

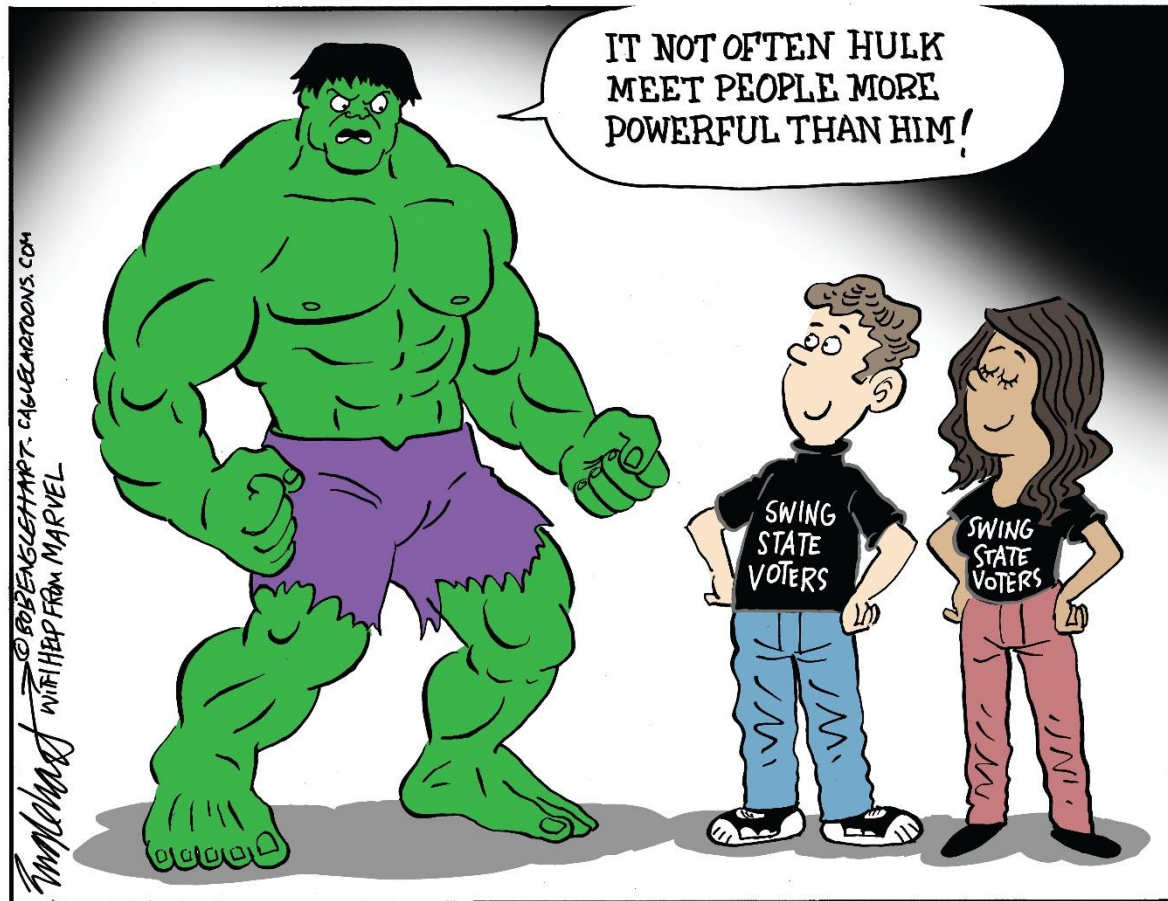
# The Presidential Election 2024

How to become president of the United States  
(englischsprachige Unterrichtsstunde)

## Arbeitsmaterialien

Erscheinungsdatum: 18.10.2024

## I. Cartoon



"It not often Hulk meet people more powerful than him!"

