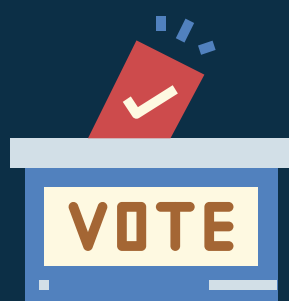


THE ROAD TO THE WHITE HOUSE

FROM ELECTION DAY TO INAUGURATION DAY

THE ELECTION PROCESS



DECEMBER 8TH, 2020

All states must certify their final counts and resolve all election disputes. This is known as the "Safe Harbor Deadline."

DECEMBER 14TH, 2020

Electors vote by paper ballot for their presidential choice. In 33 states and DC, electors are required to vote for the person their state supported. Some areas impose penalties for those who don't, known as "faithless electors."

DECEMBER 23RD, 2020

The votes for president and vice-president are then counted, after which electors sign six "certificates of the vote." These certificates must then be delivered to election officials.

JANUARY 6TH, 2020

The House and Senate hold a session to count the electoral votes. If one candidate receives over 270 votes, the president of the Senate will declare them the winner. If no candidate reaches 270 votes, each individual House delegation of the next Congress will vote for the president.



JANUARY 20TH, 2021

The inauguration ceremony is held and the new president of the United States is sworn in by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

THE TRANSITION PROCESS

THE PRE-ELECTION PLANNING PHASE

During the planning phase, a presidential campaign staffs its transition team, outlines responsibilities and goals, and establishes relationships with relevant government agencies and branches including Congress, the General Services Administration, the Office of Government Ethics, the FBI, and the Office of Personnel Management.



THE POST-ELECTION TRANSITION PHASE

During the transition phase, the president-elect begins to staff the White House and government agencies with key staff while conducting agency reviews and solidifying the incoming administration's policy priorities.



THE POST-INAUGURATION HANDOVER PHASE

Within about 200 days after the inauguration, the president and his new administration must vet, appoint, and confirm about 4,000 political appointees and ensure they receive security clearances. The new administration must also wind down their transition process during this time, and preserve important procedures for historical record.

SOURCES: [THE CENTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION](#), [THE CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE](#)