

U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #154, OCTOBER 2016

This publication is intended for your information about issues important to education, women and children. How you choose to use the information included here is up to you.

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HOW THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE WORKS

Elections in the USA are not determined by the popular vote or only indirectly. Each state is assigned a certain number of electors based on the number of U.S. Senators plus the number of U.S. Representatives that the state has. The 23rd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gives the District of Columbia three electors. Except for Maine and Nebraska, all electors from each state cast their vote for the candidate who got the majority of the popular votes cast in that state. Maine has three electors and allows one of the three to vote for a different candidate. Nebraska is allowed to split its electoral votes. There are currently 538 electors. After the popular vote is cast, the electors from each state cast their votes. In order to win a candidate must get a majority of the electoral votes or 270 electoral votes ($538/2 + 1$).

If a third party candidate receives enough popular votes to earn electoral votes and the election is very close, so that the results of the votes of the electors do not give either of the two major party candidates 270 votes in the electoral college, then the members of the U.S. House of Representatives vote with each state delegation having only one vote. Regardless of how many Representatives a state has the entire delegation can only cast one vote. The candidate who gets the majority of votes in the House is elected President. If no candidate gets a majority of votes in the House, the Senate votes with each senator having one vote and the candidate with a majority of the votes in the Senate becomes President.

HOW THIRD PARTIES CAN EFFECT AN ELECTION

The election of 2000 is an example of the effect a third party candidate can have on the final outcome of an election. That election was decided in the state of Florida where

Ralph Nader the third party candidate received 97,484 votes and there was a virtual tie in the popular vote between Gore and Bush. In that election Al Gore received a majority of the national popular vote; however, George Bush was elected President based on the Florida vote. In Florida only 537 votes separated Bush and Gore. Because it was conjectured that Nader's votes were largely from voters who would have voted for Gore if Nader had not been in the race, his presence on the ballot was felt to have affected the final outcome of the election. The election was finally decided via a Supreme Court ruling about how the ballots were validated due to ballots which had "hanging chads." Some of the punch out type ballots did not completely sever the link between the ballot and the punched out piece (chad) indicating a vote. After the election some areas of Florida changed from the punch-type ballots to electronic touchscreen voting for future elections.

NEW STROKE INDICATOR

In the past there have been three recognized indicators to determine if a person is having a stroke. Recently a fourth indicator has been found. It is the tongue. When the person having a stroke sticks out his/her tongue, the tongue will go to the side rather than straight out.

Recognizing the early sign of a stroke is very important. Neurologists say that when the stroke is diagnosed within three hours, the effects of the stroke can be totallyreversed. The three traditional signs of a stroke utilize the letters STR. S is for smile, T is for talk (repeat a simple sentence) and R is raise both arms. If the individual is unable to perform any of these tasks, he/she is likely having a stroke and needs to get to a doctor and the emergency room as soon as possible. **Remember the first three hours are critical in minimizing the long term effects of a stroke.**

FORUM FACEBOOK PAGE LINK

For those of you desiring discussion of legislative topics there is a U. S. Forum Facebook page online at <http://www.facebook.com/DKG.US.Forum>

FORUM WEB SITE: <http://www.usforumdkg.org/>

CONTACT ADDRESSES FOR GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTACT INFORMATION can be obtained through Congressional Switchboard [1-866-327-8670](tel:1-866-327-8670) [this is a toll free number]. You can contact your Congressman and Senator through this number without paying long distance charges.

Email access and addresses

<http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House of

Representatives <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the U.S. Senate

White House [1-202-456-1111](tel:1-202-456-1111)

FIVE CONSTITUENT CONTACTS WILL CAUSE A LEGISLATOR TO PAY SERIOUS ATTENTION TO A GIVEN ISSUE.