



U.S. ELECTIONS 2016

AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER

U.S. EMBASSY HELSINKI

NOVEMBER 2016

Why is the U.S. general election held on a Tuesday in November?

By Voice of America -
Oct 20, 2016

Ever wonder why the United States votes on a Tuesday in November?

It wasn't always that way. For the first 15 presidential elections, each state chose its own voting day until improved communication caused worries that early states would influence later voters.

So, in 1845, Congress picked one day for everyone: the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

Why Tuesday? Roads were poor or nonexistent. It could take a day to get to a polling place. Congress avoided forcing travel on Sunday, the Christian Sabbath. Monday was the day of travel for voters who needed it.

Why November? Most Americans were farmers. In November the harvest was over. The worst winter weather was still ahead.

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We hope the articles in this newsletter will give you a broader, more whole picture and more insight into U.S. elections from top to bottom.



© AP Images

These days, the roads are good. Few Americans farm.

While some propose holding national elections on Saturday, the United States continues to vote on a Tuesday in November.

Learn about the candidates and their running mates, about the electoral college and battleground states, and about upcoming events on the elections. In addition, there is much more than the presidency at stake this year - 12 of the 50 states are electing governors, all are choosing legislators, and

many are selecting judges.

Compiled by the American Resource Center at the U.S. Embassy Finland, this newsletter introduces you to the 2016 U.S. Elections.

We hope the articles in this newsletter will give you a broader, more whole picture and more insight into U.S. elections from top to bottom.



Candidates 2016



DONALD TRUMP

*Republican
Presidential Nominee*

DONALD J. TRUMP is the very definition of the American success story, continually setting the standards of excellence while expanding his interests in real estate, sports and entertainment. He is a graduate of the Wharton School of Finance. Mr. Trump has authored over fifteen bestsellers, and his first book, *The Art of the Deal*, is considered a business classic.

Mr. Trump has over 25 million followers on social media. He is also the Emmy-nominated star and co-producer of the reality television series, "The Apprentice."

Mr. Trump was born in Queens, New York. He is married to Melania Trump and father to Donald Trump Jr., Ivanka, Eric, Tiffany and Barron. He is a proud grandfather of seven.



HILLARY CLINTON

*Democratic
Presidential Nominee*

HILLARY CLINTON has served as secretary of state, senator from New York, first lady of the United States, first lady of Arkansas, a practicing lawyer and law professor, activist, and volunteer.

In 2008, Hillary ran for president. When she came up short, she threw her support behind then-Senator Barack Obama. She campaigned hard to make sure there was a Democrat in the White House. And when President Obama asked Hillary to serve as his secretary of state, she put aside their hard-fought campaign and answered the call to public service once again.

In 2014, Hillary took on a new role: grandmother to Chelsea's daughter, Charlotte Clinton Mezvinsky. And this June, she welcomed her grandson, Aidan Clinton Mezvinsky, to the family too.



MIKE PENCE

*Republican Vice
Presidential Nominee*

MIKE PENCE, Governor, is a lifelong Hoosier with legal, small business and policy experience. He was elected the 50th Governor of the State of Indiana in 2012. Prior to being elected governor, Pence represented Indiana's Sixth Congressional District in Congress.



TIM KAINE

*Democratic Vice
Presidential Nominee*

TIM KAINE has helped people throughout his life as a missionary, civil rights lawyer, teacher and elected official. He is one of 30 people in American history to have served as a Mayor, Governor and United States Senator.

