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Assignment: History of USA

Assignment No: 1

Topic: The Process of Presidential  
Election in United States  
of America

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## The Process of Presidential Election in United States of America:

An election is a formal group decision-making process by which a population chooses an individual or multiple individuals to hold public office. The election of the president and the Vice President of the United States is an indirect election in which citizens of the United States who are registered to vote in one of the fifty U.S. states or Washington, D.C., cast ballots not directly for those offices, but instead for members of the Electoral College.

Today, the Democrats and Republicans remain the two leading parties in United States. However, there are other political parties such as the Independent Party, the Green Party, the Socialist Party, the Populist Party and others.

### United States of America Constitutional Requirement for Presidential Candidates

The President must:

- ⇒ Be a natural-born citizen of the United States.
- ⇒ Be at least 35 years old.
- ⇒ Have been a resident of the United States for 14 years.

Anyone who meets these requirements can declare their candidacy for president. Once a candidate raises or spends more than \$5,000 for their campaign, they must register with the Federal Election Commission.



## The Process for Electing a President

The United States of America's presidential Election takes place every four years in November. The United States President and Vice President are not elected directly by the people. Instead, they are chosen by "electors" through a process called the "Electoral College".

The election process for United States of America president can be consolidated into five steps:

1. Primaries and caucuses
2. National conventions
3. Election campaigning
4. General Election
5. Electoral College

Try making subheadings

### 1. Primaries and caucuses:

The election process starts with the primaries and caucuses in January or February of the election year. Primaries are organized by state and local authorities using a secret ballot to cast votes for hopeful presidential candidates from each of the major parties. Caucuses are private events organized by political parties themselves. Here, voters decide publicly which candidate they prefer. Afterward, organizers count the votes and calculate how many delegates each candidate receives.

### 2. National Conventions

Once the primaries and caucuses are completed in each state, a national convention is held in which a



party's nomination for president is formally announced to the public. During the convention, the elected delegates cast their vote for a party candidate and the candidate with the most delegates gets the party's nomination. The end of the convention marks the beginning of the general election process.

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).

### 3. Election Campaigning

General election campaigning begins after a single nominee is chosen from each political party, via primaries, caucuses and national conventions. The candidates travel the country, explaining their views and plans to the general population and trying to win the support of potential voters. Rallies, debates and advertising are a big part of general election campaigning.

### 4. General Election

Usually in November. Many modern voters might be surprised to learn that when they step into a ballot box to select their candidate for president, they are casting a vote for fellow Americans called electors. People in every state across the country vote for one president and one vice-president. When people cast their vote,



Add a flowchart of the process  
Make elaborative headings  
Try attempting a few questions to  
develop your understanding of the  
process and analysis of its merits

they are voting for a group of people known as electors. Even though the majority of people in the United States of America vote for a candidate, that does not mean that he/she will win the Presidential election.

and merits  
You are doing great  
Good luck!

There are instances where a candidate who won the popular vote lost the election. To win the election, a candidate needs to secure more than 270 electoral votes.

### 5. Electoral College:

On election day, voters go to the polling place and cast for their preferred candidate. The voters elect their president and vice president indirectly. Both are chosen by electors through the electoral college process. States are allocated based on the number of seats they have in the House of Representatives and senate.

Washington D.C gets three electors but other U.S territories don't get any. In total there are 538 electors. After ballots have been cast, all votes go to a statewide tally. Washington D.C and 48 states use the winner-takes-all procedure where the election winner receives all the electors in that state. Maine and Nebraska are the exceptions because they have a proportional system. A candidate has to "win" at least 270 electors to become President. Voting at the Electoral College takes place in the weeks after Election Day the winner is usually always announced on the night of the election.