

## READING – US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS 2024

Every four years, on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November, voters in the U.S. go to the polls to elect a President. This year, the election day is 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024. So how is a President elected?



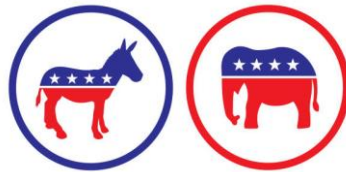
### Primaries

First the parties have to choose a candidate. In the U.S.A. there are two main parties: the Democrats and the Republicans.

The two main parties nominate a presidential candidate by holding a series of votes called state primaries, where people choose who they want to lead the party. The 2024 primary season started on 15<sup>th</sup> January and continued until the end of June.

In the Republican party, former President Donald Trump won his party's support with a massive lead over his rivals. For the Democrats, Vice-President Kamala Harris joined the race after President Joe Biden dropped out.

Traditionally, the Democrats are represented by a donkey and the Republicans by an elephant.



Traditionally, the Democrats are represented by a donkey and the Republicans by an elephant.

### Conventions

Candidates are confirmed at their party conventions in the summer. The Republican convention took place on 15<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> July in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Democratic convention took place on 19<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> August in Chicago, Illinois.

At the conventions, the candidates announce their running mates, the candidates for Vice-President. The two candidates for President and Vice-President form a pair called "the ticket".

At the conventions, the delegates also decide on the parties' platforms, the policies the candidates promise to try to put in place if they win.

### The Campaign

The election campaigns mobilize thousands of people to encourage citizens to vote for one ticket or the other.

This year there was a very early debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden in June and a second in September between Donald Trump and Kamala Harris.

### What do the two parties stand for?

The Democrats, represented by the donkey, are the liberal political party. They are in favor of civil rights, the protection of people from poverty and measures to address climate change.

The Republicans, represented by the elephant, are the conservative political party in the US. They stand for lower taxes, gun rights and restrictions on immigration and abortion.

### How does the US presidential election work?

In each state, citizens vote for "electors" who will vote for a candidate. The number of electors in each state is based on their population. There are a total of 538 electors, which means a candidate needs 270 to win.

The candidate that wins the most votes in a state, gets all of its electors.

On the Monday following the second Wednesday of December, the electors meet in their state capitals and officially vote president and vice president.

Once the winner is decided, he or she is confirmed by Congress in January and finally, on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025, the new President will be inaugurated in a popular ceremony called "the inauguration", in Washington, DC.