

On Electing a President

# An Onlooker's Guide to The U.S. Election s

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The office of President of the United States of America has long been one of great power and influence. Events in recent years, particularly, have combined to extend the direct effects of the President's influence to every corner of the earth. Canadians and people around the world will follow this year's presidential election with keen interest, but, to many, the mechanics of the United States elec-

tion procedure are something of a mystery.

The sole intention of this review is to describe the sequence of events which culminate in the election of the Chief Executive of the United States of America, in order to assist readers in following developments in this presidential election year.

**The Electoral College**

It is important to bear in mind from the outset that in 1964, the President will be elected, not directly by some 115 million United States citizens of voting age, nor

by the 70 million or more expected to go to the polls in November, but by 538 persons who, though they never meet as a body, are known as the Electoral College.

The Constitution of the United States provides for each state to "appoint" a number of Electors equal to the total number of Senators and Representatives which that state sends to Congress. There are now 435 Representatives and 100 Senators in Congress. But this year, for the first time, residents of the District of Columbia will be permitted to vote in the presidential election, following the ratifi-

cation of the 23rd amendment to the Constitution of the United States in 1961.

The nation's capital, although not sending representatives to Congress, will vote for three electors. Thus, there will be 538 members of the Electoral College, with 270 electoral votes required for a presidential candidate to achieve victory.

Elect the Electors  
The method of choosing these Electors has changed since 1789, largely as a result of the evolution of political parties. In practice, state legislatures have directed that the Electors be chosen by popular vote within the

state. The states of candidates for Electors are nominated through various procedures, by the party organizations within each state.

When a voter goes to the polls on Election Day, he does not vote for just one Elector. Instead, he indicates on the ballot which state of Electors within his state he wishes to support. A simple majority of the popular votes cast in a state will carry all that state's electoral votes for the candidate of one party. Although the name of the winning presidential candidate is usually known by the end of Election Day, he is not then legally elected.

The number of electoral votes for each state changes every 10 years as the number of congressional Representatives to which each state is entitled is reapportioned according to the decen-

nal census. The number of electoral votes of 25 states has changed since the last presidential election with states in the mid-west and north-east losing Representatives, principally to California and Florida. California, for instance, has 40 electors this year, eight more than in 1960, since it is now entitled to elect 38 Representatives, in addition to the two Senators to which all states are equally entitled.

**Count In January**

Those chosen Electors by popular vote in November meet on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December in their respective states to cast their ballots for President and Vice President. The Constitution requires that each elector must vote for at least one presidential or vice-presidential candidate who is not a resident of the

Electors' state. Certified copies of the Electors' ballots are mailed to the President of the Senate and to various other officials.

Early in January, the Senate and the House of Representatives will sit as one body to witness the counting of the ballots and the candidate who obtains a simple majority of the electoral votes is legally elected President of the United States. If no candidate for President should receive a majority of the electoral votes, the election would be referred to the House of Representatives, a constitutional provision that has been used only once in 1824.

It is customary, although not constitutionally required, for each state of Electors to vote en bloc for the presidential candidate nominated by the national convention of its party and,

since 1820, only seven Electors have failed to vote for the candidate whom they had pledged to support. The most recent deviation was in 1960 when one Oklahoma Elector refused to vote for the Republican candidate.

**Minority Victory**

As a result of the traditional procedure of the state of Electors from each state voting en bloc, the successful candidate need not receive a majority of the national popular votes in order to obtain a majority of the electoral votes. There have been several "minority" Presidents in American history. For example, in 1852, Harrison received 100,000 fewer popular votes than Cleveland, but 65 more electoral votes. The most recent such occurrence was in 1948 when Mr. Tru-

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75 WITH COUPON & PURCHASE OF ONE 12-oz. Jar LIQUID <b>AEROWAX</b> 100% CREAMED BUTTER	50 WITH COUPON & PURCHASE OF TWO 10-oz. Pkg. WITH SAUCE - CREAMY <b>CORN FLAKES</b> 100% CREAMED BUTTER	50 WITH COUPON & PURCHASE OF ONE 12-oz. BOTTLE LIQUID <b>AXAX CLEANER</b> 100% CREAMED BUTTER	50 WITH COUPON & PURCHASE OF ONE 12-oz. BOTTLE LIQUID <b>ENO</b> 100% CREAMED BUTTER	50 WITH COUPON & PURCHASE OF TWO THIS CLASS'S <b>CANNABE ROLLS</b> 100% CREAMED BUTTER	25 WITH COUPON & PURCHASE OF ONE 12-oz. Jar LIQUID <b>TOOTHPASTE</b> 100% CREAMED BUTTER	25 WITH COUPON & PURCHASE OF ONE 12-oz. Jar LIQUID <b>NU-FLUFF</b> 100% CREAMED BUTTER	25 WITH COUPON & PURCHASE OF ONE 12-oz. Jar LIQUID <b>APRICOT JAM</b> 100% CREAMED BUTTER	25 WITH COUPON & PURCHASE OF TWO 12-oz. Jar LIQUID <b>WARALADE</b> 100% CREAMED BUTTER
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