



Secretary of State
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North Carolina Secretary of State

IT

KB Website Manual

Electoral College

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Version 1.0

About the Electoral College Manual

This manual gives an overview of the **Electoral College** web pages and features of the Secretary of State's new KB website. The first part is an overview of the Electoral College process, followed by the overview of the NC SOS Electoral College web pages and features.

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Electoral College

Overview

What is the Electoral College?

According to the [National Archives' website](#), "The Electoral College is a process, not a place. The Founding Fathers established it in the Constitution, in part, as a compromise between the election of the President by a vote in Congress and election of the President by a popular vote of qualified citizens."

The [National Archives](#) explains the purpose of the Electoral College as: "The Founding Fathers established the Electoral College in the Constitution, in part, as a compromise between the election of the President by a vote in Congress and election of the President by a popular vote of qualified citizens."

How the Process Works in North Carolina

The NC State Board of Elections conducts elections in North Carolina by following North Carolina law to determine which parties and candidates have qualified to be on the ballot, including for President and Vice President.

The U.S. Constitution and North Carolina law set out the requirements for the number of electors and for how the political parties choose their elector candidates.

When you vote for a candidate for President and Vice President, you're actually voting for the nominees for electors for those candidates. State law says that no elector's names will appear on the ballot. In other words, when you vote for a President or Vice President, you're actually voting for an elector in your state that represents the vote for that candidate or party.

The process is as follows:

- Parties file the names of their nominees for electors for their candidates for President and Vice President with the NC Secretary of State. If unaffiliated candidates qualify to have their names on the printed ballots as an unaffiliated candidate, then they also have to file the names of their nominees for electors with the Secretary of State.
- After the general election, the North Carolina State Board of Elections certifies the election results and delivers them to the Secretary of State.
- The Secretary of State notifies the Governor as to who has been elected to the office of elector for President and Vice President of the United States.
- After the Secretary of State certifies the election results to the Governor, the Governor issues a proclamation. The proclamation names the electors. The law instructs the electors to be present "in the old Hall of the House of Representatives in the State

Capitol in Raleigh at noon on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December following their election.”

- The Electoral College meets and the electors vote separately for President and Vice President of the United States.
- After the electors vote, they sign certificates of the vote. The certificates are distributed according to federal law.

You can watch videos of the meetings of the North Carolina Electoral College and view the Governor’s 2016 proclamation and other historical Electoral College documents on the [Secretary of State and Electoral College](#) page.

NOTE: This is a summary offered for informational purposes. We do not offer legal advice to citizens.

Electoral College Web Pages

Go to the SOS website <https://test.sosnc.gov/>.

Select **General Interest > Electoral College**.

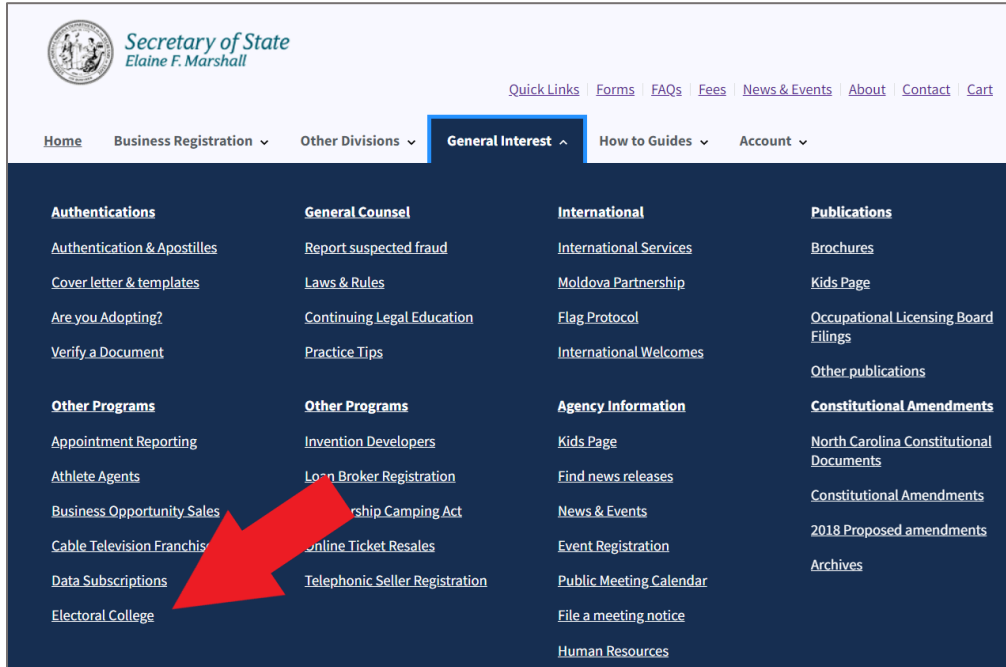


Figure 1. General Interest > Electoral College

This takes you to the **Electoral College** page.



