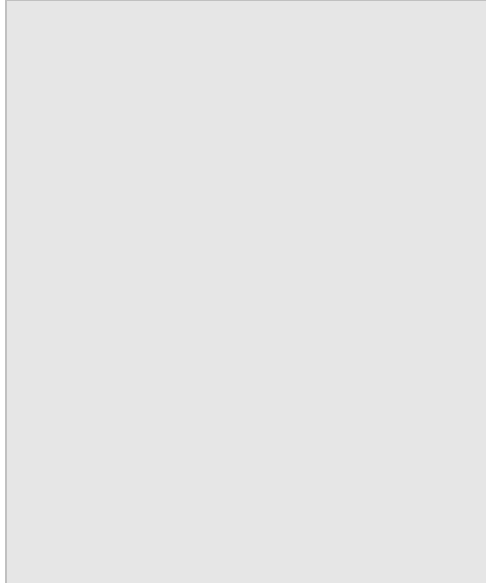




('08 U.S. General Election- November 4, 2008)

A look at the processes that define the U.S. electoral system



- To see more detailed process, [Click Here](#)

What is the Electoral College?

According to the Constitution, presidents are elected by the Electoral College, composed of electors from each state who represent the will of their state's voters. Each state's group of electors is equal in number to its Congressional representation. Typically all of a state's electors cast their votes for the candidate who won a plurality of votes in their state. A candidate must receive at least 270 of the 538 electoral votes to win.

Ohio's delegation to the Electoral College certify their votes during the voting ceremony in the Columbus statehouse in December 2004. © AP Images/Will Shilling

x [More information: The Electoral College](#)

What are primaries and caucuses?

A primary is a state-level election where voters affiliated with political parties choose candidates to represent their parties in the g

Most U.S. states have held their preliminaries as they prepare for the upcoming midterm elections in November. (© AP Images)



Why are there two parties?

The Constitution makes no provision for political parties. They developed on their own as the country grew, and by the 1830s were an established part of the political environment. Today, the Republicans and Democrats are the two main political parties. They have dominated American politics since the 1860s, and every president since 1852 has been one or the other.

x More information: [Political Parties in the United States](#)

What's new in voting technology?

Following problems with the 2000 elections, Congress passed the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), providing funds for states to modernize voting systems and calling for minimum standards in elections administration. This is important since all U.S. elections, even presidential elections, are administered locally. Many states have already implemented these new standards, and more changes are expected for 2008.

As required by the Help America Vote Act, new technology helps voters with disabilities to cast their ballots. © AP Images/Home News Tribune /Keith Muccilli

x More information: [New Tools Encourage Americans To Exercise Right to Vote](#)

[Go to INDEX](#)

A look at the men and woman competing for the Republican and Democratic nominations

Hillary Clinton	Barack Obama	John Edwards	Mike Huckabee
Democrat - Biography	Democrat - Biography	Democrat - Biography	Republican - Biography
Mitt Romney	Rudy Giuliani	Mike Gravel	Chris Dodd
Republican - Biography	Republican - Biography	Democrat - Biography	Democrat - Biography
Joe Biden	Duncan Hunter	Dennis Kucinich	John McCain
Democrat - Biography	Republican - Biography	Democrat - Biography	Republican - Biography
Ron Paul	Bill Richardson	Fred Thompson	
Republican - Biography	Democrat - Biography	Republican - Biography	

All of U.S. 2008 Election Candidate Biographies are on IRC Seoul website Now! [Click Here!](#)



Withdrawn

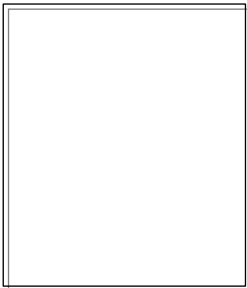
Sam Brownback

Tom Tancredo

Republican
- Biography

Republican
- Biography

Democratic Front-Runners
(based on CNN's latest polls conducted on October 2007)



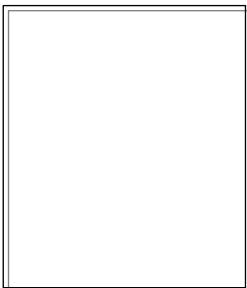
Hillary Clinton

Hillary Clinton is a senator representing New York. She also was U.S. first lady from 1993 to 2001 while her husband Bill Clinton served as president. Hillary Clinton, in 1993, headed a task force that developed proposed legislation to provide universal health care to all Americans. That legislation ultimately was not passed, but she continues to make universal health care one of her top political goals. Experts consider Clinton the first female presidential candidate with a realistic chance of winning the nomination and the election.

Clinton was born October 26, 1947, and grew up in Park Ridge, Illinois. She attended Wellesley College in Massachusetts and Yale Law School. The Clintons have a daughter.

x [Hillary Clinton's Official Web Site](#)

[Return to Candidate List](#)



Barack Obama

Barack Obama is a first-term senator from Illinois. Previously, he served in the Illinois state Legislature and worked as a civil rights attorney. Obama has proposed legislation that would create a new employment eligibility system for companies to verify if their employees are legal residents. Obama, whose father is from Kenya, is considered by experts to be the first African-American candidate with a reasonable chance of winning the presidency.

