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+918988885050



+918988886060

www.vajiraoinstitute.com



info@vajiraoinstitute.com

TODAY'S ANALYSIS

(07 November 2024)

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- USA PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS



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USA PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS



✓ Donald Trump wins

The AP has called this race



226

Harris

6,78,78,826 votes (47.6%)

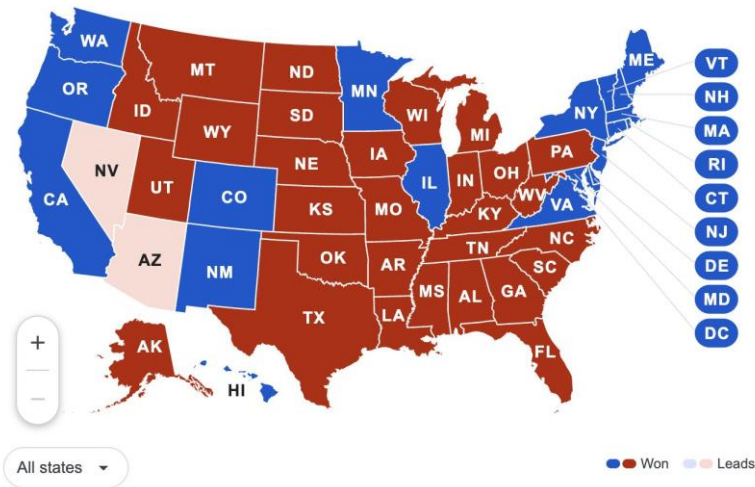
270 to win

295

Trump



7,25,60,841 votes (50.9%)



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- **On 6 Nov 2024, Donald Trump won the US elections.** The US media has announced Trump's win.
- **His rival Kamala Harris has secured 226 electoral colleges,** while Trump surpassed the 270 - the majority mark.
- **He will be the second Republican to get a second term in office in 20 years.** George Bush, a Republican, was president from 2001 to 2009.

THE ELECTIONS

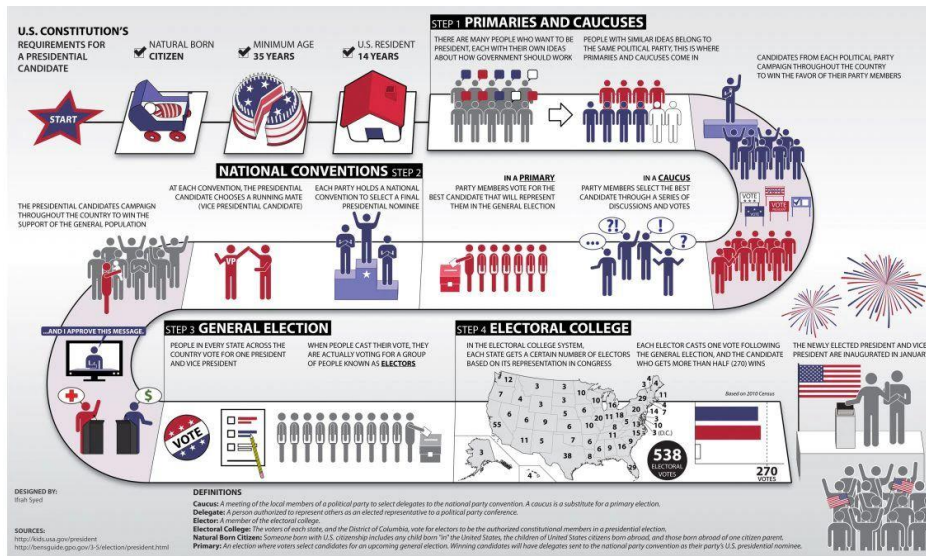
- **On November 5, 2024, The 2024 United States presidential election was held** where U.S. citizens chose between former President **Donald Trump** (Republican) and Vice President **Kamala Harris** (Democrat) for the office of the **47th President**.
- Unlike the **direct election system** used in countries like France, the **United States elects its president through a more complex, multi-stage process.**
- The election process is governed by the **U.S. Constitution**, which states that the **winner is determined not by the popular vote**, but by the **Electoral College**.
 - The **popular vote** is the **total number of votes cast by people in an election.**

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- In a presidential election in the U.S., it shows how many people voted for each candidate.



IS PRESIDENT OF USA PART OF THE CONGRESS?

NO

What is Congress?