©Bob Englehart, Cagle Cartoons via CartoonStock.com

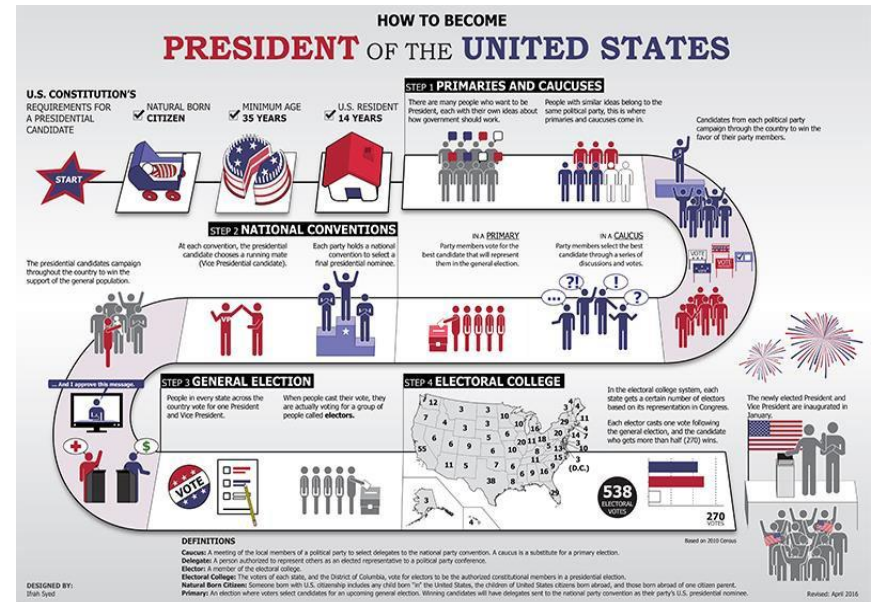
## II. How to become president of the United States Video

### Video “How to Become President of the United States”

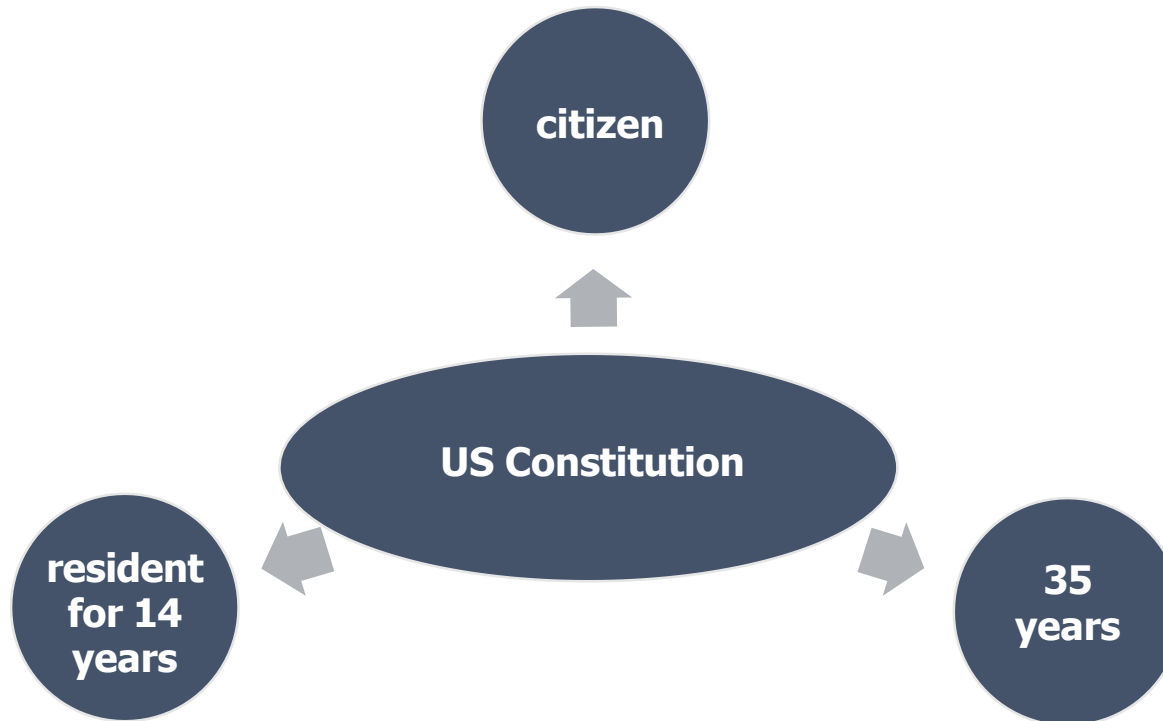
(Source: [www.usa.gov/election](http://www.usa.gov/election))

The [video](#) explains how to become president of the United States.

