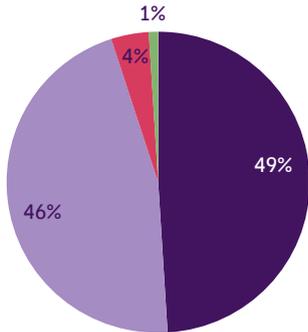




The Electoral College – how does the US elect a President?

Trump Took a Plurality of Votes in Arizona in 2016...

Source: CNN, NWM



■ Trump ■ Clinton ■ Johnson ■ Stein

...So All Eleven of Trump's Arizona Electors Went to the Electoral College to vote for Trump.

Source: NatWest Markets

Trump Elector 1 ✓	Clinton Elector 1
Trump Elector 2 ✓	Clinton Elector 2
Trump Elector 3 ✓	Clinton Elector 3
Trump Elector 4 ✓	Clinton Elector 4
Trump Elector 5 ✓	Clinton Elector 5
Trump Elector 6 ✓	Clinton Elector 6
Trump Elector 7 ✓	Clinton Elector 7
Trump Elector 8 ✓	Clinton Elector 8
Trump Elector 9 ✓	Clinton Elector 9
Trump Elector 10 ✓	Clinton Elector 10
Trump Elector 11 ✓	Clinton Elector 11

The US Presidential election is decided via the Electoral College System. In this system, a body called the Electoral College holds a simple majority vote to determine the President of the United States. States are awarded electors based on population: one elector at the Electoral College for each House Representative and Senator, resulting in 538 total seats (435 Representatives + 100 Senators +3 for Washington DC). Thus, more populous states have more electors.

Prior to the election, the political parties pre-select individuals from each state to represent their party at the Electoral College. In US presidential elections, US voters cast votes for candidates but, in reality, are voting for which candidate's electors will represent them and their state at the Electoral College. Apart from the relatively small states of Nebraska and Maine, **the winner of the popular vote in each state** is awarded all of the electors for that state. For example, consider Arizona in 2016:

- 1) Then-candidate Trump won a plurality (most of the votes but not an absolute majority) of the popular vote in Arizona, with 49% of the vote.
- 2) All of Arizona's 11 Electoral College seats were awarded to the individuals pre-selected by the Trump campaign.
- 3) These 11 individuals then voted for Trump at the Electoral College held in December 2016.

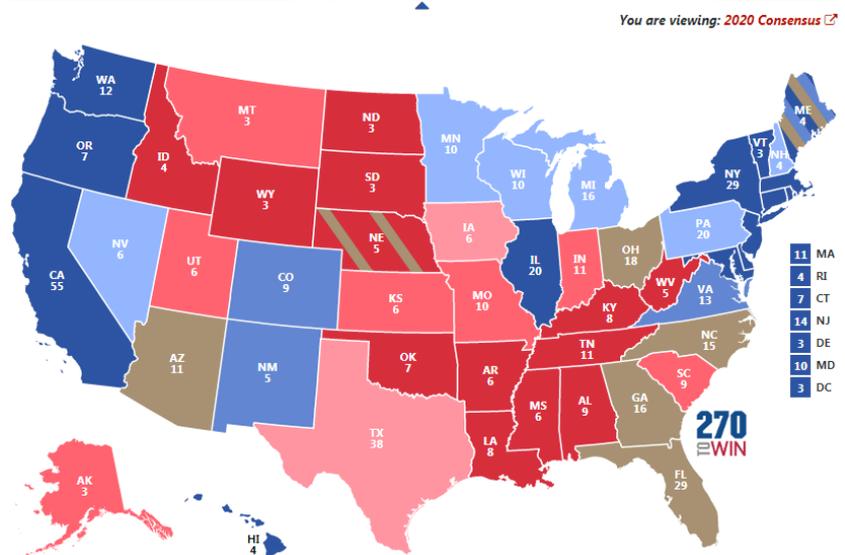
Taking all 50 states together produces the Electoral College map below. In this version, the number in each state represents the number of electors up for grabs. The Electoral College map is often colour-coded by candidates' assessed likelihood of winning the delegates in that particular state. In this case, deeper colors represent "safer" territory for the candidate, while beige-shaded states, such as Arizona, represent true toss-ups.

Electors sent to the Electoral College are not always required by law to vote for the candidate who won the popular vote in their state. Electors that defect from the result of the popular vote in their state are called "faithless electors". This is generally a rare occurrence but it can happen: there were seven faithless electors in the 2016 election.

Finally, in the unlikely event of a tie at the Electoral College, the newly elected US House of Representatives then elects the President by a state-by-state simple majority. That means that each state, regardless of its population, is awarded one vote for President.

Electoral College Map Example

Source: 270 to win



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