Figure 2. Electoral College page

Electoral College

The [Electoral College](#) page has links to FAQs, State and U.S. laws, list of electors, archives, and more.

Near the top of the page, you find a large stock photo with a statement embedded in the image.

This statement says, *“The United States Constitution controls the election of the President and Vice President of the United States. Among other things, it provides that those offices be elected by electors. The number of electors in any individual state is equal to the number of United States Senators and Representatives to which that state is entitled in Congress. So, North Carolina has 15 electors. Article 18 of Chapter 163 of the North Carolina General Statutes provides the method for identifying the presidential electors in North Carolina.”*

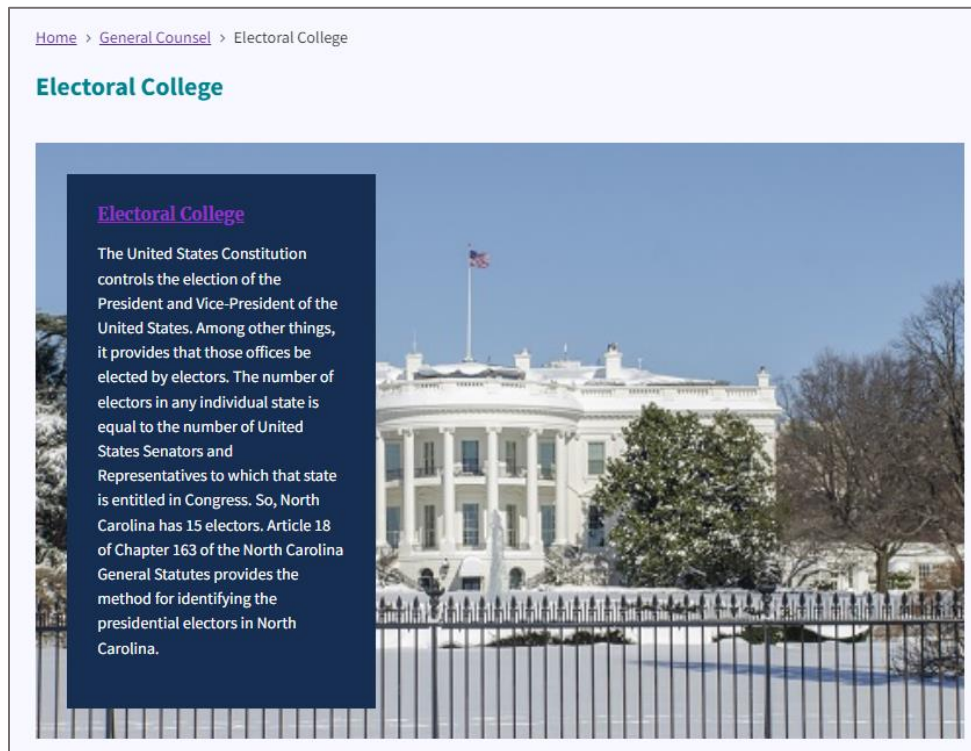


Figure 3. Electoral College page

Browse Electoral College

Beneath the stock photo, you find the following eight box links:

- [Secretary of State and the Electoral College](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [2020 Electors](#)
- [State and U.S. Laws](#)
- [North Carolina Electoral College Archives](#)

- [National Archives](#)
- [North Carolina State Board of Elections](#)
- [Federal Election Commission](#)



Figure 4. Browse Electoral College box links

Below, we describe the eight box links of the **Browse Electoral College** section.

