



WHEN DOES THE US VOTE?

5 November, 2024. Congress designated the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November as Election Day back in 1845. US elects its president every 4 years

US PRESIDENT MUST BE

A natural-born citizen of the US.

At least

35

years old.

A resident of the United States for

14 yrs

US ELECTIONS DECODED

DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION: 3,45,901,546

Age Group	Percentage
65 years and over	17.5%
45 to 64 years	24.6%
21 to 44 years	32.1%
Under 15 years	17.9%
15 to 17 years	4.1%
18 to 20 years	3.8%

KAMALA HARRIS

59, Democrat

- Net Worth: \$8 million
- Began her career as a lawyer
- Former junior senator for California (2017-2021)
- First female, African American and Asian American Vice President
- 49th and current VP since 2021 serving with President Joe Biden

PROMISES

1. Restore federal right to abortion if Congress passes one
2. Expand the child tax credit to up to \$6,000 from \$2,000 for newborn children
3. Construct 3 million new homes over four years
4. \$25,000 down-payment assistance for first-time home buyers
5. Ban assault weapons amid mass shootings
6. Sign bipartisan border security bill earlier killed by Trump to speed up asylum process

PREZ CANDIDATES

The US election is anything but simple. The counting for the US presidential election will begin on 5 November, but the result could take few days.

SALAR NEWS

untangles the knotty election process and what's at stake for the American democracy.

DONALD TRUMP

78, Republican

- Net Worth: \$7.5 billion
- Media personality and businessman.
- Economics graduate from University of Pennsylvania.
- Took over family business, renamed it as Trump Organization and focussed on skyscrapers and resorts (1971)
- 45th US president from 2017 to 2021
- Third US president to be impeached

PROMISES

1. End war in Ukraine before Inauguration Day (20 Jan, 2025)
2. Seal the border, stop migrants, carry out the largest deportation
3. 10% import tariff, tax cuts and make US a crypto capital
4. Build iron dome missile defence shield over US
5. Keep US dollar as the world's reserve currency
6. Cut funding to schools that teach "critical race theory" and "transgender" matters

RUNNING MATES

TIM WALZ, 60, Democratic

- Former schoolteacher and a retired US Army officer
- Was a member of US House of Representatives (2007-2019)
- Governor of Minnesota since 2019
- He is under fire over a love affair with the daughter of a Chinese Communist Party official in 1989 and allegedly driving her to the brink of suicide.

HARRIS

- Likely to continue trade pacts under Biden administration.
- Favours expanding H-1B, which is crucial for India's IT sector.
- Harris aims to strengthen Indo-Pacific partnerships to counterbalance China's influence.
- Harris proposes lowering drug prices, which could benefit Indian pharmaceuticals.

IMPACT ON INDIA

TRUMP

- May revive heavy tariffs that might hit India's trade.
- May tighten immigration rule impacting H1B visas.
- Focus on traditional energy sources could lower crude prices. Trump is endorsed by Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla, which is of India's interest.
- Trump has supported India's role in countering China. Hails Modi's policies.

RUNNING MATES

JD VANCE, 40, Republican

- Author, venture capitalist and Marine veteran who served in Iraq War
- During 2016 presidential campaign, Vance was a critic of Trump, calling him "America's Hitler".
- Ohio junior senator since 2023
- Is against immigration, abortion and IVF treatments
- Under fire for "Childless cat ladies remark"

THEIR STAND ON...

ABORTION

TRUMP: Opposes Roe vs Wade verdict and supports its overturning, advocating for state-level restrictions on abortion.

HARRIS: Vows to sign legislation that restored protections under Roe vs Wade. Says Trump will take away fertility treatments next.

UKRAINE AND GAZA

TRUMP: Says will end Ukraine war as he "has excellent ties with Vladimir Putin and Volodymyr Zelensky". Calls Harris anti-Israel and anti-Arab.

HARRIS: Backs Ukraine while accusing Russia of violating sovereignty and territorial integrity. Condemned Hamas' terror attack against Israel and bats for a two-state solution.

ELECTION PROCESS STARTS A YEAR BEFORE VOTING DAY

Candidates from the two main political parties—Democrats and Republicans—begin their campaigns to seek votes and raise funds. Here are the steps.

STEP 1: Primaries and Caucuses

PRIMARY

- Primaries are state-level elections where party members vote to select their presidential candidates.
- They are held 6-9 months ahead of the election and take place in voting booths.
- US states conduct primary elections.

CAUCUSES

- Caucuses are organised by the parties.
- Take place at precinct, district and state level in places such as schools, churches, and community centres.
- Campaign representatives make speeches on behalf of their candidates and caucus-goers vote.

STEP 2: National Convention

- Each party then holds a national convention to select a presidential nominee.
- Delegates from each state chosen during the primaries and caucuses will "endorse" their favourite candidates.

STEP 3: Presidential debate

Democrat and Republican candidates participate in televised debates about their policies.

STEP 4: General elections

- On 5 Nov, people in every state will vote.
- However, this is where the voting process gets complex. When people vote, they are not directly voting for President or VP. Instead, they vote for "electors"—members of the Electoral College—who directly elect the president and VP in mid-December.

STEP 5: Electoral collage

- Each state has a number of electors depending on its population. Each State gets the same number of electors as its members of Congress, both House and Senate. Washington DC has three electors.
- Number of electors in each state is equal to the number of its House members plus two - number of US senators from every state. Eg: Since California has 52 House members and 2 senators, it gets 54 Electoral College votes.

435 representatives from Congress

100 Senators

3 additional voters from District of Columbia

Total electors:

538

- The votes go to a statewide tally. In all States except Nebraska and Maine, the candidate who gets the most votes gets all its electoral votes. If they win the state by 1 per cent, they win 100 per cent of electoral votes. In Nebraska and Maine however, the popular winner gets 2 electoral votes and the rest is allocated to the winner of each congressional district.

WHEN ARE THE RESULTS?

- The winning candidate needs a majority of 270 electoral votes.
- If no candidate gets an absolute majority, then the House of Representatives elects the president.
- The newly elected President and Vice President take charge on 20 January.
- Americans will also elect people to fill various federal, state and local positions.

POPULARITY NO GUARANTEE FOR WIN

Because of the Electoral College, the most popular candidate may not be elected president. This happened in 2016, when Hillary Clinton got almost 3 million more votes than Donald Trump but he won the presidency with 304 Electoral College votes to her 227.

THE SWING STATES ARE

- Arizona (electoral votes: 11) • Georgia (16)
- Michigan (15) • Nevada (6) • North Carolina (16)
- Pennsylvania (19) • Wisconsin (10)

SWING STATES ARE KINGMAKERS

A swing state is where both major political parties have equal support. The electoral votes here can decide presidential outcomes, prompting candidates to focus their campaigns on swaying undecided voters