

How the Electoral College Works

- Each political party in each state nominates a slate of candidates for the position of presidential elector. This is most commonly done at the party’s congressional-district and state-level convention during the summer of a presidential election year. It is sometimes done in a primary.
- Each political party notifies the state’s chief election official of the names of the party’s candidate for President and Vice President (nominated at the party’s national convention) and the names of the party’s candidates for the position of presidential elector.
- Under the “short presidential ballot” (now used in all states), the names of the party’s nominee for President and Vice President appear on the ballot that the voter sees on Election Day. The names of the actual presidential electors appear on the ballot in only a few states.
- When a voter casts a vote for a party’s presidential and vice-presidential slate on Election Day (the Tuesday after the first Monday in November), that vote is deemed to be a vote for all of that party’s candidates for presidential elector.
- Under the “winner-take-all” rule used in 48 states, the presidential-elect candidate who receives the most popular votes statewide are elected. In Maine and Nebraska, the presidential-elect candidate who receives the most popular votes in each congressional district is elected (with the two remaining electors being based on the statewide popular vote).
- Each state’s winning presidential electors travel to their State Capitol on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December to cast their votes for President and Vice President.
- Below is the 1964 Vermont presidential ballot when Vermont voters still had the option of voting for actual presidential and vice-presidential candidates (i.e., the “short presidential ballot”) or voting for individual presidential electors.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS

OFFICIAL BALLOT

Town of

WINDSOR

for the

General Election November 3, 1964

Electors of President and Vice-President of the United States

To vote a straight party ticket, make a cross (X) in the square at the head of the party column of your choice. If you desire to vote for a person whose name is not on the ballot, fill in the name of the candidate of your choice in the blank space provided therefor.

If you do not wish to vote for every person in a party column, make a cross (X) opposite the name of each candidate of your Choice; or you may make a cross (X) in the square at the head of the party column of your choice which shall count as a vote for every name in that column, except for any name through which you may draw a line, and except for any name representing a candidate for an office to fill which you have otherwise voted in the manner heretofore prescribed.

<p>REPUBLICAN PARTY</p> <p>For President</p> <p>BARRY M. GOLDWATER of Arizona</p> <p>For Vice-President</p> <p>WILLIAM E. MILLER of New York</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>DEMOCRATIC PARTY</p> <p>For President</p> <p>LYNDON B. JOHNSON of Texas</p> <p>For Vice-President</p> <p>HUBERT H. HUMPHREY of Minnesota</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>For Electors of President and Vice-President of the United States</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Vote for THREE</p>	<p>For Electors of President and Vice-President of the United States</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Vote for THREE</p>
MABEL STAFFORD, Republican, South Wallingford	MARGARET M. FARMER, Democratic, Burlington
LEE EMERSON, Republican, Barton	PETER J. HINCKS, Democratic, Middlebury
OLIN GAY, Republican, Springfield	HAROLD RAYNOLDS, Democratic, Springfield