

# ENGLISH MAG

Escola Básica e Secundária de Muralhas do Minho, Valença

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## HOW TO BECOME PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.A.

### THE ELECTION PROCESS

#### U.S. Constitution's requirements for a presidential candidate:

- At least 35 years old;
- A natural born citizen of the United States;
- A resident of the United States for 14 years.

#### STEP 1: Primaries and Caucuses

There are many people who want to be president. Each of these people have their own ideas about how the American government should work. People with similar ideas belong to the same political party, this is where primaries and caucuses come in. Candidates from each political party campaign throughout the country to win the favour of their party members.

**Caucus:** In a caucus, party members select the best candidate through a series of discussions and votes.

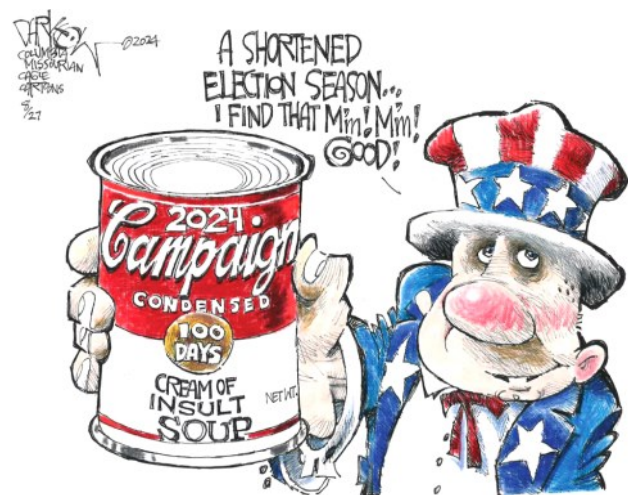
**Primary:** In a primary, party members vote for the best candidate that will represent them in the general election.

#### STEP 2: National Conventions

Each party holds a national convention to finalize the selection of one presidential nominee. At each convention, the presidential candidate chooses a running-mate (vice presidential candidate).

#### STEP 3: General Election

The presidential candidates campaign throughout the country in an attempt to win



the support of the general population.

People in every state across the country vote for one president and one vice president.

When people cast their vote, they are actually voting for a group of people known as electors.

#### STEP 4: Electoral College

In the Electoral College system, each state gets a certain number of electors, based on each state's total number of representation in Congress.

Each elector casts one electoral vote following the general election; there are a total of 538 electoral votes. The candidate that gets more than half (270) wins the election.

The president-elect and vice president-elect take the oath of office and are inaugurated in January.

Source: [www.usa.gov](http://www.usa.gov)



# WORDS TO KNOW

## Ballot

A list of candidates and proposals that citizens use to cast a secret vote. The ballot may be printed on paper, set up on a voting machine or computer, or available on the Internet.

## Caucus

A meeting of party members to choose candidates to run in an election. In some states, Democrats and Republicans will hold caucuses to determine which candidate they will support for president.

## Constitution

The document containing the main laws that govern the United States.

## Democratic Party

One of the two main political parties in the United States. Founded in 1828, this party has a donkey as its symbol. U.S. President Barack Obama is a Democrat. Franklin D. Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, and Bill Clinton are some of the most well-known Democratic presidents.

## Endorsement

A formal announcement of support for a candidate by an individual or a group.

## General election

A contest on Election Day in November in which candidates are elected to office.

## Republican Party

Founded in 1846, the Republican Party has an elephant as its symbol. Abraham Lincoln was the first Republican president.