



## THE BATTLE FOR 270 ELECTORAL VOTES

Here's how the contest was stacking up at press time, according to the latest polling data. But the race is fluid and polls can change right up to Election Day.

HILLARY CLINTON 273	TOSS-UP 74	DONALD TRUMP 191
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meet in their state capital and cast their votes. The results of the national election become official when the states' electoral ballots are counted before a joint session of Congress on January 6. The winners are sworn in on Inauguration Day (always January 20).

### What if no candidate gets a 270-vote majority?

In that case, the House elects the president, with each state getting one vote, and the Senate elects the vice president, with each senator getting one vote.

### Can one candidate win the popular vote and another win the electoral vote?

Yes, and the electoral vote determines who will be president. It happened most recently in 2000, when Democrat Al Gore won the popular vote but Republican George W. Bush narrowly won the electoral vote—and the White House (see story, p. 10). It's happened three other times: in 1824, 1876, and 1888.

### It sounds like a complicated system.

It is, and some critics argue that electing a president by popular vote would be fairer and simpler. Others applaud the Electoral College system because it forces candidates to address the concerns of voters around the nation; they must think of the election not as a single contest but as 51 separate elections—and figure out how to win enough of those contests to rack up 270 electoral votes.

### How is this playing out in 2016?

Clinton and Trump aren't spending much time, or TV ad dollars, in states where they're way behind or way ahead. Instead, they're targeting "battleground" states that look close. As of press time, five states (shown in purple above) were considered by many analysts as still up for grabs.

So if you live in California or Texas, you're probably not seeing as many campaign ads as people in Florida or Ohio. In those and other battleground states, it may seem as though Trump and Clinton have taken over your TV. ●