

Presidential Election 2016

The 2016 Presidential election was historic for a number of reasons and the consequences of the eventual result have changed politics in America, maybe even in the world, for many years to come.

This year, 2020, there will be another Presidential campaign and to understand what will happen it is important to look back to 2016 to get a sense of how the rules of politics changed.

The Rules of the Game

Unlike the United Kingdom where our head of State is unelected (the Queen) and where we do not vote directly for a Prime Minister and, instead, vote in constituencies for parties/candidates who then form governments with the Prime Minister being the leader of the party with the most seats in Parliament the United States votes for their head of State (President) separate from the elections for government (Senate/Congress).

These Presidential elections take place every four years in November as demanded by the United States Constitution. The system for election is known as the electoral college (more on that later) and the ultimate winner becomes President.

To be President a candidate must;

Be born in the United States

Be at least 35 years old

Have lived in the USA for at least 14 years

This, for example, would mean that someone like Arnold Schwarzenegger could never be President despite being over 35 years old and having lived in the USA for over 14 years...he was born in Austria and so is ineligible to be President.

You can find out a little more about how a person becomes a candidate for President by watching this short video;



The Electoral College

The voting system used in the Presidential election is called the Electoral College.

It is quite different to the systems that we use here in the United Kingdom.

Watch this short video and take notes;



Find out how many electoral college voters each State is worth and annotate this map accordingly.