Secretary of State and the Electoral College

The Secretary of State and the Electoral College page has the three box links:

- **What the Secretary of State Does**
- **What the Secretary of State Does Not Do**
- **How the Process Works in North Carolina**

What the Secretary of State Does

The North Carolina Secretary of State has the following duties related to the Electoral College and the election for United States President and Vice President:

- ★ **NC SOS provides notice about the legal requirements for electors.**

An **Electors** is an elected public office in North Carolina. The U.S. Constitution, North Carolina Constitution, and North Carolina laws include some limits on holding two public offices at once

(called dual office-holding). A violation could mean losing one of the offices. Those limits may apply to electors. Therefore, State law requires us to provide notice about the legal requirements that may limit a person from holding two offices at once.

We provide the notice to: The political parties, and Unaffiliated candidates that qualify to have their names on the ballot for President of the United States.

- ★ **The political parties and unaffiliated candidates file names of elector candidates with NC SOS.**
- ★ **NC SOS notifies elector candidates about legal requirements in regards to holding two simultaneous offices.**
- ★ **State Board of Elections certifies election results and delivers certifications to NC SOS.**
- ★ **NC SOS notifies the Governor of the names elected to the office of elector for President and Vice President of the United States.**
- ★ **NC SOS plans and schedules the North Carolina Electoral College meeting.**
- ★ **Electors meet and give NCS OS two copies of their Certificate of Vote for public records.**

What the Secretary of State Does Not Do

This page explains what the Secretary of State does not do in regards to the Electoral College and election.

The Secretary of State does not do the following:

- **Decide when elections take place.** The North Carolina Constitution and North Carolina General Statutes and the U.S. Constitution and U.S. Code say when elections take place.
- **Conduct elections in North Carolina.** The North Carolina State Board of Elections is an independent agency that conducts elections.
- **Decide how the elector nominees are selected by the political parties or the qualified unaffiliated candidates.** State law has some general requirements related to that.
- **Tell the electors who to vote for or control how the electors vote.**

For more details, visit [Secretary of State and the Electoral College \(sosnc.gov\)](https://sosnc.gov).

How the Process Works in North Carolina

NC State Board of Elections conducts elections in North Carolina by following NC law to determine which parties and candidates have qualified to be on the ballot, including for President and Vice President.

U.S. Constitution and NC law set out the requirements for the number of electors and for how the political parties choose their elector candidates.

When you vote for a candidate for President and Vice President, you're actually voting for the nominees for electors for those candidates. State law says that no electors' names do not

appear on the ballot. In other words, when you vote for a President/VP, you're actually voting for an elector in your state that represents the vote for that candidate or party.

The process is as follows:

- Political parties file the names of their nominees for electors for their candidates for President and Vice President with the NC Secretary of State. If unaffiliated candidates qualify to have their names on the printed ballots as an unaffiliated candidate, then they also have to file the names of their nominees for electors with the Secretary of State.
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You can watch videos of the meetings of the North Carolina Electoral College and view the Governor's 2016 proclamation and other historical Electoral College documents on the [Secretary of State and Electoral College](#) page.

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Frequently Asked Questions

On this page, there are 4 questions and answers about the Electoral College in North Carolina.

Is the Secretary of State a member of the Electoral College?

No. The Secretary of State only serves as the host of the Electoral College. In other words, her responsibilities include administrative tasks such as reserving the room in the State Capitol where the Electoral College meets.

Can the Secretary of State tell electors how to vote or influence how they vote?

No. The Secretary of State serves as the host of the Electoral College but not as a member of the Electoral College. North Carolina law includes a provision about how the electors are to vote. See Article 18 of Chapter 163 of the North Carolina General Statutes for more information: [@LinksExternal.Electoral College FAQ 1](#)

How is the Electoral College selected?

The materials at the National Archives website are a good resource for the answer to this question: [@LinksExternal.Electoral College FAQ 2](#). You may also want to review Article 18 of Chapter 163 of the North Carolina General Statutes: [@LinksExternal.Electoral College FAQ 1](#)

Can members of the public attend the meeting of the Electoral College?

