The U.S. Constitution on the Electoral College

Art. I, Sec. 1, Cl. 2
Each State shall appoint, in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct, a number of Electors, equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives, to which the state may be entitled in Congress...

12th Amendment
The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by ballot for President and Vice President... the person having the greatest number of (electoral) votes for President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed.

How Electors Are Chosen

According to the Constitution, electors are to be chosen in each state “in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct.”

Most states provide for the popular election of electors. Some variations do exist. For instance:

- In Florida and Colorado, the state legislatures choose electors.
- In Maine and Nebraska, the “district plan” is used. Two electors are chosen from the state at large and one is chosen from each Congressional district.

A Calendar of the Electoral College Process

**November**

Tuesday after the First Monday of November
Voters cast ballots for all electors representing a particular party in each state.

**December**

Monday after the Second Wednesday in December
Electors of party winning the popular vote in each state cast ballots for the president and vice president.

**January**

January 6th
Ballots cast by the electors are counted by Congress.

January 20th
Candidate receiving majority of electoral votes becomes president.