

Election Time A2+





On 8 November, Americans will vote to replace Barack Obama. For the first time in history, a woman could become the president of the U.S.A.

President Obama has been President for two terms, so he can't be elected again. His party (the Democrats) has chosen Hillary Clinton as its candidate. The opposing Republican Party's candidate is Donald Trump.

The candidates were chosen in the primaries: elections for each party in each state. When Americans register to vote, they can choose to register as Republicans or Democrats. That gives them the right to vote in one party's primary.

Help

left-wing (adj) socialist. Opposite: right-wing (conservative)
register (n) to put your name on an official list

Democrats

This year, the Democratic primary had two main candidates: Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders. Mrs Clinton was the favourite. Mr Sanders was a surprise success. He is an independent senator – he isn't part of the Democratic Party. And he is socialist, much more left-wing than the majority of the party. But he is very popular with voters, particularly young people. Mrs Clinton is a senator. She was a minister in Barack Obama's government. She won more votes than Mr Sanders in the primaries, but not by a large majority. Hillary Clinton's running mate (the candidate for Vice-President) is Tim Kaine, a senator from the state of Virginia.

term (n) here, the time a person is elected for. A U.S. president is elected for four years.
run for (v) be a candidate for



And Republicans

The Republicans had lots of candidates: 12. Donald Trump was not the favourite. He isn't a politician, he's a businessman and a reality TV star. He has never been a political candidate before. Donald Trump's running mate is Mike Pence, governor of the state of Indiana.

A Unique Election

One thing is certain about the result of November's election: it will be historic. If Donald Trump wins, it will be the first time in American history that someone is elected President who doesn't have experience in elected office, government or military command. And if Hillary Clinton wins, she will be the first woman President of the U.S.A.!

Let's meet the candidates!



The Election Calendar **A2+**

■ January-June: Primaries

The Democratic and Republican voters in each state vote to choose their favourite candidate.

■ July: Conventions

The parties have their conventions: big meetings where members nominate the candidate who won the primaries and choose the "platform" the candidate will support (the things s/he promises to do if s/he is elected).

■ November 8, Election Day

Americans aged 18 and over can vote. Citizens vote on election day, but the popular vote doesn't directly elect the president. Each state has a number of Electors for the Electoral College. The candidate who wins the popular vote in a state gets all the state's Electoral College votes.

■ December: The Electoral College

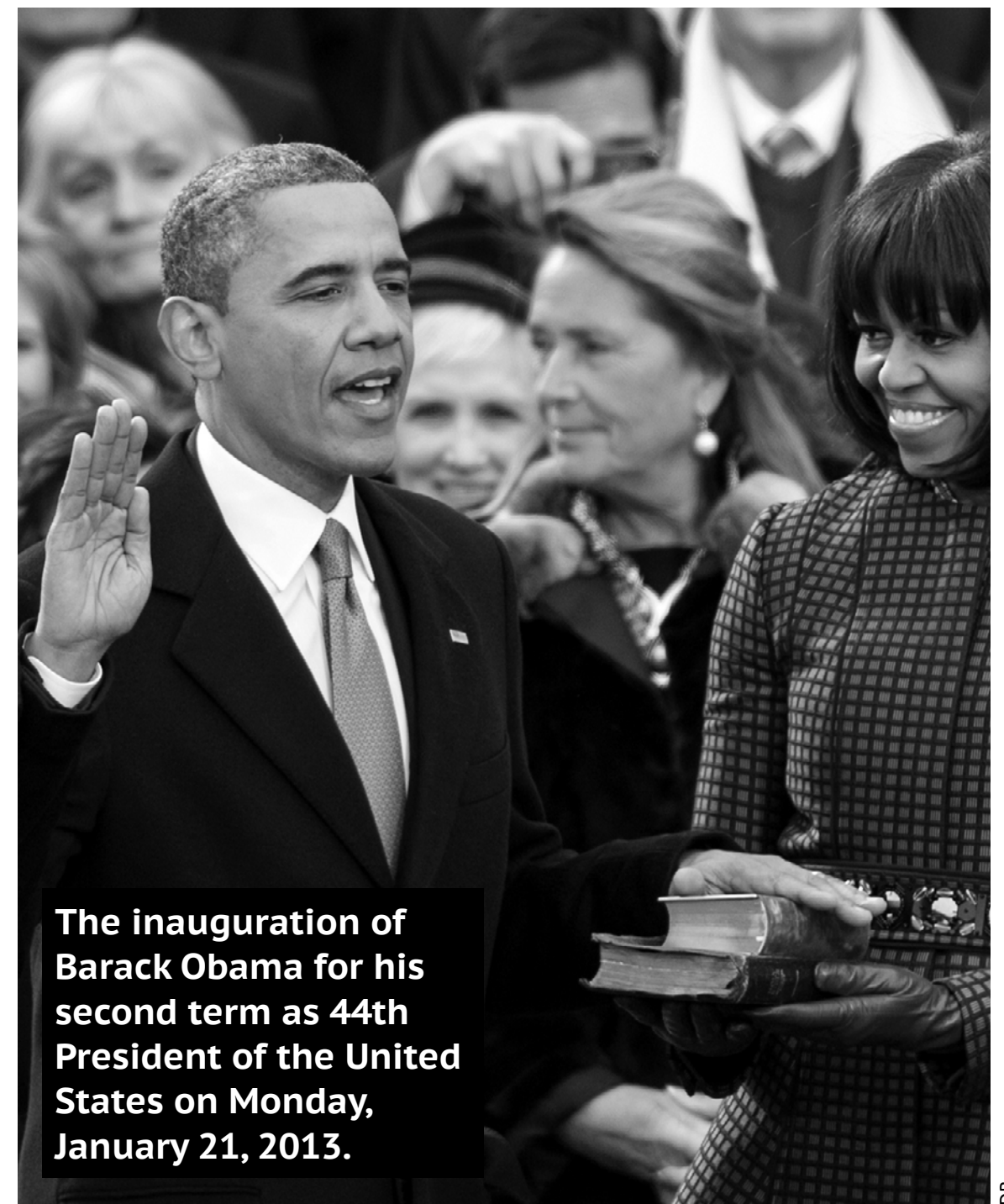
The Electoral College confirms the election of the president.

■ January: Inauguration

January 20, 2017, the 45th president is inaugurated.

Help

electoral college (n, U.S.) a group of people whose role is to represent their states' votes for the President.



The inauguration of Barack Obama for his second term as 44th President of the United States on Monday, January 21, 2013.