Yes. The meeting of the Electoral College is public. However, you should be aware that North Carolina law requires that the Electoral College meet in “in the old Hall of the House of Representatives in the State Capitol in the City of Raleigh.” That is a small room. We are unable to accommodate members of the public in that room. In recognition of the public’s interest in the Electoral College, we have made arrangements for members of the public to view the meeting in other ways that include:

- The meeting of the Electoral College will be live-streamed on the Secretary of State’s website.
- We have been informed that UNC-TV will be carrying the meeting of the Electoral College live.
- In years past, the live-stream has also been carried by networks such as C-Span. If we learn of any other media outlets that will live-stream the meeting of the Electoral College, we will update these FAQs.
- The meeting of the Electoral College will also be live-streamed so that members of the public can view it in the North Carolina Museum of History Auditorium, 5 E. Edenton Street, Raleigh, NC 27601.

In recognition of the public's interest in the Electoral College, we try to make arrangements for members of the public to view the meeting. For example, we may live-stream the meeting on our website.

2020 Electoral College

The [2020 Electoral College](#) page list the most recent Electoral College electors.

State and U.S. Laws

The [State and U.S. Laws](#) page lists the legislation that applies to the Electoral College in North Carolina and the United States.

State and US Laws



[North Carolina Constitution: Article 6, Suffrage and Eligibility To Office](#)



[North Carolina Laws](#)



[National Archives - US Electoral College Laws](#)



[Browse North Carolina General Statutes \(Laws\)](#)



[NASS - State Laws on Presidential Electors](#)

Figure 5. State and US Laws page

The five box links are:

- [North Carolina Constitution: Article 6, Suffrage and Eligibility to Office](#)
- [North Carolina Laws](#)
- [National Archives—U.S. Electoral College Laws](#)
- [Browse North Carolina General Statutes \(Laws\)](#)
- [NASS—State Laws on Presidential Electors](#)

North Carolina Electoral College Archives

The [Secretary of State and Electoral College](#) page contains videos and documents related to the NC Electoral College.

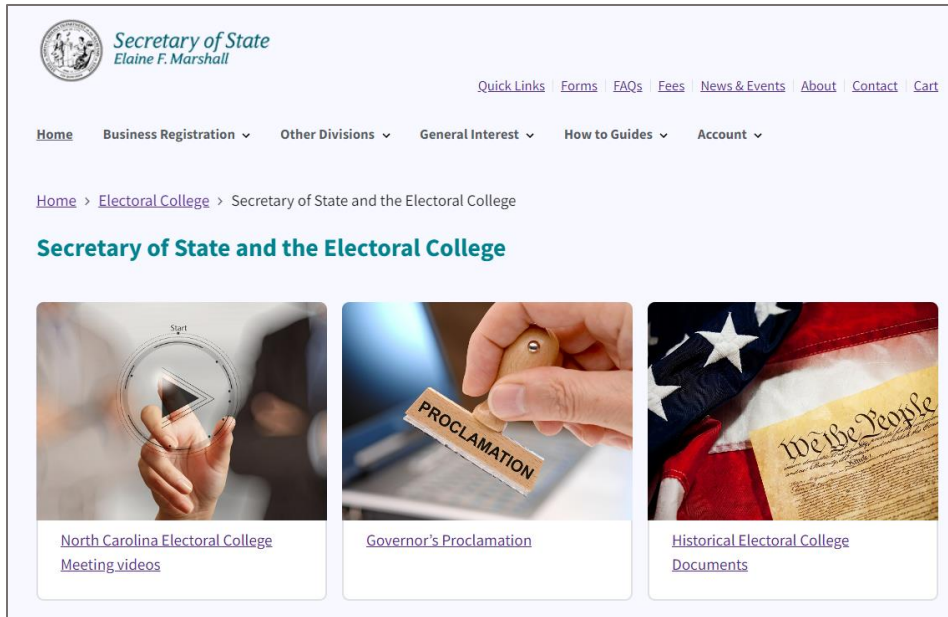


Figure 6. Secretary of State and the Electoral College page

This page contains three box links:

- [North Carolina Electoral College Meeting Videos](#)
- [Governor's Proclamation](#)
- [Historical Electoral College Documents](#)

National Archives

The [National Archives](#) page offers detailed information about the Electoral College.



Figure 7. National Archives "Electoral College" page

On the [National Archives' Electoral College](#) page, you'll find the most often asked questions about the Electoral College along with some helpful links to **FAQs, US Voting and Election Resources, Historical Facts**, and information for **State Officials**. See **Figure 8**.

What is the Electoral College?

- Why do we have the Electoral College?
- What does the law say about the Electoral College?
- How are my electors appointed?
- When are my electors appointed?
- How many electors does my state have?
- When and where do my electors meet?