Obama was born August 4, 1961, in Hawaii and has lived in many places, including Indonesia. Obama attended Columbia University in New York and earned a law degree at Harvard University in Massachusetts. He and his wife, Michelle, have two daughters.

x [Barack Obama's Official Web Site](#)

[Return to Candidate List](#)

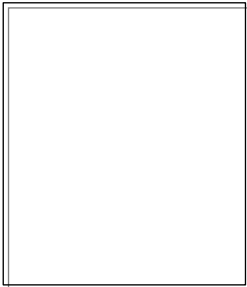
John Edwards

John Edwards is a former senator from North Carolina and was the Democratic candidate for vice president in 2004. The first in his family to attend college, Edwards was a practicing attorney until he was elected to the Senate. Edwards has said he would build a "new energy economy based on clean renewable energy and energy efficiency" if elected. Edwards was born June 10, 1953, in Seneca, South Carolina. He attended North Carolina State University and received a law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Edwards and his wife, Elizabeth, have had four children, one of whom died in a car accident in 1996.

x [John Edwards's Official Web Site](#)

[Return to Candidate List](#)

Republican Front-Runners
(based on CNN's latest polls conducted on October 2007)



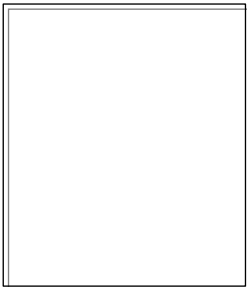
Rudy Giuliani

Rudy Giuliani is the former mayor of New York City, where he served during the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. He previously was U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York and prosecuted several high-profile cases. As part of his campaign, Giuliani has made "12 commitments to the American people," including "I will keep America on offense in the terrorists' war on us" and "I will impose accountability on Washington."

Giuliani was born May 28, 1944. He attended Manhattan College and New York University Law School. His wife is Judith, and he has two children from a previous marriage.

x [Rudy Giuliani's Official Web Site](#)

[Return to Candidate List](#)



Mike Huckabee

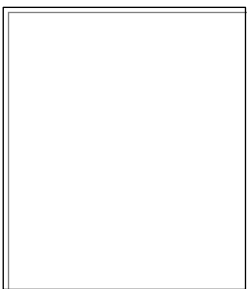
Mike Huckabee is the former governor of Arkansas and a former Baptist preacher. Huckabee, who has diabetes, received national attention for losing 110 pounds and encouraging others to improve their diet and exercise. Huckabee says withdrawing American troops from Iraq "would have serious strategic consequences for us and horrific humanitarian consequences for the Iraqis."

Huckabee was born August 24, 1955, in Hope, Arkansas. He attended Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Texas.

Huckabee and his wife have three children.

x [Mike Huckabee's Official Web Site](#)

[Return to Candidate List](#)



Mitt Romney

Mitt Romney is the former governor of Massachusetts. He also oversaw the committee that organized the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. Romney supports President Bush's surge strategy for Iraq and has called on Americans to demonstrate a "surge of support" for its troops. If elected, Romney would be the first Mormon president.

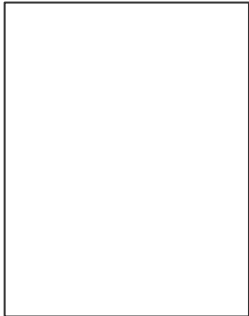
Romney was born March 12, 1947, in Detroit, when his father was governor of Michigan. Romney attended Brigham Young University in Utah and Harvard University's business and law schools in Massachusetts. He and his wife, Ann, have five sons.

x [Mitt Romney's Official Web Site](#)

[Return to Candidate List](#)



[Go to INDEX](#)



e-Journal: The Long Campaign: U.S. Elections 2008

This edition of eJournal USA presents an introduction to the upcoming 2008 U.S. elections. In these elections, U.S. voters will have the opportunity to vote for president and vice president, congressional representatives, state and local officials, and ballot initiatives.

The journal describes aspects of this election which make it different from most recent elections and includes a pro-con debate of the Electoral College.

- x About This Issue
- x U.S. Elections 2008 Quiz
- x Download Adobe Acrobat (PDF) version

[Go to INDEX](#)

TYPES OF ELECTIONS

- What types of elections are held in the United States?
- What are midterm elections?
- What is a convention?
- What is a caucus?

REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTING, RUNNING FOR OFFICE

- Who can vote?
- What are the requirements for running for elected office in the United States?

SCHEDULING ELECTIONS

- When are general elections held?
- When are primary elections held?

ELECTORAL COLLEGE

- What is the Electoral College?
- How does the Electoral College elect the president?
- For which races is the Electoral College used?

OTHER QUESTIONS

- Why is voter turnout sometimes low in the United States?
- What are the symbols of the U.S. political parties?
- Do organizations tell people how to vote?
- What does it mean when a union or newspaper "endorses" a candidate?

[Go to INDEX](#)

-
- x **USINFO – '08 U.S. Elections**
: Guide to the 2008 Elections (U.S. Department of State)

 - x **INFORMATION USA**
: Resources on elections in the United States (U.S. Department of State)

 - x **U.S. National Archives and Records Administration: U.S. Electoral College**
: This agency provides important facts and teaching resources about the Electoral College.

 - x **Democratic National Committee**
: The Primary Web site for the Democratic Party.

 - x **Republican National Committee**
: The Primary Web site for the Republican Party.

[Go to INDEX](#)

How To Contact Information Resource Center (IRC)

- Address: 10 Namyoung-dong, Yongsan-gu, 140-160 Seoul, Korea
- Tel: (02)-397-4789 / Fax: (02)-795-3606
- Homepage: <http://korea.usembassy.gov/501.html/>
- E-mail: ircseoul@state.gov