

# Lifestyle

## Swing Votes

According to various polls, several states still lack a popular candidate and could "swing" the election either way.



**Florida**  
27 electoral votes



**Ohio**  
20 electoral votes



**Pennsylvania**  
21 electoral votes

# Electoral College

*What is it, how does it work and why it's important*

**Candace Buckman**  
Reporter

The Electoral College is not a new university campus. Every four years, our country uses the Electoral College as a voting system in electing a president.

Each presidential term, a state is given a certain number of electors based on three factors: population, the number of Senate seats held by the state, and the number of seats held by the state in the House of Representatives. This number can change as a state's population fluctuates.

An election is not held to decide who will represent the state as an elector. These individuals are chosen by the major political parties and independent parties either during their conventions or through simple designation. Electors are chosen before each party names their candidates for president.

According to the federal government web site, the electors for each state cast votes for the candidate who receives the popular vote for their states after all votes have been tabulated on election night. The electors' votes are then sealed and sent to Congress, where

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they will remain unopened until just before Inauguration Day in early January.

The Electoral College has been criticized over the past few years. Many U.S. citizens want the system reformed because they do not directly elect the president, the electors do. The fact that it is possible that a candidate who receives the popular vote can lose the election upsets many voters.

A candidate needs 270 of the 538 electoral votes to be elected president.

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## Counting Votes

*A list of states with the most and least electoral votes*