[Electoral College FAQs](#)

2020 Presidential Election and Electoral College

- Why should I vote?
- How do I register to vote?
- Who are my electors?
- How did my electors vote?

OFR posts the [Certificates of Ascertainment](#) and the [Certificates of Vote](#) after receiving them. OFR posts the [Electoral College results](#) after Congress counts the electoral votes on January 6.

[US Voting and Election Resources](#)

[Historical Facts and Results](#)

[For State Officials](#)

Figure 8. Questions and links on the National Archives page

North Carolina State Board of Elections

The [North Carolina State Board of Elections](#) page provides information about voting and elections in North Carolina. On this page, you find information about registering to vote, sample ballots, candidate lists, and election security. They also provide information about observing elections and what is allowed and not allowed.

The NCSBE is a state agency that administers the elections process as well as campaign finance disclosure and compliance.

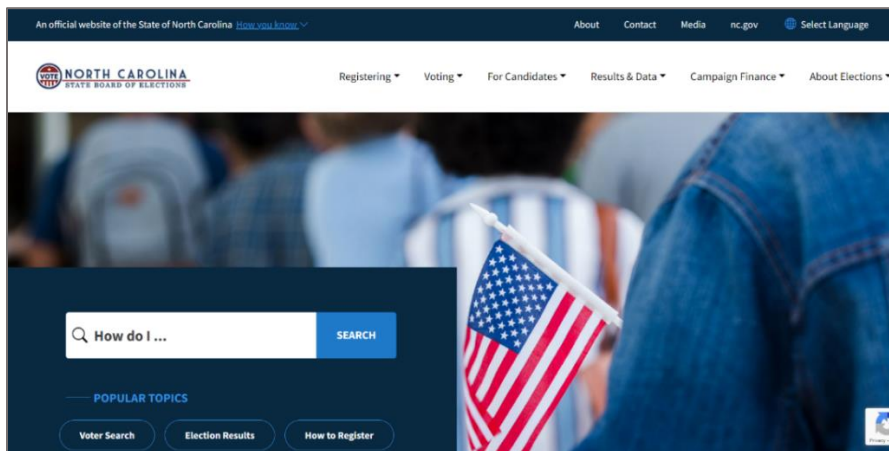


Figure 9. NC State Board of Elections page

Federal Election Commission

The [Federal Election Commission](https://www.fec.gov/) page contains helpful links and information for individuals and groups regarding federal elections.

The Federal Election Commission (FEC) is an independent regulatory agency created by Congress in 1975 to administer and enforce the Federal Elections Campaign Act. The FEC discloses campaign finance information, enforces limits and prohibitions on contributions, and oversees the public funding of presidential elections. You can visit their website at <https://www.fec.gov/>.

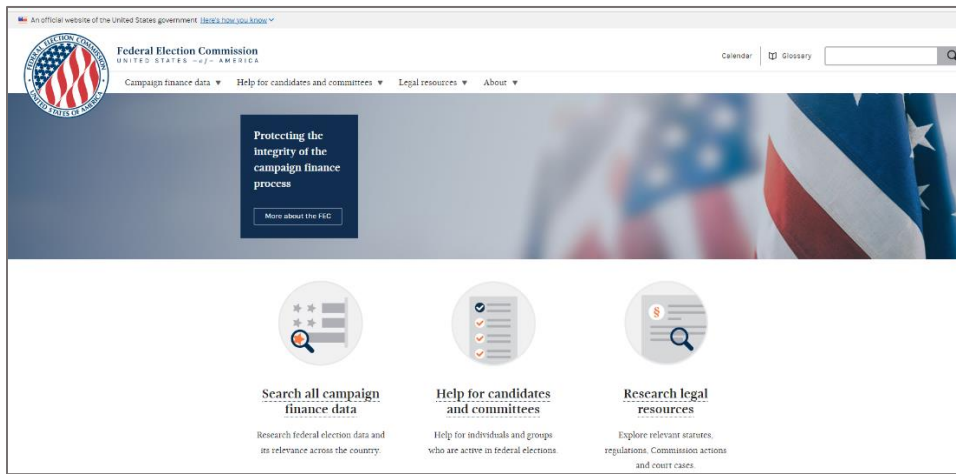


Figure 10. Federal Election Commission page