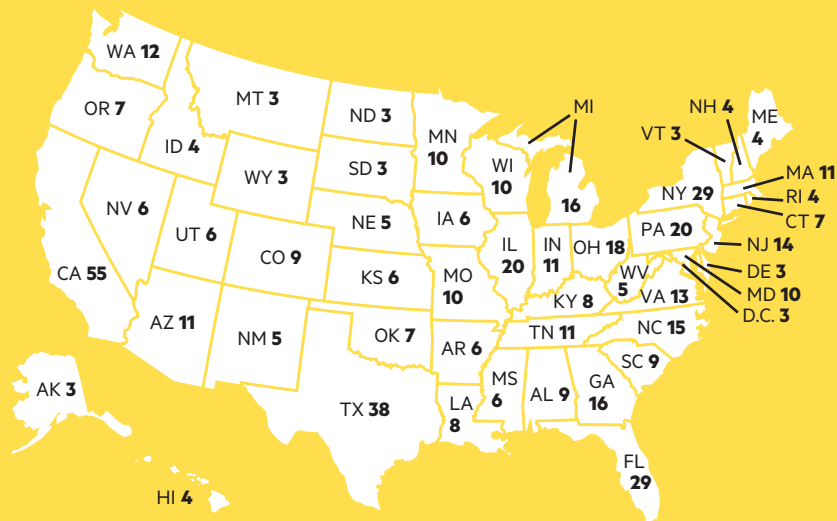


How it works: **in theory**

The Electoral College

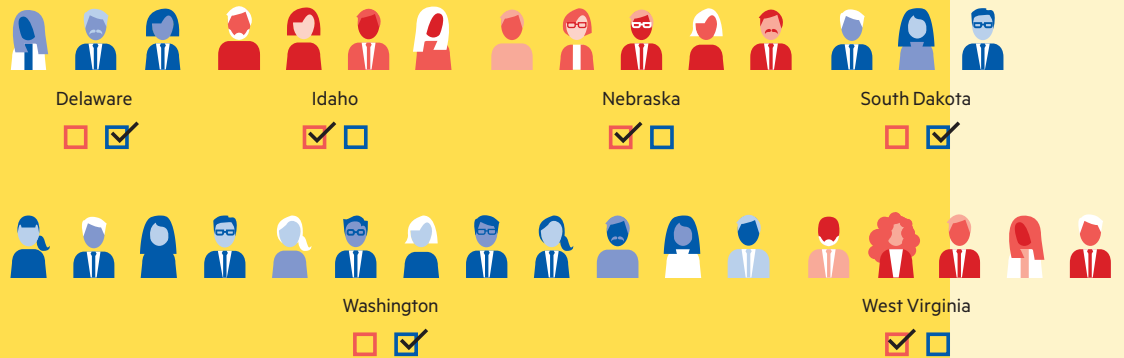


Electoral Votes per State

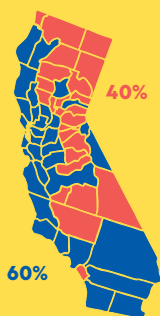
The number of electors from each state equals the state's number of House members (which varies based on state population) plus the number of senators (two per state). Each elector has one vote in the electoral college.

Who Are the Electors?

Candidates to be electors are nominated by their political parties. They pledge to support a certain candidate if they are elected to the electoral college. When you cast your vote for a presidential candidate, you are in fact voting for the slate of potential electors who support that candidate.



California Popular Vote



California Electoral Votes (55)