Much more than the presidency is at stake this year

By ShareAmerica

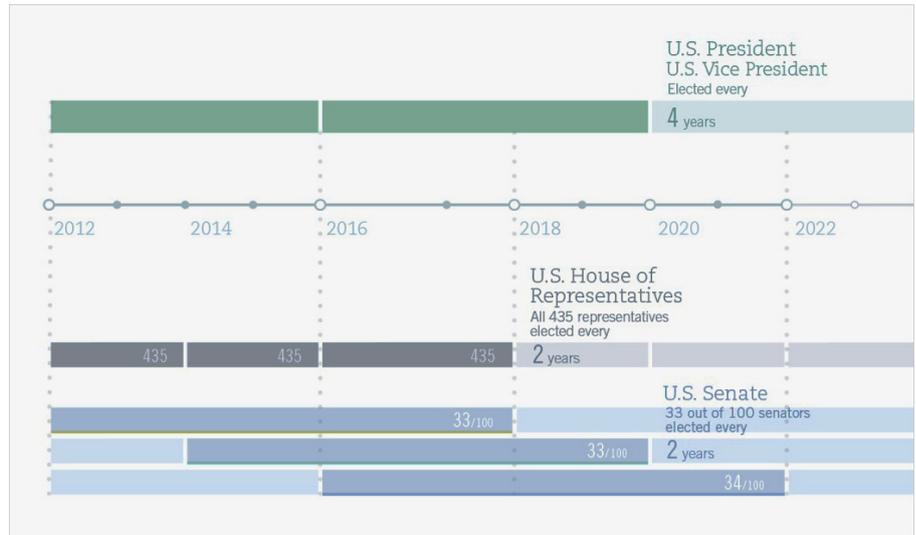
March 1, 2016

The presidential race gets most of the attention, but on November 8, 2016, U.S. voters will also choose thousands of federal, state and local officials. They'll do it peacefully. Winners will celebrate and losers will concede graciously ... and plan for the next election.

On the federal level, voters will choose most of the new 115th Congress. Up for grabs in 2016 are one-third of Senate seats and the entire House of Representatives. The U.S. Constitution sets that formula. It's designed to permit voters to force rapid change in the House while preserving a measure of stability in the Senate.

The party that controls a majority of seats in either part of Congress has great influence over how it runs. That means selecting committee chairmen, deciding which bills get voted on, and other key matters.

While Americans do not vote for federal judges, the president nominates them and the Senate confirms each appointment. So even as Americans choose their legislators and chief executive, their selections will shape the judicial branch of government as well.



Closer to home

That means state elections are very important. Most of the laws governing everyday life — laws about how to interpret a business contract, how fast you can drive, or where you can build your house — are made by states, or by local governments under authority delegated by states.

Unlike many other nations, the United States has a federal system. The federal, or national, government possesses only those powers the Constitution specifically grants it. Any others belong either to the states or to the American people.

Each state has its own constitution. These spell out the powers of each office. Some states afford their governors more executive power than the president possesses at the federal level,

others not so much. For example, some states afford their governor a “line item veto” that allows her to block just one part of a bill — say, by reducing the amount of money appropriated to a particular program — without vetoing the entire bill.

In 2016, 12 of the 50 states are electing governors, all are choosing legislators, and many are selecting judges. On the local level, voters will decide races for offices including mayor, school board member and, in Massachusetts, Vermont and Nebraska, “fence viewer.” (That’s someone who inspects fences to assure they remain in good repair and don’t encroach on a neighbor’s property.)

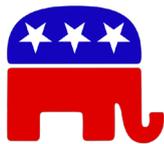
No matter how grand or humble the office, all officeholders have a shared responsibility: to represent the citizens who selected them to the very best of their ability.

ELECTIONS 2016

Battleground States

WHAT IS A BATTLEGROUND STATE

Many states have a history of their voters consistently favoring one party, but voters in battleground states, also called swing states, are so evenly divided in their political allegiances that statewide support switches from one party to another. Presidential candidates will focus much of their campaign efforts on winning those states.



2016 BATTLEGROUND STATES

In June, POLITICO identified 11 key battleground states — totaling 146 electoral votes — that would effectively decide the presidential election in November. These 11 swing states include: Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin. Updated daily, the average will provide estimates of the candidates' standing by from overall and state-level perspectives.