- **Congress** is the **legislative branch** of the U.S. government. It's the part of the government that makes **laws**.
- Congress is **bicameral**, meaning it has **2 houses**:
 - The **Senate** and
 - The **House of Representatives**.

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WHO IS A SENATOR?

- A **Senator** is a member of the **Senate**, which is the **upper house** of Congress.
- There are **100 Senators** in total from 50 states, with **2 Senators from each state**. No matter how big or small the state is, each has **equal representation in the Senate**.
- Senators serve **6-year terms**. Every two years, about one-third of the Senate is up for re-election.

WHO IS A REPRESENTATIVE? (IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES)

- A **Representative** is a member of the **House of Representatives**, which is the **lower house** of Congress.
- There are **435 Representatives** in total. Each state gets a number of Representatives based on its **population**. States with more people, like **California**, have more Representatives than smaller states like **Wyoming**.
- Representatives serve **2-year terms**. **All 435 seats are up for election every two years**.

There are **535 members** in Congress (**100 Senators + 435 Representatives**).

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WHAT IS AN ELECTORAL COLLEGE FOR THE PRESIDENT?

- The **Electoral College** is a system used in the United States to elect the **president** and **vice president**.
- It's not a direct popular vote where the person with the most votes wins.
- Instead, the **U.S.** uses a group of electors from each state to decide who wins.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- **Electors in Each State:**
 - Each state has a certain number of **electors** based on its population.
 - **Electors are not Senators or Representatives.**
 - **Senators and House Representatives** are elected to serve in **Congress**.
 - **Electors**, on the other hand, **are chosen specifically for the purpose of voting in the Electoral College** during the **presidential election**.

HOW ELECTORAL VOTES ARE ASSIGNED?

- **How Electoral Votes Are Assigned:**
 - Each state gets electoral votes **equal to the total number of Senators plus the number of House Representatives**. So, **every state gets at least 3 electoral votes (2 Senators + 1 Representative)**.

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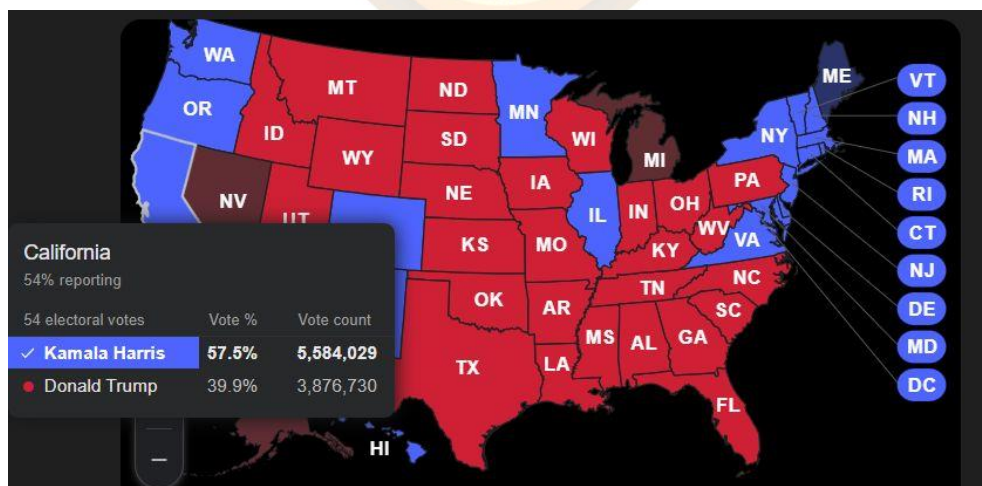
- For example:
 - **California**, the most populous state, has **54 electors (2 Senators) + (52 Representatives) = 54 electoral votes**
 - **Wyoming**, one of the smallest states, has **3 electors (2 Senators + 1 Representative)**.
- **Formula:**
 - **Electoral Votes for a State** = Number of Senators (always 2) + Number of House Representatives (based on population).
- **Total Electoral Votes:**
 - There are **538 total electoral votes (100 Senators + 435 Representatives + 3 votes for Washington D.C.)**.
 - Washington DC got 3 electoral votes from the **23rd AA in 1961**.
 - **To win the presidency, a candidate needs 270 electoral votes.**
- **The Popular Vote:**
 - On **Election Day (the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November)**, voters in each state cast their ballots for a **presidential candidate**.