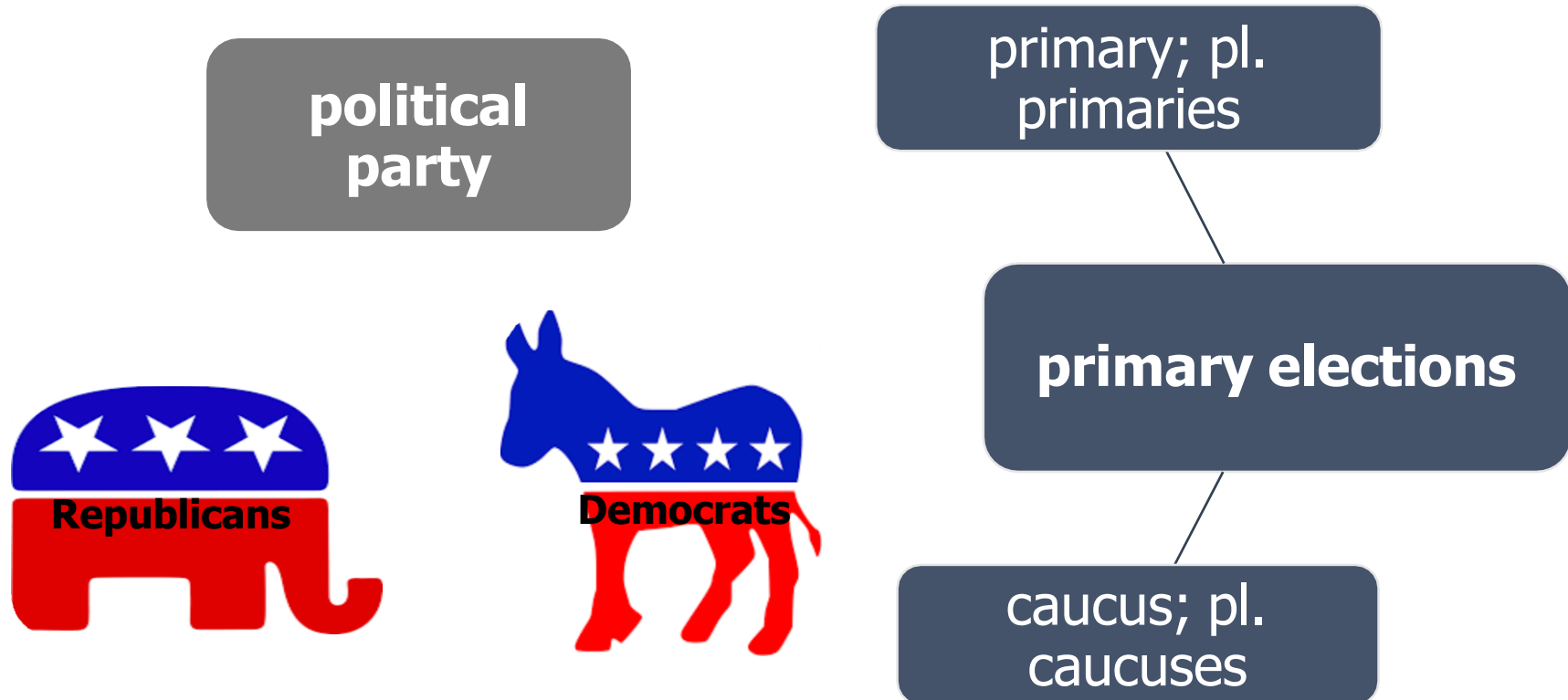
- Read the worksheet “How to become president of the United States”.
- Fill in the missing words or numbers while watching the video.



