In order to run for president, a candidate must be:

- A natural-born citizen
- A U.S. resident of 14 years
- At least 35 years old

**Step One: Primaries and Caucuses**

*In a Primary:* Party members vote for the best candidate that will represent them in the general election.

*In a Caucus:* Party members select the best candidate through a series of discussions and votes.

**Step Two: National Conventions**

Each party holds a NATIONAL CONVENTION to select a final presidential nominee.

At each convention the presidential nominee chooses a running mate (vice presidential candidate).

**Step Three: General Election**

The presidential candidates then campaign throughout the country to win the support of the general election.

People in every state across the country vote for one president and vice president.

When people cast their vote they are actually voting for a group of people known as ELECTORS.

**Step Four: Electoral College**

In the Electoral College System each state gets a certain number of electors based on its representation in congress.

Each elector casts one vote following the general election, and the candidate who gets more than half (270) wins.