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Electoral college, the system by which the president and vice president of the United States are chosen. It was devised by the framers of the United States Constitution to provide a method of election that was feasible, desirable, and consistent with a republican form of government. For the results.Â Emeritus Professor of Government, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. Author of *The Road to the White House*, *The Legislative Presidency*, and others. See *Article History*. What is the electoral college? Overview of the U.S. electoral college. EncyclopÃ|dia Britannica, Inc. See all videos for this article. Electoral college, the system by which the president and vice president of the United States are chosen. A new edition of the bestâ€ known book critiquing the U.S. electoral college In this third edition of the definitive book on the unique system by which Americans choose a president-and why that system should be changed-George Edwards includes a new chapter focusing on the 2016 election. "As the U.S. hurtles toward yet another election in which the popular vote loser may become president, Edwards's book is essential reading. It clearly and methodically punctures myths about the Electoral College's benefits."-Richard L. Hasen, author of *The Voting Wars* "Supported by b The electoral college meets every four years, a few weeks after election day, to carry out that task. How does the electoral college work? The number of electors from each state is roughly in line with the size of its population. Each state gets as many electors as it has lawmakers in the US Congress (representatives in the House and senators). California has the most electors - 55 - while a handful of sparsely populated states like Wyoming, Alaska and North Dakota (and Washington DC) have the minimum of three. There are 538 electors in total. Each elector represents one electoral vote, and a The United States Electoral College is the group of presidential electors required by the Constitution to form every four years for the sole purpose of electing the president and vice president. Each state appoints electors according to its legislature, equal in number to its congressional delegation (senators and representatives). Federal office holders cannot be electors. Of the current 538 electors, an absolute majority of 270 or more electoral votes is required to elect the president and vice Public funding of presidential elections. Rules for national convention delegates. Electoral college. Public funding of presidential elections. In place since 1976, the presidential public funding program provides eligible presidential candidates federal government funds to pay for the valid expenses of their political campaigns in both the primary and general elections.Â The FEC has no jurisdiction over the Electoral College. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is the federal agency responsible for coordinating activities of States and Congress regarding the Electoral College vote for President. Visit the Electoral College home page. Related topics.