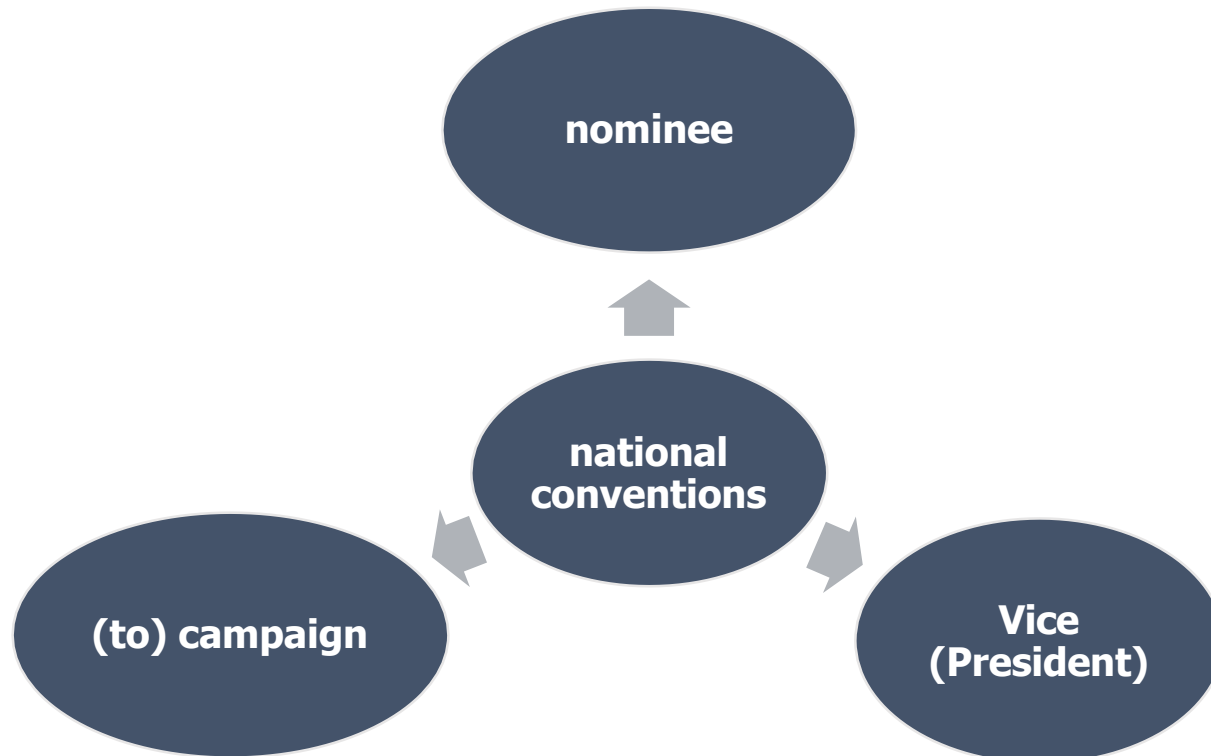
## II. How to become president of the United States – Missing words and numbers (constitutional requirements)



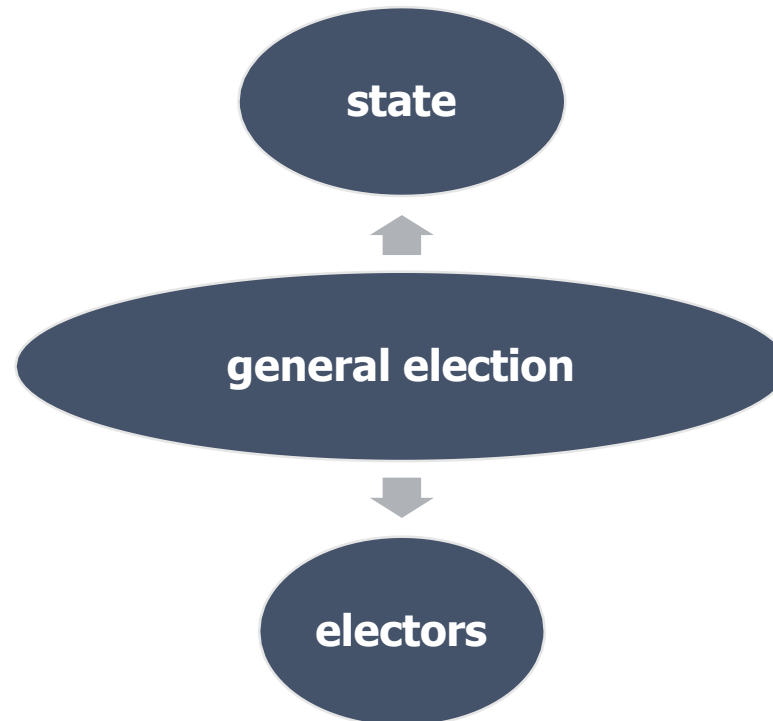
## II. How to become president of the United States – Missing words and numbers (Step 1: primaries and caucuses)