<http://www.politico.com/2016-election/swing-states>

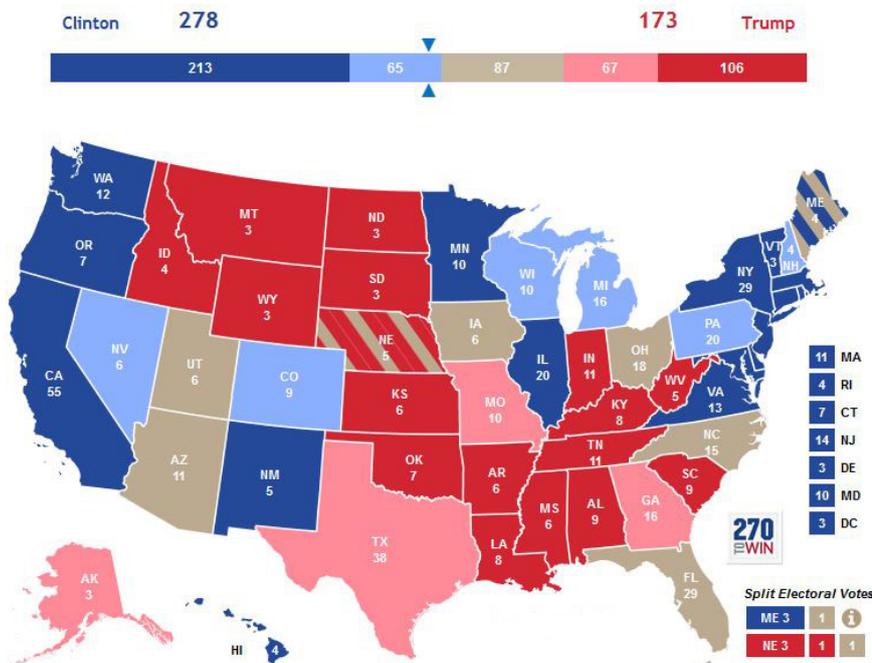
FLORIDA: THE SWINGIEST SWING STATE

Like most southern states, Florida voted almost exclusively Democratic from Reconstruction until the mid-20th century, before turning primarily Republican in 1952. Florida's population has exploded in the past 60 years and its electoral importance has grown with it, from eight electoral votes at the end of World War II to 29 today, fourth most in the country.

Influxes of Cubans, retirees, service workers to the theme park economy booming near Orlando and other groups have resulted in a state much more diversified – both economically and politically – than many of its southern brethren. As a result, although still leaning slightly Republican, Florida is today seen as perhaps the ultimate battleground state, its population a microcosm of the country as a whole.

This reputation was enhanced by the closeness of the 2000 election, where it took a month of legal wrangling to decide the winner. In 2012, Florida was the only state decided by less than 1%, with Barack Obama besting Mitt Romney 50.0% to 49.1%.

www.270towin.com/states/Florida



Associated Press Electoral Map Analysis (as of October 28th)
<http://www.270towin.com>

Electoral College

The Electoral College is a process, not a place. It was established 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 qualified citizens.

The Electoral College process consists of the selection of the electors, the meeting of the electors where they vote for President and Vice President, and the counting of the electoral votes by Congress.

The Electoral College consists of 538 electors. A majority of 270 electoral votes is required to elect the President. Each 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. The District of Columbia is allocated 3 electors and treated

like a state for purposes of the Electoral College.

Each candidate running for President has his or her own group of electors. The electors are generally chosen by the candidate's political party, but state laws vary on how the electors are selected and what their responsibilities are.

Most states have a "winner-take-all" system that awards all electors to the winning presidential candidate. However, Maine and Nebraska each have a variation of "proportional representation."

After the presidential election, each governor prepares a "Certificate of Ascertainment" listing all of the candidates who ran for President in the state along with the names of their respective electors.

The meeting of the electors takes place on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December after the presidential election. The

electors meet in their respective states, where they cast their votes for President and Vice President on separate ballots.

Each state's electoral votes are counted in a joint session of Congress on the 6th of January in the year following the meeting of the electors. Members of the House and Senate meet in the House chamber to conduct the official tally of electoral votes.