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- When voters vote, **they are really voting for a slate of electors** pledged to that candidate.
- **In 48 states out of 50, the candidate who wins the popular vote receives all of that state's electoral votes.**
 - The exceptions are **Maine and Nebraska, which divide their votes differently based on proportional system.**
- If **57% of voters in California** vote for Kamala Harris, then all **54 of California's electors (the electoral votes)** will be pledged to vote for Kamala Harris in the **Electoral College.**



- If **56% of voters in Texas** vote for Donald Trump, then all **40 of Texas's electors** will be pledged to vote for Donald Trump.

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ROLE OF ELECTORS AFTER POPULAR VOTE

- **Meeting of the Electors:**
 - After the popular vote, the **electors** meet in **December** in their state capitals to cast their votes for **president** and **vice president**.
 - **Most electors vote based on the results of the popular vote** in their state (but **they are not legally required** to in every state).
- **Faithless Electors:** If an elector votes for someone other than the candidate they promised to support, they are called a **faithless elector**.
 - Some states have rules against this, and faithless electors can be replaced.
 - In **2016**, there were **seven faithless electors**, but their votes didn't change the

overall result.

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- **Counting the Votes:**

- In **January, Congress** counts the votes of the electors **during a joint session**.
- If a candidate gets **270 electoral votes**, they are declared the winner.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS A TIE?

A tie in the Electoral College is rare but not impossible. It has occurred twice in U.S. history:

- **1800:** Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr had the same number of electoral votes.
- **1824:** Andrew Jackson, John Quincy Adams, and two other candidates had split votes. If there is a tie, or if **no candidate receives a majority of electoral votes**, the decision is thrown to the **U.S. House of Representatives**.
- **House of Representatives:** In this case, each state's congressional delegation casts **one vote** to choose the President. A majority of **26 votes** is needed to win.
- The **Senate** would then select the **Vice President**, with each Senator casting one vote. A majority of **51 votes** is required.

If no winner is chosen by **January 20** (Inauguration Day), the **Vice President** becomes the **Acting President** until a decision is reached.

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CRITICISMS OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

- **Winner-Takes-All System:** In most states, the candidate who wins the popular vote in that state gets **all the electors**, which can make the system feel unfair, especially if a candidate wins the popular vote nationally but loses the electoral vote.
- **Disproportionate Influence:** Small states like **Wyoming** have more power per person because they have a minimum of 3 electors, regardless of their small population.
- **Popular Vote vs. Electoral Vote:** In **2000** (George W. Bush vs. Al Gore) and **2016** (Donald Trump vs. Hillary Clinton), the **winner of the popular vote** did not win the election because the other candidate had more **electoral votes**. This makes people question whether the system truly reflects the will of the people.

PROBABLE IMPACTS ON INDIA

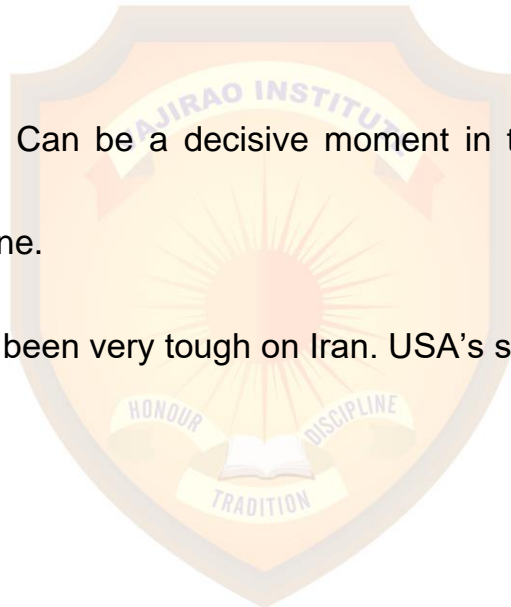
- **Trade:** India's exports can be dented as tariff wars between India & USA was the hallmark of previous presidency term of Donald Trump.
- **Defence Cooperation:** This can strengthen further with more tech transfers happening to India. Trump is keen on containing China.

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- **Immigration:** This can be a **challenging domain** due to the inward & protectionist tendencies of Donald Trump. **Visa delays** can be eminent.
- **Cut on outsourcing:** Trump has been vocal about **bringing industries back to America** (which have been outsourced to developing countries like China & India)
- **Geopolitical Conflicts:**
 - **Russia- Ukraine War:** Can be a decisive moment in the war as Trump talks about stopping funds to Ukraine.
 - **West Asia:** Trump has been very tough on Iran. USA's support to Israel will increase.



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