



# Electoral College

AMY BUNK

DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AFFAIRS AND POLICY, OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL REGISTER



Timeline

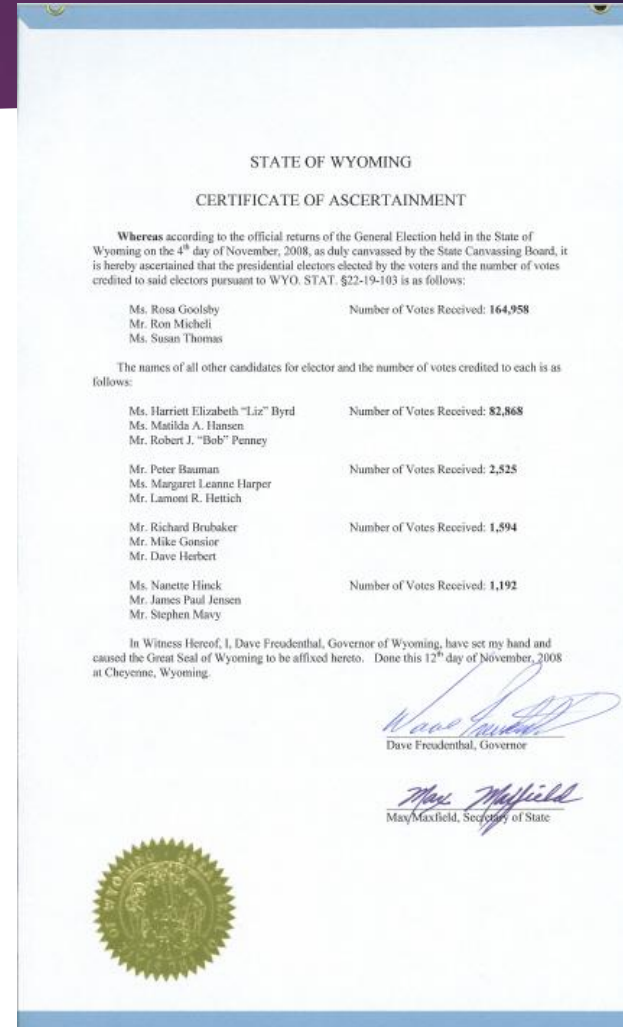
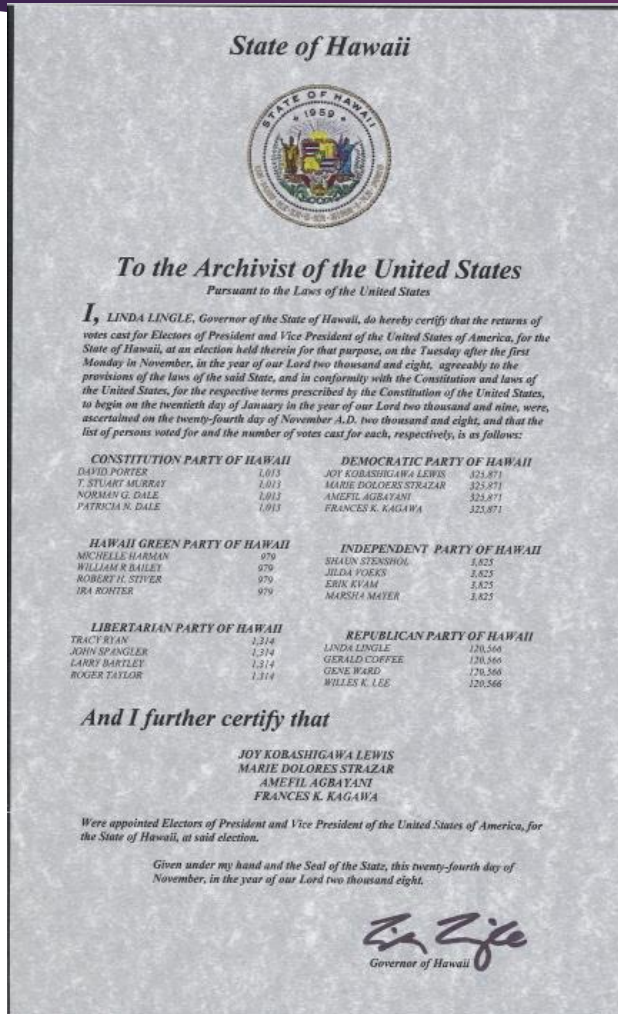


KEY DATES

# Timeline

- ▶ **November 8, 2016:** General Election appoints your state's electors.
- ▶ As soon as possible – prepare the Certificate of Ascertainment. The certificate must:
  - ▶ Separately list the names of each parties' electors and the number of votes they received.
  - ▶ Be signed by the Governor.
  - ▶ Carry the state seal.

# EXAMPLES: Certificates of Ascertainment



# Timeline

- ▶ **December 13<sup>th</sup> 2016:** Is the deadline to settle any controversies regarding electors.
- ▶ **December 19<sup>th</sup> 2016:** Is the date of the meeting of the electors. The Certificates of Vote must:
  - ▶ Separately list the names of the persons receiving votes for President and Vice President.
  - ▶ Separately list the vote totals for each candidate.
  - ▶ Be signed by all the electors.

