

The presidential election process follows a typical cycle:

Presidential Election Cycle Table

Time of the year	Event	
Spring of the year before an election	Candidates register with the Federal Election Commission to run for president. While there is no federal deadline to register, there are other requirements. Learn about registering as a presidential candidate.	
Spring of the year before an election	Candidates announce their intentions to run.	
Summer of the year before an election through spring of the election year	Primary and caucus debates take place.	
January to June of election year	States and parties hold primaries and caucuses. Find out more about primaries and caucuses.	
July to early September	Parties hold nominating conventions to choose their candidates. Read more about the conventions.	
September and October	Candidates participate in presidential debates.	
Early November	Election Day is the first Tuesday after the first Monday. Find out about the presidential general election.	
December	Electors cast their votes in the Electoral College. Learn how the Electoral College works.	
Early January of the next calendar year	Congress counts the electoral votes.	
January 20	Inauguration Day	