When you vote for the President you are actually voting for an ELECTOR to vote for you.

Each state has a determined number of electors.

A state’s number of electors is the total number of Senators and Representatives in the House.

MISSOURI

2 senators
9 representatives
Total 11 electors

There are a total of 538 electoral votes

(There are 48 states that only have a “winner takes all” method)

48 out of the 50 states have a “winner takes all” method.

If you get the most votes in that state you get ALL of their electoral college votes.
2 states are different and can divide up their votes based on congressional district - Nebraska and Maine

A candidate must have 270 electoral votes to win the Presidential election

If no single candidate gets the required 270 electoral votes then the House of Representatives votes to decide the President

It is possible to get more votes overall in the election from the entire country and NOT be elected President

Happened in 2000 with Gore vs Bush

**Total Votes in 2000 Election:**

- **Bush:** 50,461,092 total votes (47.9%) 271 Electoral Votes
- **Gore:** 50,994,086 total votes (48.4%) 266 Electoral Votes
- **Nader:** 2,882,728 total votes (2.7%) 0 Electoral College Votes

**2000 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**

[Map showing the results of the 2000 presidential election]
The final result
Each state is colored according to the number of votes it has in the electoral college.

The vote Tuesday, county by county (scanned from USA Today, Nov. 9)

1984 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

1984

Reagan (REP) - 525
Mondale (D) - 13