musical performances and parades. The President's inaugural address is an opportunity to express his vision and goals for his term. Historically, these speeches have varied in tone and content, reflecting the political and social circumstances of the moment as well as the personality of the president.

The inauguration ceremony is also a public event, with thousands of American citizens and distinguished guests in attendance to witness this historic moment. It is widely broadcast on television and online, allowing millions of people around the world to participate in this democratic event.

*Historical and Political Significance.*

The presidential inauguration is much more than a mere formality; It has great historical and political significance. It symbolizes the democratic principle of the peaceful transfer of power, a pillar of American democracy. This ritual, repeated every four years, reaffirms the United States' commitment to constitutional government and the rule of law.

Historically, investiture ceremonies have been moments of national celebration and collective reflection. They provide an opportunity to mark the beginning of a new era and bring the country together after an often divided and contentious period of election campaigning. In times of crisis or change, investiture ceremonies can also serve as catalysts for national unity and healing.

Politically, the inauguration is a moment for the new president to address not only the nation, but the world, setting the tone and approach of his presidency. This is an opportunity for the President to articulate his vision and call for action and collaboration for the challenges ahead.

## Part 6: Debates on Electoral Reform.

### Electoral Reform Issues.

#### *Current Debates on the Future of the Electoral System.*

Debates over electoral reform in the United States are both broad and passionate, touching the heart of how American democracy works and evolves. These discussions focus on various aspects of the electoral system, ranging from the method of voting to broader structures such as the Electoral College.

A central point in these debates is the relevance and effectiveness of the Electoral College in the modern era. Defenders of the current system argue that it balances the interests of states with large and small populations and maintains the federalism dear to the American political system. On the other hand, critics argue that this system can sometimes lead to results where the elected candidate is not the one who won the popular vote, thus raising questions about the democratic representativeness and legitimacy of the election results.

Another aspect that is often debated is the accessibility and security of voting. The issues of voter identification, postal voting, and the modernization of electoral systems are frequently discussed, with differing views on how to ensure both ease of access to voting and the integrity of the electoral process.

#### *Proposals and Controversies, such as the Abolition of the Electoral College.*

One of the most controversial and discussed proposals is the abolition of the Electoral College in favor of a direct popular vote system. Proponents of the idea argue that it would make the electoral system more democratic and fair, ensuring that every vote carries equal weight, regardless of the voter's home state. However, such reform would require a constitutional amendment, a notoriously difficult and complex process that requires broad approval in Congress and the states.

Other reform proposals include the adoption of alternative voting systems, such as ranked ballots or approval voting, which could potentially more accurately reflect voter preferences. Similarly, debates about gerrymandering, and its impact on fair representation, are also at the forefront.

In summary, issues of electoral reform are at the heart of political discussions in the United States, reflecting concerns about fairness, representativeness, and adapting the electoral system to the realities of the 21st century. These debates will likely continue to shape the future of the American political landscape.



## Part 7: Special Cases.

### Exceptional Scenarios in Elections.

#### *Contested elections.*

Contested elections represent an exceptional scenario in the U.S. electoral process, where the results of an election are formally questioned or contested by one or more candidates. These challenges may be based on allegations of electoral fraud, irregularities in the counting of votes, or legal problems with voting procedures.

Historically, the U.S. has had several contested elections, some of which have had major consequences for the national political landscape. A famous example is the 2000 presidential election, where disputed results in Florida led to a U.S. Supreme Court decision and ultimately determined the outcome of the election.

In such scenarios, several mechanisms can be implemented to resolve challenges, including recounts, judicial investigations, and sometimes superior court involvement. These situations can lead to significant political tension and test the robustness of the country's democratic institutions.

#### *Electoral College divided.*

A divided Electoral College is another exceptional scenario, where no candidate gets the absolute majority of the Electoral College votes, needed to win the presidency. This can happen in a multi-candidate system where the electoral votes are split between more than two main candidates, preventing anyone from reaching the required threshold of 270 votes.

According to the U.S. Constitution, if no candidate receives a majority of the votes in the Electoral College, the decision to choose the president rests with the House of Representatives, with each state delegation having one vote. The choice of the deputy president, in this case, is decided by the Senate.

A divided Electoral College is a rare event in American political history. The latter case occurred in the 19th century, highlighting the effectiveness of the current system in producing a clear winner in most elections. However, the possibility of a divided Electoral College remains an intriguing and potentially disruptive facet of the U.S. electoral system, especially in an increasingly polarized political climate.