100%
of electoral votes
go to winner

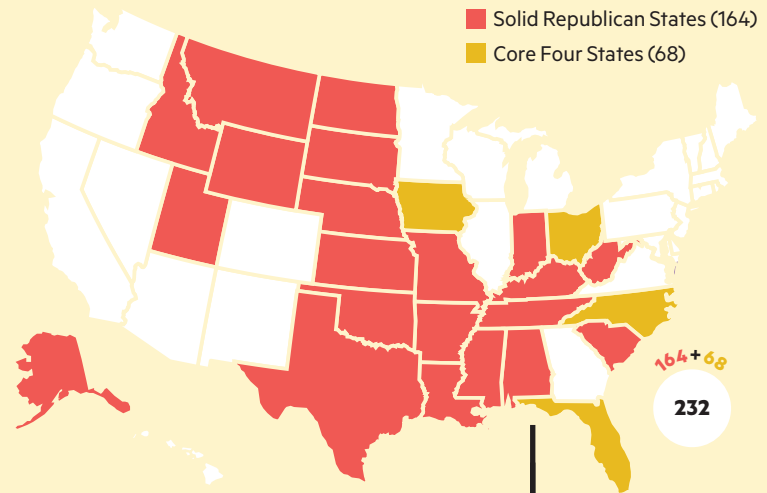
Winning a State

Most states give all of their electoral college votes to the candidate who wins the most votes in that state. So, even if a candidate only gets 51 percent of the vote in the state, his or her entire slate of electors is elected, and he or she gets all of the state's votes in the electoral college.

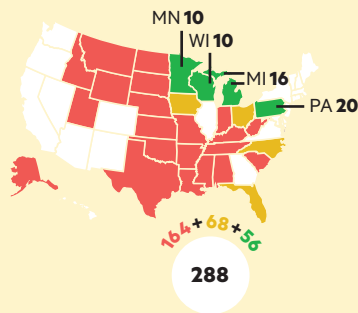
How it works: **in practice**

Donald Trump's Electoral College Strategy, 2016

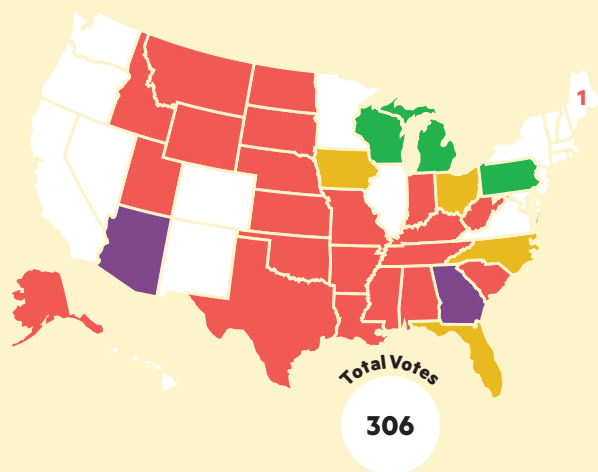
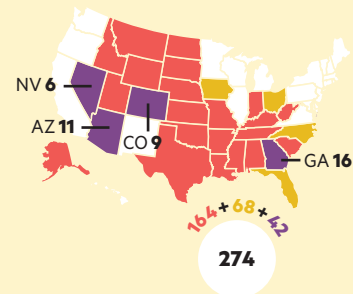
Trump's campaign started by identifying "solid Republican" states—ones with a history of strong Republican support—which gave them a start of 164 electoral votes. Then, they focused on what campaign manager Kellyanne Conway called their "core four" states—ones they knew they needed in order to have a chance at victory: Florida, North Carolina, Ohio, and Iowa. This would bring them to 232 electoral votes. Where would they go to get the additional 38 electoral votes needed for victory?



Target the Rust Belt: Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. These states have relatively weak economies and few minority voters.



Hold off Growing Minority Populations: Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, Colorado. Though Democrats hoped to win all these states because of their high minority populations, only Nevada and Colorado have been swing states in recent elections, and many people felt that Georgia and Arizona had been trending toward Democrats.



2016 Results

Ultimately, Trump used a combination of these strategies to win 306 electoral votes, and the presidency.

Trump's Final Winning Electoral College Map

AL 9	IN 11	MS 6	OK 7	WV 5
AK 3	IA 6	MO 10	PA 20	WI 10
AZ 11	KS 6	MT 3	SC 9	WY 3
AR 6	KY 8	NE 5	SD 3	
FL 29	LA 8	NC 15	TN 11	
GA 16	ME 1*	ND 3	TX 38	
ID 4	MI 16	OH 18	UT 6	



Critical Thinking

1. Why didn't the Trump campaign focus on some delegate-rich states like California and New York?
2. In what state do you think the Trump campaign spent the most money? Where do you think Trump made the most personal appearances? Why?

* Maine splits its electoral votes; Trump received 1, Clinton 3.