

Presidential Election Timeline

Governors' Ascertainment of Results

(ASAP, no later than December 14, 2020): The executive of each state is required to certify his/her ascertainment of the state's election results to the Archivist of the United States "as soon as practicable," but no later than the date the Electoral College meets. Date set by federal law. See 3 U.S.C. § 6.

Meeting of Electoral College:

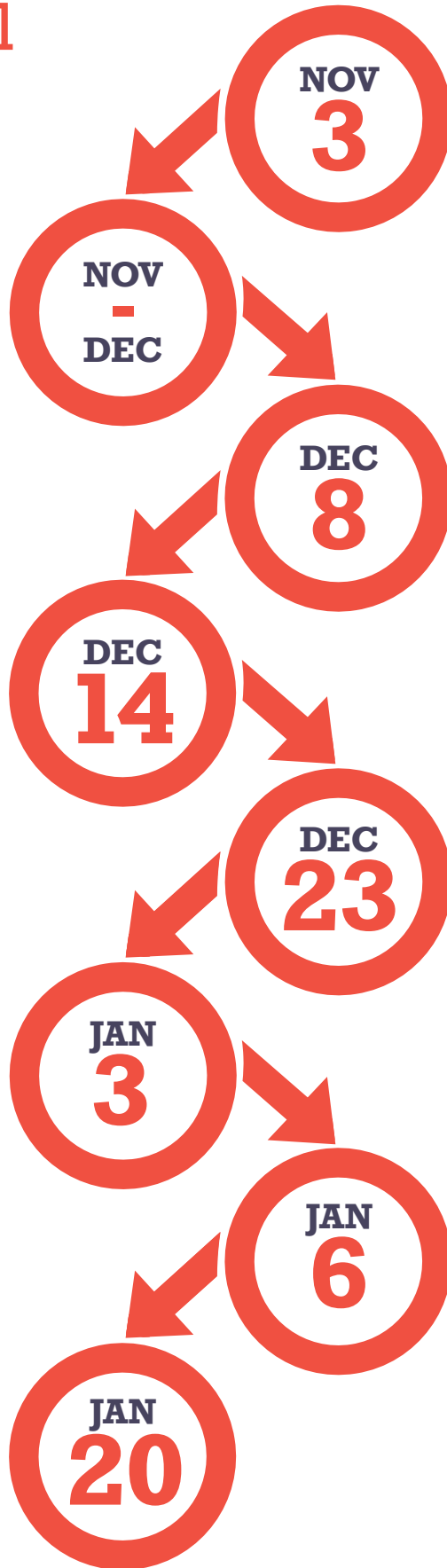
Electors meet in their respective states on the same day to cast their votes. Date set by federal law (but required by the Constitution to be the same for all states). See 3 U.S.C. § 7; U.S. Const. art. II, § 1, cl. 4.

New Congress Sworn In:

This is the day on which all newly elected Members of Congress are sworn in to office. Date set by Constitution. See U.S. Const. amend. XX, § 1.

End of Current Presidential Term:

The current presidential term ends at noon on January 20th. Date set by Constitution. See U.S. Const. amend. XX, § 1.



General Election:

This is the method all states have chosen for appointing electors. Date set by federal law. See 3 U.S.C. § 1.

State "Safe Harbor" Deadline:

This is the deadline for states to resolve disputes concerning the appointment of electors (pursuant to laws enacted before Election Day) in order to have those appointments treated as "conclusive" by Congress. Date set by federal law. See 3 U.S.C. § 5.

Receipt of Certificates of Electoral Votes:

This is the last day for certificates of electoral votes to be received by the Senate and Archivist. Date set by federal law. See 3 U.S.C. §§ 12-13.

Joint Session of Congress:

Congress opens electoral certificates from the states, considers any objections and resolves them under federal law, and counts electoral votes. Date set by federal law. See 3 U.S.C. § 15.