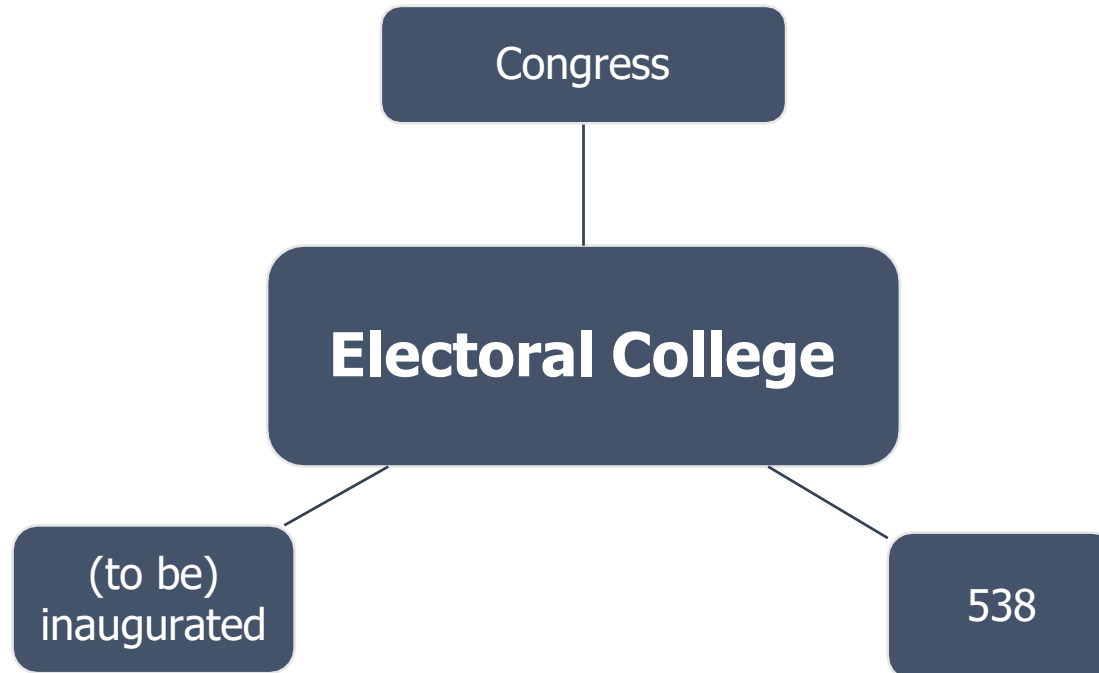
## II. How to become president of the United States – Missing words and numbers (Step 2: national conventions)



## II. How to become president of the United States – Missing words and numbers (Step 3: general election)



## II. How to become president of the United States – Missing words and numbers (Step 4: electoral college)

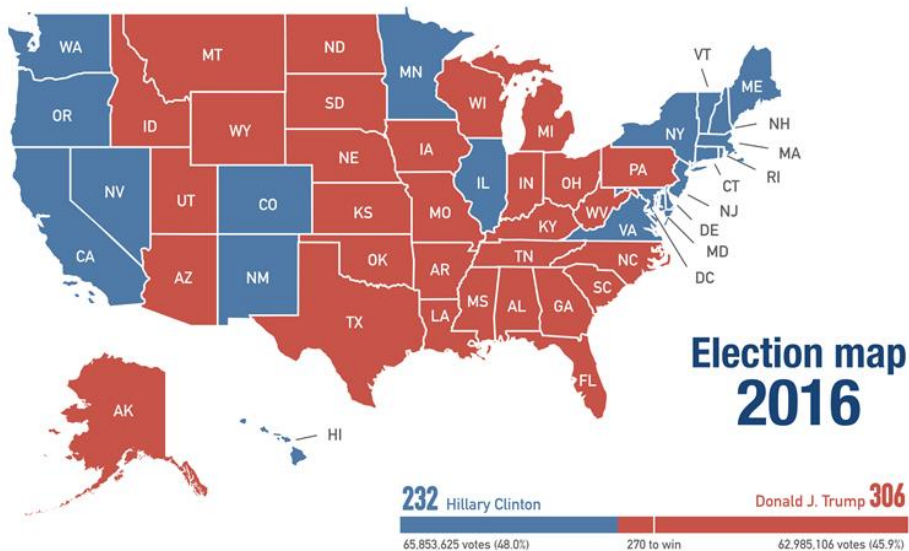




### III. Electoral college vs. popular vote

Analyze the two diagrams showing the results of the 2016 US presidential election. Describe and explain the difference.

