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ELECTORAL COLLEGE INFORMATION

The Electoral College is the body of electors who meet after a presidential election to select the next President and Vice-President of the United States. All of the Electoral College members elected throughout the country will meet in their respective states on December 14, 2020, to cast their votes (the first Monday after the second Wednesday).

Under the provisions of the US Constitution, voters who participate in the presidential election choose the members of the Electoral College. A voter who casts a vote for a presidential candidate is not voting directly for the candidate, but is, instead, casting a vote for a slate of electors who pledged their support for that candidate. Some States require Electors to cast their votes according to the popular vote. In Oregon, a candidate for elector must sign a pledge form that if elected the candidate will vote in the Electoral College for the candidates of the party.

Pursuant to ORS 248.355, each political party nominating candidates for President and Vice President selects a number of candidates equal to the number of U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators - which is 7 for Oregon (two US senators and five US representatives). The party certifies the names of the selected candidates for elector to the Secretary of State not later than the 70th day before the election of electors. Each major and minor political party follows their party rules for selecting the electors. The Secretary of State does not have jurisdiction to enforce those party rules.

To be elected to the presidency, a candidate must receive a majority of the Electoral College votes cast (at least 270 votes). A separate vote is taken to elect the vice president. If no presidential candidate receives a majority of the Electoral College votes cast, the US House of Representatives chooses the president from the candidates who came in first, second and third in the Electoral College vote. The selection is made by a vote of the state delegations in the House, with each delegation allotted one vote.