



The Lion Cub

The Newsletter of the American Community in Ethiopia
Community Edition: Thursday August 30, 2012

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Election Day is November 6, 2012



Now, I know that in our election process the presidential candidate who receives the most electoral votes, rather than the most popular votes, wins the presidential election. But what exactly is the Electoral College?

The founding fathers established the Electoral College in the Constitution as a compromise between election of the President by a vote in Congress and election of the President by a popular vote of citizens.

The Electoral College consists of 538 electors. A majority of 270 electoral votes is required to elect the President. (Half of 538 is 269 + 1 = 270 to give the winner the majority) Your state's entitled allotment of electors equals the number of members in its Congressional delegation: one for each member in the House of Representatives plus two for your Senators.

Smaller states like Vermont have just 3 electoral votes (2 senators and 1 member of the House of Representatives). The largest state in the US, California, has 55 electoral votes (2 senators and 53 Members of the House of Representatives).

The presidential election is held every four years in November. You help choose your state's electors when you vote for President because when you vote for your candidate you are actually voting for your candidate's electors.

After the presidential election, your governor prepares a "Certificate of Ascertainment" listing all of the candidates who ran for President in your state along with the names of their respective electors. The Certificate of Ascertainment also declares the winning presidential candidate in your state and shows which electors will represent your state at the meeting of the electors in December of the election year. Your state's Certificates of Ascertainments are sent to the Congress and the National Archives as part of the official records of the presidential election.

Each state's electoral votes are counted in a joint session of Congress. The Vice President, as President of the Senate, presides over the count and announces the results of the vote. Members of the House and Senate meet in the House chamber to conduct the official tally of electoral votes. The current Vice President then announces the winner. The President-Elect takes the oath of office and is sworn in as President of the United States on January 20th in the year following the Presidential election.

Source – The National Archives (<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/about.html>)



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What happens if neither candidate receives 270 electoral votes? Who decides the winner?

If neither candidate gets a majority of the Electoral Votes, the election for President is decided in the House of Representatives, with each state delegation having one vote. Senators would elect the Vice-President. Since the Republican Party currently has more seats in the House of Representatives, we would assume that Mitt Romney would therefore be the next president if neither he nor President Obama receives the majority of the electoral votes. However, since the Democratic Party current has more seats in the Senate, one would assume that current vice-president Joe Biden would still keep his job if there was a tie within the Electoral College: Romney/Biden 2012?!?!

How many times in US history has the candidate with the lesser amount of popular votes won the majority of the electoral votes?

Three times:



1877 – Samuel Tilden received 51% of the popular votes, but Rutherford B. Hayes won the presidency with just one more electoral vote than Tilden. Hayes also won 21 states to Tilden's 17

1888 – Grover Cleveland received more popular votes compared to Benjamin Harrison, but Harrison received 68 more electoral votes than Cleveland. Harrison also won 20 states compared to 18 for Cleveland.

2000 – Most of you remember that Al Gore received 48.4% of the popular vote compared to George W. Bush's 47.9%. However, Bush received 271 electoral votes compared to 266 for Gore. Bush also won 30 states compared to 20 for Gore (21 if you count DC).

Check out the website www.270towin.com. This is a blog that updates daily based upon state by state polls. You can run a simulation based upon recent data on who the polls predict will win the 2012 election. You can also play along with the map changing the colors from blue to red for you to see just how hard (or easy) it is for a candidate to reach the required 270 electoral votes. For instance, what is the fewest amount of states a candidate must win to be able to win the presidency?

Absentee Voting for American Citizens Overseas

You can drop off your ballot request or voted ballot at the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate for return to the United States, or you can have someone drop it off for you. It must be addressed to your local election officials and have sufficient postage or be in a postage-paid envelope. A postage-paid envelope is available on the FVAP web site. Contact the voting assistance officer or visit the Embassy website for specific instructions.



http://travel.state.gov/travel/living/overseas_voting/overseas_voting_4754.html

Community at Large

Toddler Gym

Begins Mid September, 2012 and will be hosted at the German Embassy School and conducted by the Sandford International School Early Years Physical Education Department.