The Vice President, as President of the Senate, presides over the count and announces the results of the vote. The President of the Senate then declares which persons, if any, have been elected President and Vice President of the United States.

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: <https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/about.html>

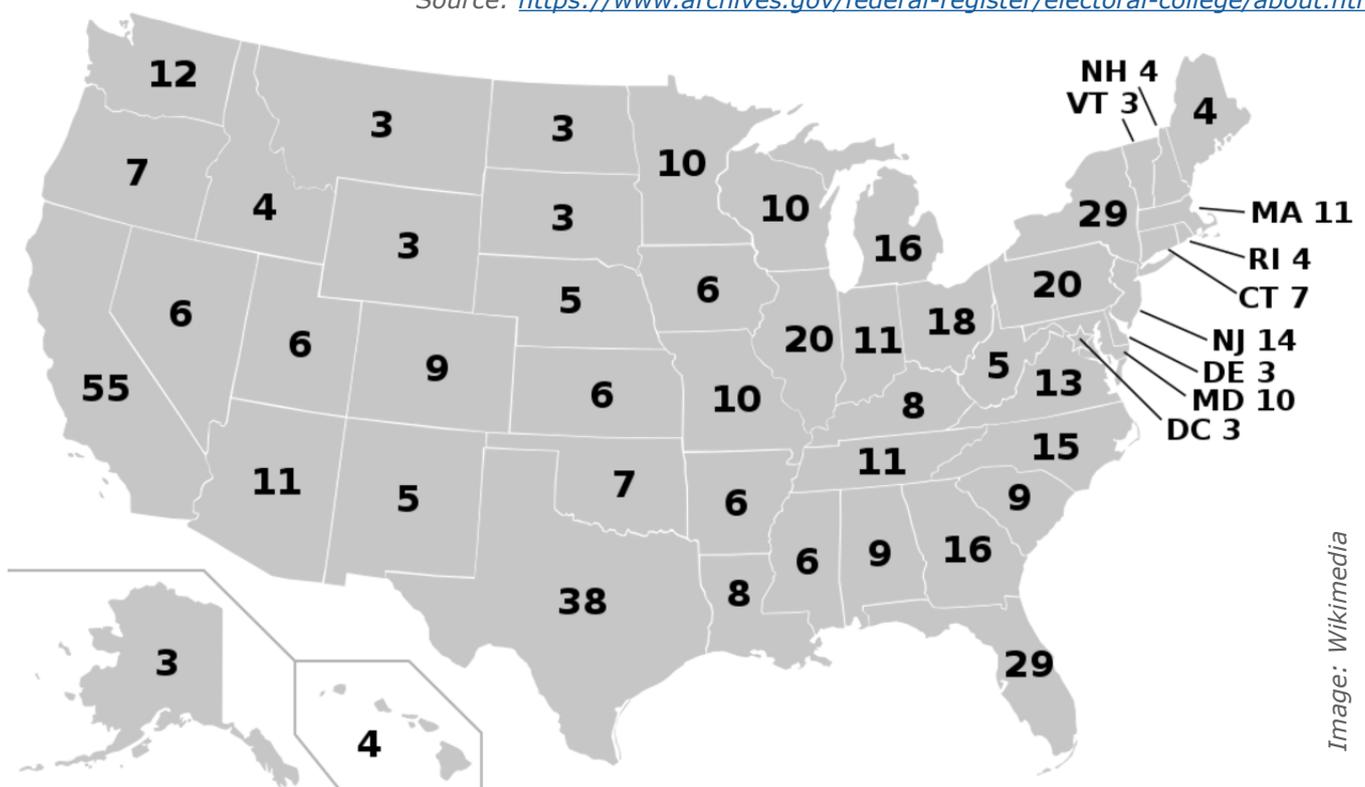


Image: Wikimedia

‘Those who lose accept the verdict’

By ShareAmerica - October 20, 2016



Then-Vice President Richard M. Nixon, right, would concede the 1960 presidential election to John F. Kennedy. (© AP Images)

In the United States, losing political candidates are expected to publicly concede the race to the winners. In turn, a new president or other officeholder recognizes his or her opponent's legitimacy, right to continue opposing the victor's policies, and opportunity to contest future elections. This has been true for over 200 years, at least since 1800, when President John Adams acknowledged his defeat at the hands of challenger Thomas Jefferson.