# EXAMPLES: Certificates of Vote

**CERTIFICATE OF VOTE  
STATE OF DELAWARE**




We, the undersigned, Electors of President and Vice President of the United States of America, for the respective terms beginning on the twentieth day of January, A.D., 2009, being Electors duly and legally appointed and qualified by and for the State of Delaware, as appears by the annexed certificate made and delivered to us by the Executive of said State, having met agreeably to the provisions of law, at Dover, in said State of Delaware, on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December of the year 2008, being the fifteenth day of said month;


**DO HEREBY CERTIFY**, that being so assembled and duly organized, we proceeded to vote by ballot, and balloted first for President and then Vice President by distinct ballots;

**AND WE FURTHER CERTIFY** that the following are two distinct lists, one of the votes for President, and the other of the votes for Vice President, so cast as aforesaid.

	Number of Votes
<b>For President:</b>	
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<u>3</u>
<b>For Vice President:</b>	
<b>Joseph R. Biden, Jr.</b>	<u>3</u>

Witness our hands on the first Monday after the second Wednesday of December, A.D., 2008, being the fifteenth day of said month.

  
 James Johnson  
  
 Edward Kaulman  
  
 Harriet Smith Windsor


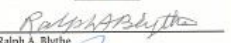


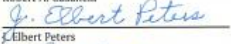




  
State of Alabama  
**Certificate of Vote  
Electoral College  
2008**

We, the undersigned, being duly elected as Electors for President and Vice President of the United States of America, for the State of Alabama, at the General Election held on Tuesday, the fourth day of November in the year 2008, pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the United States of America and this State, certify that the following candidates for President and Vice President received the following number of votes, by ballot, at the meeting of the Electors held on Monday, the fifteenth day of December in the year 2008, at the State Capitol in Montgomery, Alabama.

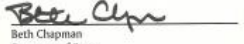
**For the President of the United States of America:**


John McCain      Number of Electoral Votes      9

**For the Vice President of the United States of America:**

Sarah Palin      Number of Electoral Votes <u>9</u>	
 Les Barnett	 Ralph A. Blythe
 Robert A. Cusanelli	 Matthew Fridy
 J. Elbert Peters	 Will Sellers
 W. Jack Stiefel	 Cam Ward
 James Eldon Wilson	

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of Alabama at the State Capitol, in the City of Montgomery, on this, the fifteenth day of December, in the year 2008.

  
Beth Chapman  
Secretary of State



# Timeline

- ▶ **December 28<sup>th</sup> 2016:** We must have your Certificates of Vote and Ascertainment.
- ▶ **January 6<sup>th</sup> 2017:** Congress meets in joint session to count the vote.
- ▶ **January 20<sup>th</sup> 2017:** The President-elect takes the Oath of Office and becomes the President of the United States.

# Checklist Items

WHAT TO LOOK FOR



# Certificates of Ascertainment

## SEVEN originals are required

- ▶ Do they contain the governor's original signature? (They cannot contain stamped or auto-pen signatures.)
- ▶ Are they dated? (They must be dated the date the governor signed them.)
- ▶ Do they contain the state seal?
- ▶ Have the Certificates been proofread for typos? (Candidate and elector names, dates, vote totals, etc.)
- ▶ Send one original and two certified copies (if SEVEN originals were prepared) OR three originals (if NINE were prepared) to the Archivist before the Meeting of the Electors on December 19, 2016.
- ▶ Keep the rest of the original Certificates of Ascertainment so that they can be paired with the Certificates of Vote.

# Certificates of Vote

SIX originals are required

- ▶ Are the names of the electors typed below their signature lines?
- ▶ Are they dated?
- ▶ Have the Certificates been proofread for typos? (Candidate and elector names, dates, vote totals, etc.)
- ▶ Have any voting irregularities been discussed?
- ▶ Has original (or certified copies of) documentation regarding replacement electors been gathered for submission to the Archives and President of the Senate?

# Certificates of Ascertainment and Vote

- ▶ Are SIX original Certificates of Ascertainment and SIX original Certificates of Vote paired together for mailing?
  - ▶ One pair to the President of the Senate.
  - ▶ Two pairs to the Archivist of the United States.
  - ▶ Two pairs to the Secretary of State of your State.
  - ▶ One pair to the Chief Judge of the Federal District Court located where your electors met.
- ▶ Do you have the proper mailing addresses for the above list?
- ▶ Do you have a tracking number for the mailing in case of a problem?

More  
Information

HOW TO REACH US

# Contact us

- ▶ Your Electoral College contacts at the Office of the Federal Register are:
  - ▶ Amy Bunk, Director of Legal Affairs and Policy.
  - ▶ Miriam Vincent, Attorney-Advisor.
  - ▶ Gretchen Walkup, Writer-Editor.
  - ▶ Ed Gibbs, Writer-Editor.
- ▶ Telephone: 202-741-6030.
- ▶ E-mail: [Electoral.College@nara.gov](mailto:Electoral.College@nara.gov).
- ▶ <http://archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/officials.html>

Questions?

THANK YOU!