Cost: 50 ETB per session, proceeds donated to "The Food Run"

For more information, please contact:

andybottomer@hotmail.com



Calling All Runners

Saturday, 20 October 2012:

- Wenchi Crater Rim Run (about 25 to 30 km)

Saturday, 27 October 2012:

- Langano Sprint Triathlon (750 m swim, 20 km bike, 5 km run)

Saturday, 1 December 2012:

- Entoto Marathon (42.2 km)

Saturday, 15 December 2012:

- Langano Olympic Distance Triathlon (1.5 km swim, 40 km bike, 10 km run)

Anyone interested in any of these events, contact: runninginaddis@gmail.com

Disclaimer

The CLO does not verify or guarantee any claims, and no endorsement of products or services is implied in the written articles, announcements, or classifieds.

To say it another way, the CLO hopes that you will use the ideas from *Out and About: Community at Large* to get out of your house and explore the city. However, CLO cannot be held responsible for any of the content details of the included announcements. Feedback is always encouraged!

Yoga

Adult's classes will now be at the rate of 120 Birr per class and if 10 classes are paid for in advance the fee will be 1000 Birr only.

Children's classes will also now be at the rate of 100 birr.

Children's classes will resume next Tuesday, 21st August from 3:30pm until 4:15pm.

Please note: Saturday morning classes will only resume if I can get enough firm commitment from a minimum of 8 people to sign up for a month in advance.

Starting next week, Monday 27th

Monday

16:00 – 17:30 General class

18:30 – 20:00 Beginners class

Tuesday

10:00 – 11:30 General class

15:30 -16:15 Toddlers/ children's Yoga

18:30 -20:00 General class

Thursday

18:30 -20:00 General class

Friday

17:00 -18:30 General class

Saturday

10:00 - 11:30 (pending requests)

For more information:

Contact emily_gilchrist@hotmail.com



Classifieds

Miscellaneous: Wanted

We are seeking an evening and/or weekend nanny/cook for our household of 4 (2 children - 2.5 and infant) in Bole. Must be able to work 2-3 evenings per week and weekends as needed. If needed person can live-in. Please contact Kim at KimW2008@gmail.com or 092 327 6105.

For Sale

Tennis Racquets: 2 Babolat Pure Storm Limited GT (95 sq inches) \$125 per racquet. Suitable for advanced players. Please contact Vish at jindalv@state.gov.

Dog training treats: Bil-Jac Little Gooberlicious - peanut butter flavor (over 100 treats in 1 bag) .4oz. Selling 5 bags - \$2.00 per bag.

Weber Table - top Barbecue, new in box. Please contact rickryan0953@gmail.com

Nikon D90 DSLR Camera Kit: (including VR 18-105 mm zoom lens, F1.8 50 mm prime lens, two 8GB SD cards, camera case, and tripod). Fantastic camera set-up for those looking to get into photography. Very good condition. \$800. Please contact DSGMerton@gmail.com

Miscellaneous

Dog Mia - Free to a good home.

Almost one year old great female indoor/outdoor Ethiopian dog. Very smart and loving. Spayed and all

shots up to date. Everything is great with her, but she tends to play too rough with our elderly dog and cats. We have her favorite food and toys to go along with her.

If interested, please contact Paul or Louise. 0911 508305

Recommendations & Domestic Staffing

House keeper/Nanny available: Rahel has been working for three American families doing cleaning, laundry and ironing. Previously Rahel has worked as a nanny. She is very trustworthy and has good English skills, both written and spoken. The current employing families are departing post soon and we are all wanting to help Rahel find a new **and good family to help.** Rahel's number is: 091 138 3775. References: Julia Shealy: 092 160 0015, Rick Ryan: 091 152 9761.

Masseuse available: Berkenish will come to your house, you must provide massage oil. Swedish massage is 200 birr for 1 hour or 300 birr for 90 minutes. Call 0911-663-579. Recommended by Adam.

Massage in your home! Contact Fre at 0911-689-475. Recommended by Cate.

Hairdresser Mekdela: She is very nice, cuts well and consistently! Located in the building of the Family Restaurant near Bambis, 1st floor. Check her out. 0911-145-057. Recommended by Diane.

Part-time housekeeper available:

Betty is a very good housekeeper available for part time work in the Bole area. She speaks excellent English and follows your instruction on what needs to be done in your home. She will be looking to work 2 days / week. She works for another Embassy family part time also. Please call Betty at 0911 45 57 68. Tell her Diane sent you! You will be glad you did!