## Conclusion.

### Summary and Outlook.

#### *Synthesis of Key Information.*

This in-depth analysis of the U.S. electoral system and its many facets highlights the complexity and uniqueness of this democratic process. From the role of the Electoral College, a one-of-a-kind institution, to the nuances of primaries and candidate selection, the U.S. electoral system is a blend of historical traditions and modern practices.

We examined the fundamental differences between the popular vote and the electoral college system, highlighting how the latter can sometimes lead to discrepancies between the national vote and the outcome of the election. The designation of electors, which varies from state to state, reflects the diversity and complexity of U.S. governance.

Debates on electoral reform, including the future of the Electoral College, show an ever-changing political landscape, where issues of democratic representativeness and fairness remain topical. Similarly, exceptional scenarios, such as contested elections and divided electoral colleges, while rare, are crucial aspects that test the resilience and robustness of the system.

#### *A Look at America's Political Future.*

Looking to the future, the U.S. electoral system continues to face challenges and opportunities. How the United States approaches issues of electoral reform, manages the growing diversity of its electorate, and adapts to changing technologies and media, will define the health and vitality of its democracy.

The political future of the United States is also intrinsically linked to its ability to encourage broad and representative voter turnout, ensuring that every voice is heard and every vote counts. This includes addressing challenges related to access to voting, disinformation, and political polarization.

In conclusion, the U.S. electoral system, with its nuances and complexities, is a living reflection of American democracy – a democracy that continues to evolve, adapt, and respond to the needs of its citizens. The commitment to a fair, transparent and inclusive electoral process remains crucial to maintaining public confidence in the democratic system and to the leadership of the country in the years to come.



## Appendices: Anecdotes and Highlights.

### Key Moments from Past Presidential Campaigns.

#### *Notable Events and Controversies.*

U.S. presidential campaigns, punctuated by stories and milestones, are periods of great political and social intensity. These campaigns have often been the scene of notable events and controversies that have captured the nation's attention and sometimes changed the course of elections.

An emblematic example is the 1960 presidential campaign between John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon, best known for the first televised presidential debate in American history. This debate marked a turning point in modern politics, highlighting the importance of charisma and television presence. The young and dynamic Kennedy was widely seen as the winner of the debate against a less telegenic Nixon, thus influencing the outcome of the election.

Another notable moment was the Watergate affair during Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign. This scandal, involving burglaries and an attempted cover-up by the Nixon administration, led to Nixon's resignation and deeply shook the American public's confidence in the government.

More recently, the 2000 presidential election was marred by a major controversy during the vote count in Florida. The extremely close margin between George W. Bush and Al Gore led to a manual recount and a legal battle that ended with a U.S. Supreme Court decision, ultimately awarding victory to Bush.

The 2008 presidential campaign was also historic, with the election of Barack Obama, the first African-American president of the United States. This election was marked by a strong mobilization of voters and symbolized a significant moment in the history of American civil rights.

In 2016, Donald Trump's presidential campaign against Hillary Clinton was fraught with controversy and highlights, not least because of Trump's unconventional campaign style and Russia's alleged involvement in the election. Trump's surprise victory defied most predictions from pollsters and political analysts.

The First 100 Days of Previous Presidents.

*Significant Actions and Policies.*

The first 100 days of a U.S. presidency are often seen as a key indicator of the tone and direction the administration will take. This concept was popularized during the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt, who initiated a series of sweeping reforms to counter the effects of the Great Depression in the 1930s. Since then, the first 100 days have become a barometer of new administrations.

Under President John F. Kennedy, for example, the first 100 days were marked by the announcement of the "New Frontier" initiative, symbolizing a commitment to space exploration and social advancement. Kennedy also handled the Bay of Pigs crisis during this period, a defining moment in his presidency.

During the early days of Ronald Reagan's presidency, the focus was on economic reforms, including tax cuts and government regulations, laying the foundation for what would later become known as "Reaganomics."

More recently, Barack Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act into law in an effort to counter the 2008 recession. This swift action was an example of how presidents are using their early days to implement policies that address pressing national issues.

Under Donald Trump, the first 100 days saw a series of controversial executive orders, including the high-profile "Muslim Ban," which sparked heated debates over immigration and national security.

*Comparison with 2024 Expectations.*

Looking ahead to the 2024 election, the actions and policies of previous presidents in their first 100 days will serve as a benchmark for evaluating the new administration. Voters and political analysts will be paying close attention to how the president-elect addresses current challenges, including the management of the COVID-19 pandemic, social justice issues, economic tensions, and international relations.

Comparing the first 100 days with previous administrations will allow us to assess the effectiveness, speed and boldness of the new president's actions. It will also offer insight into the president's ability to implement his campaign promises and meet the expectations of the electorate in an ever-changing political environment.