

THE PATH TO THE WHITE HOUSE

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ HOW OUR PRESIDENT IS ELECTED ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Election Day is right around the corner, so now is a great time to brush up on everything political, including how we choose the next head of state. Use your library to find out more about the candidates, learn about the history of political parties and much more.



In order to run, all candidates must:

- Be born in the U.S.A
- Be at least 35 years old
- Be a U.S. resident for at least 14 years

CAUCUS



Like a town meeting with discussion and debate. Party members can sway decisions, voting is out in the open and the process can last hours.

PRIMARY



Set up like the general election. Voters cast ballots in secret and the process lasts minutes.



WIN OVER DELEGATES!

Delegates are those you take to the national convention to vote for you.

Delegates are awarded one of two ways:

1. Winner gets a portion of the delegates
2. Winner takes all the delegates

SUPER TUESDAY!

Super Tuesday is the Tuesday in February or March where the greatest number of states hold primaries or caucuses.



V.P.



The popular or general election is always held the Tuesday after the first Monday in November. This year it falls on November 8, 2012.

- Registered voters 18 or older can choose one presidential candidate to vote for.
- When you vote, you're telling your electors how to vote or which choice your state prefers.



SPEND! SPEND! SPEND!

Raise money for T.V. ads, campaign teams and propaganda costs. Travel throughout the states with your running mate to gain votes for the election.

The winning candidate picks a running mate.

Delegates vote for the candidate of their choice, state-by-state. The first candidate to receive the majority of the delegates' votes becomes the party's candidate.



The winner is announced and the presidential inauguration takes place on January 20. The newly sworn-in president then gives a speech known as the inaugural address.

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States count their votes. All of your state's electoral votes are placed on the candidate who won in your state. Electoral votes are made of the number of U.S. senators and representatives, and each state receives a different number of votes. The candidate with the most electoral votes wins the election!