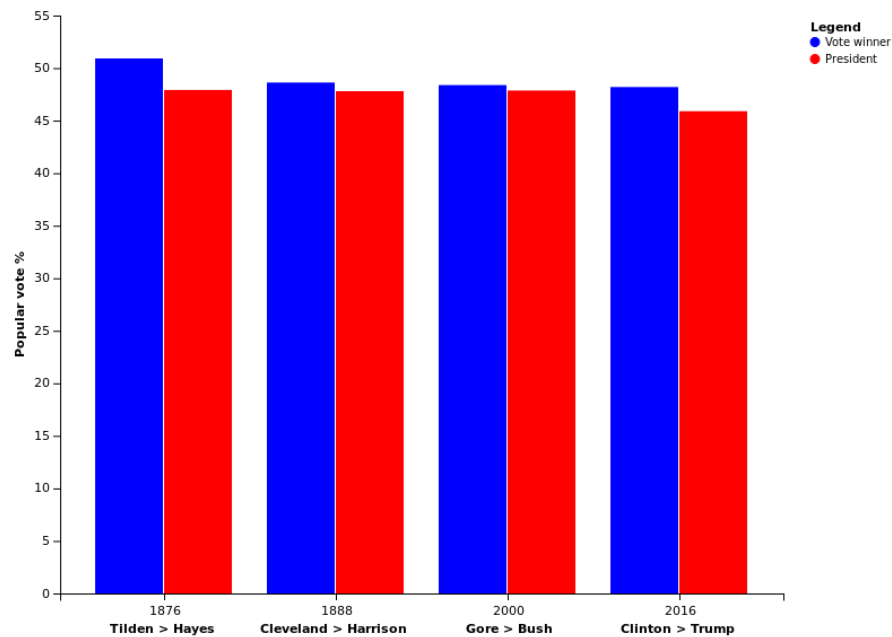
Presidential Election results: Donald J. Trump Wins  
 Donald J. Trump won the Electoral College with 306 votes compared to 232 for Hillary Clinton.



Presidential Election results: Hillary Clinton wins the popular vote – but not the presidency

	Wählerstimmen absolut	Wählerstimmen in %
Donald Trump	62.984.828	46,09 %
Hillary Clinton	65.853.514	48,18 %

### III. Electoral college vs. popular vote



Due to the "winner-takes-all" principle it is possible for a candidate to win the election in the Electoral College, even though another candidate received more popular votes. In 2016, Hillary Clinton had almost 2.9 million more votes than Donald Trump. However, Donald Trump became president. This has already happened four times in US history.

#### How can this happen?

In most states, the candidate who receives the most votes wins all of the state's electoral votes. For example, Trump won Florida by only about one percentage point. Nevertheless, he received all 29 of Florida's electoral votes.

Source:  
[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/3d/Electoral\\_college\\_win\\_popular\\_vote\\_lost\\_US\\_Presidents.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/3d/Electoral_college_win_popular_vote_lost_US_Presidents.png)