More than a century and a half later, Americans witnessed another example of power transferred peacefully after a hard-fought contest. The 1960 presidential election was among the most closely fought in U.S. history — so close that supporters of then-Vice President Richard M. Nixon urged him to challenge the results. Nixon declined.

“Even if we were to win in the end,” he explained, “the cost in world opinion and the effect on democracy in the broadest sense would be detrimental.”

Nixon instead performed his duty as vice president, and officially reported to the Senate the election of John F. Kennedy.

“This is the first time in 100 years,” he began, “that a candidate for the presidency announced the result of an election in which he was defeated and announced the victory of his opponent. I do not think we could have a more striking example of the stability of our constitutional system and of the proud tradition of the American people of developing, respecting and honoring institutions of self-government. In our campaigns, no matter how hard-fought they may be, no matter how close

the election may turn out to be, those who lose accept the verdict and support those who win.”

Nixon did the right thing, but he also did the expected thing. That's because Americans are confident their elections are legitimate, and they insist that their results be respected, beginning with a peaceful transition of power from one leader to the next.

In a healthy democracy, defeated candidates know that no victory is permanent, that winners cannot change the rules of future contests, and that they can compete and win another day. Among those who understood: Richard M. Nixon, elected in 1968 the 37th president of the United States.

How to Follow the Elections

Hillary Clinton

<https://www.hillaryclinton.com/>

Tim Kaine

<http://www.kaine.senate.gov/about>

Donald Trump

<https://www.donaldjtrump.com/>

Mike Pence

<http://www.in.gov/gov/2358.htm>

The Republican Party

<https://gop.com/>

The Democratic Party

<https://democrats.org/>

CNN: 2016 Presidential Election Center <http://edition.cnn.com/election>

New York Times: What to Know About Election 2016 Today

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/us/elections/election-2016.html>

Fox News

foxnews.com/politics/elections/2016/presidential-election-headquarters

YLE: USA:n vaalit

<http://yle.fi/uutiset/18-110447>

Helsingin Sanomat: Yhdysvaltain presidentinvaalit

<http://www.hs.fi/ulkomaat/aihe/yhdysvaltainpresidentinvaalit/>

Rasmussen Reports

<http://www.rasmussenreports.com>

Real Clear Politics

<http://www.realclearpolitics.com/elections/2016/>

BallotPedia

http://ballotpedia.org/Presidential_election,_2016



Coming Up

What Happens Now? US election day analysis and the way forward

<https://www.hanken.fi/sv/calendar-item/what-happens-now-us-election-day-analysis-and-way-forward>

November 8, 2016, at 16:00-17:30 at Hanken Assembly Hall, Arkadiankatu 22, Helsinki

“Join us for an election day expert discussion, just hours before the ballots are opened. Which way are the polls pointing and what possible implications do the alternate scenarios have in a Finnish context? What could the imminent election outcome mean for Finnish and other foreign companies operating in the US?” Panelists include Economic policy expert Anne Mathias, Managing Director and Guggenheim Investments’ Senior Macro Strategist; Political journalist Rick Dunham, former White House correspondent of Businessweek and Washington Bureau Chief; and Senior Research Fellow Charly Saloni-Pasternak, expert on U.S. domestic and foreign policy at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. Arranged by Hanken School of Economics in collaboration with Amcham Finland.

The event is open, no registration is required.

Symposium: “The Results Are In: Post-election Analysis”

Arranged by John Morton Center at the University of Turku

November 11, 2016, at 9:15-18:00 at Elovena Hall, Rehtorinpellonkatu 3, University of Turku.

Full program available at www.utu.fi/en/units/jmc/events/Pages/home.aspx



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Reference service: Mon-Fri 9-17

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