

Electing the President:

The Constitutional Requirements

What is the Constitution?

- Fundamental Law of the United States
- Establishes the functions & structures of our **Federal** (national) government
- Current Constitution is the 2nd constitution of the United States
 - 1st: Articles of Confederation (1781-1789)
 - 2nd: **The Constitution** (1789-Present)



How is the Constitution Structures & Organized?

- 3 Main Parts
 - **Preamble**
 - **Articles**
 - **Amendments**

The Preamble

- Introduction
- 1 (long) sentence
- Begins, “We the People”
- Lists 6 broad purposes
 - a. Form a more perfect union
 - b. Establish justice
 - c. Ensure domestic tranquility
 - d. Provide for the common defense
 - e. Promote the general welfare
 - f. Secure the blessings of liberty

Articles

- Main Text: Outlines the structure & powers
- **Articles** subdivided in **sections** containing **clauses**
- 7 Articles
 - a. Legislative Branch
 - b. Executive Branch
 - c. Judicial Branch
 - d. States' Rights
 - e. Amending Process
 - f. National Supremacy
 - g. Ratification Process

Amendments

- Changes made since original text
- Process articulated in article 5
- 27 Amendments
- **Bill of Rights = Amendments 1-10**

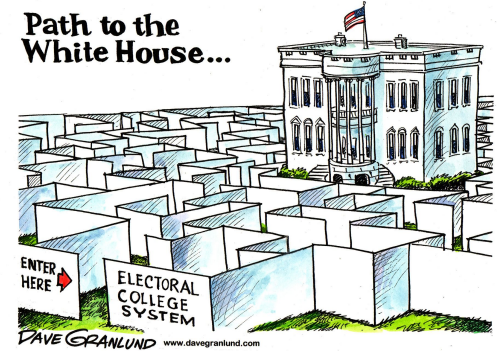


What does the Constitution Say about Electing a President?

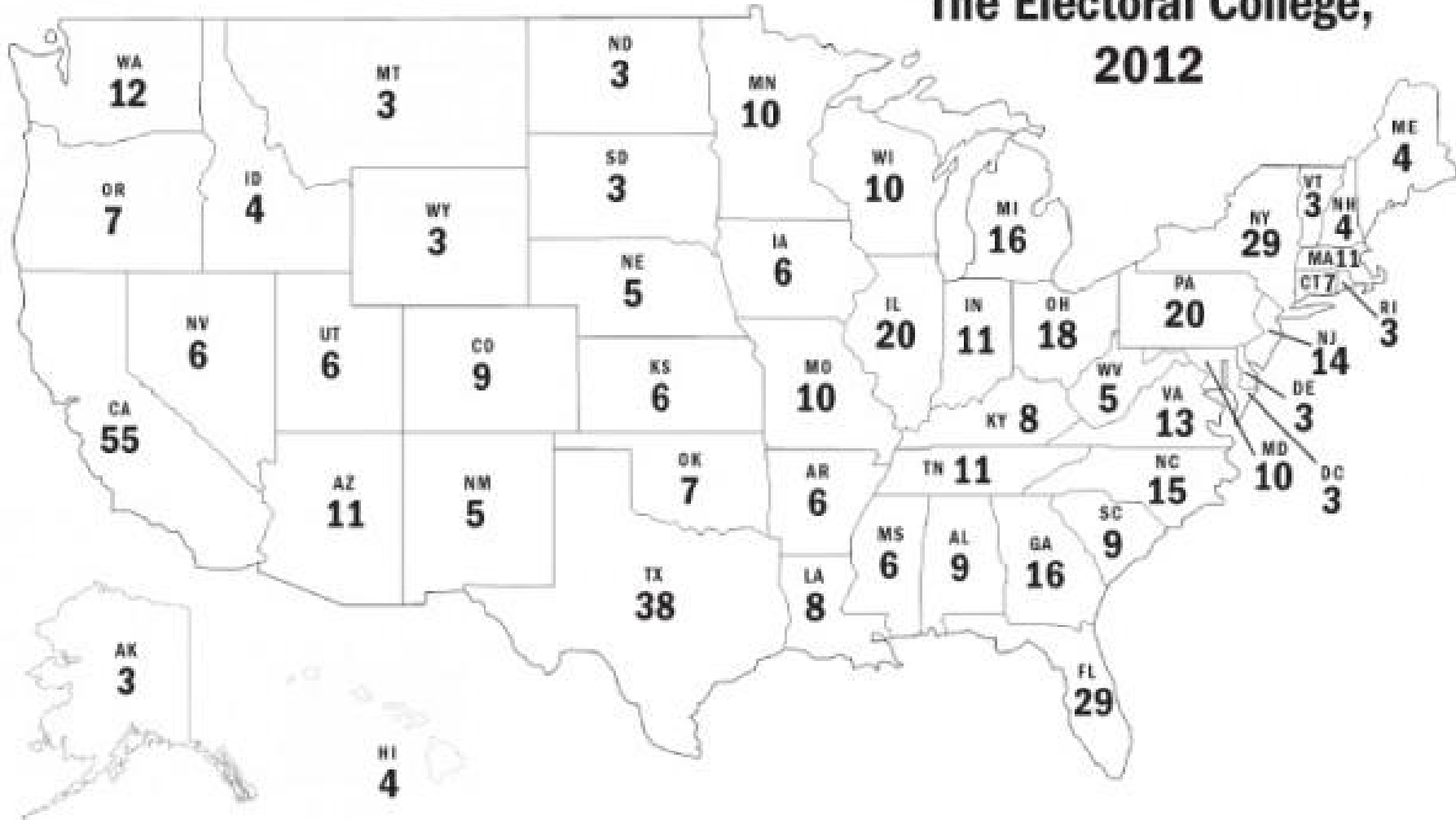
- Article 2, Section 1:
 - **Term:** 4 years (election every 4 years)
 - **Electoral College** system
 - Qualifications for Presidency
 - Natural Born Citizen
 - At least 35 years old
 - At least 14 years residency
- Amendments: 12, 15, 19, 23, 26

The Electoral College

- System NOT a place
- President is elected by “electors”
- Each state gets # of electors = # of senators + # of reps
- Each state legislature determines how electors are chosen
- Electors from each state meet and vote for President
 - a. **Simple Majority** needed to elect President
 - b. If no candidate receives a majority, **House of Representatives** elects President



The Electoral College, 2012



Amendments

#12: Separate Ballots for President & Vice President

#15: Right to Vote for men of color

#19: Right to Vote for women

#23: 3 electoral votes for the District of Columbia

#26: Right to Vote lowered to 18 years of age