## IV. Swing States

State	2012 (Obama vs. Romney)	2016 (Clinton vs. Trump)	2020 (Biden vs. Trump)
Arizona	Obama: 44.5% Romney: 54.2% <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Clinton: 45.1% Trump: 48.7% <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Biden: 49.4% <span style="color: blue;">■</span> Trump: 49.1%
Georgia	Obama: 45.5% Romney: 53.3% <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Clinton: 45.6% Trump: 50.8% <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Biden: 49.5% <span style="color: blue;">■</span> Trump: 49.3%
Pennsylvania	Obama: 52.0% <span style="color: blue;">■</span> Romney: 46.8%	Clinton: 47.5% Trump: 48.2% <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Biden: 50.0% <span style="color: blue;">■</span> Trump: 48.8%
Michigan	Obama: 54.2% <span style="color: blue;">■</span> Romney: 44.7%	Clinton: 47.3% Trump: 47.6% <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Biden: 50.6% <span style="color: blue;">■</span> Trump: 47.8%
Wisconsin	Obama: 52.8% <span style="color: blue;">■</span> Romney: 45.9%	Clinton: 46.5% Trump: 47.2% <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Biden: 49.4% <span style="color: blue;">■</span> Trump: 48.8%
Florida	Obama: 50.0% <span style="color: blue;">■</span> Romney: 49.1%	Clinton: 47.8% Trump: 49.0% <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Biden: 48.0% Trump: 51.2% <span style="color: red;">■</span>
California	Obama: 60.2% <span style="color: blue;">■</span> Romney: 37.1%	Clinton: 61.7% <span style="color: blue;">■</span> Trump: 31.6%	Biden: 63.5% <span style="color: blue;">■</span> Trump: 34.3%
Alabama	Obama: 38.4% Romney: 60.6% <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Clinton: 34.4% Trump: 62.1% <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Biden: 36.6% Trump: 62.0% <span style="color: red;">■</span>

### Task:

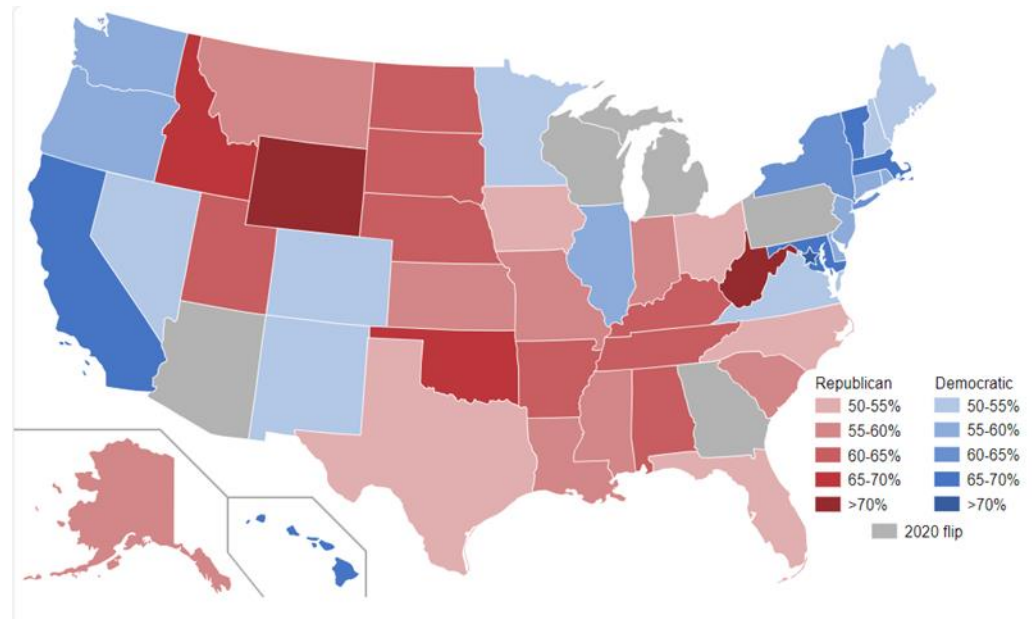
- Analyze the table listing the results of the last three presidential elections in selected states.
- Explain the differences between the states.
- Consider how these differences influence the election campaign.

## IV. Swing States

Some states, like Alabama, traditionally vote Republican. Other states, like California, usually vote Democratic.

The so-called swing states “swing” back and forth between the parties. The outcome of the election in these states is therefore uncertain and often very close. That is why they are fiercely contested. Candidates focus their election campaigns on these states, also known as *battleground states*. Winning these states is crucial to getting 270 electoral votes and thus becoming president.

The map shows the combined results of the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections. The darker the colors, the larger the margin by which one of the two parties won in that state. Only in the states marked in gray did a different party win in 2020 than in 2016



## IV. Discuss

### Task:

- Discuss with your partner whether the electoral system of the United States is fair.
- How would you design it if you had the possibility to? Use your knowledge of the German electoral system and its principles. Present your ideas to the class.

### The German electoral principles (Art. 38 I 1 of the Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany)

*“Members of the German Bundestag shall be elected in **general, direct, free, equal and secret** elections.”*

