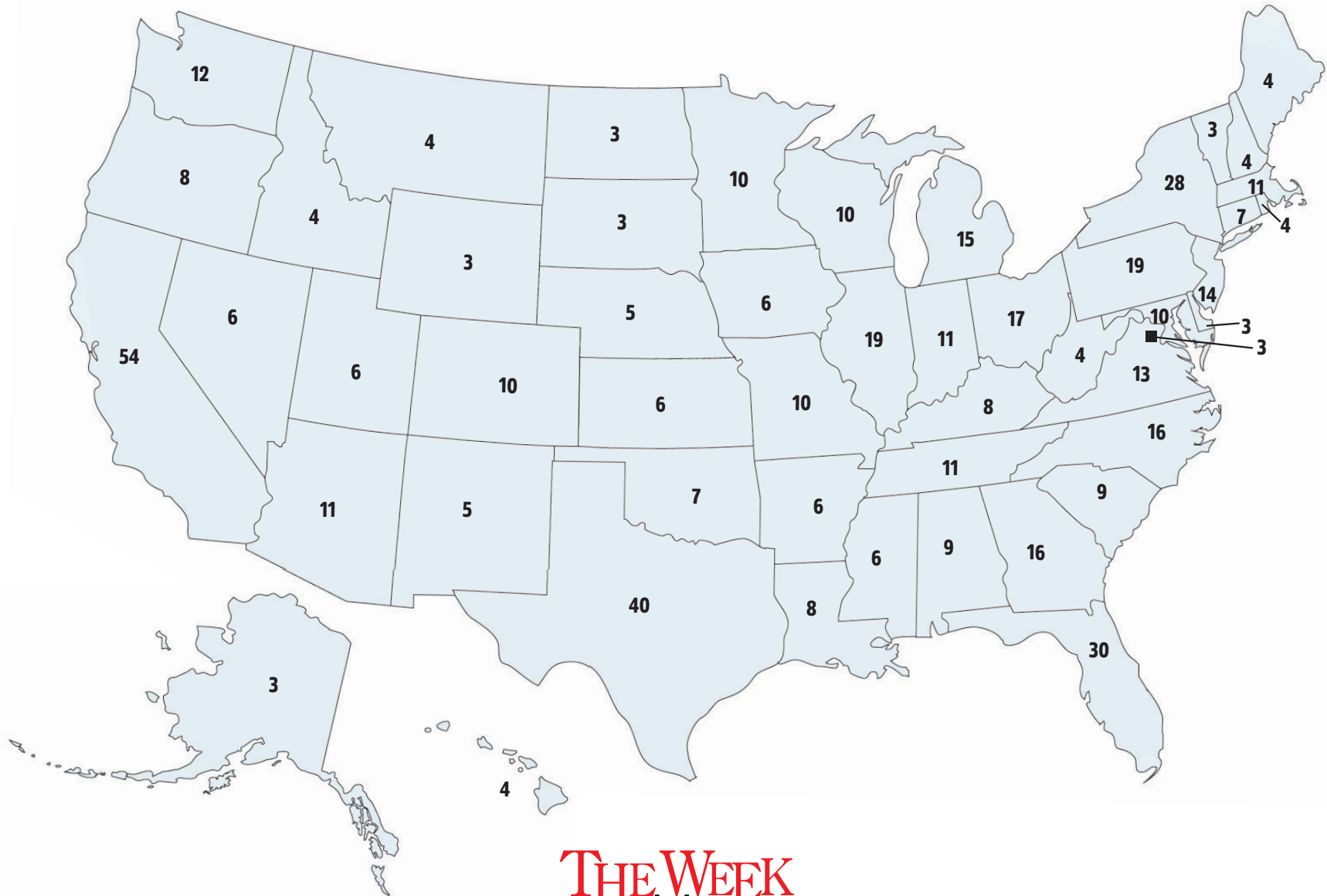


2024 ELECTORAL COLLEGE MAP



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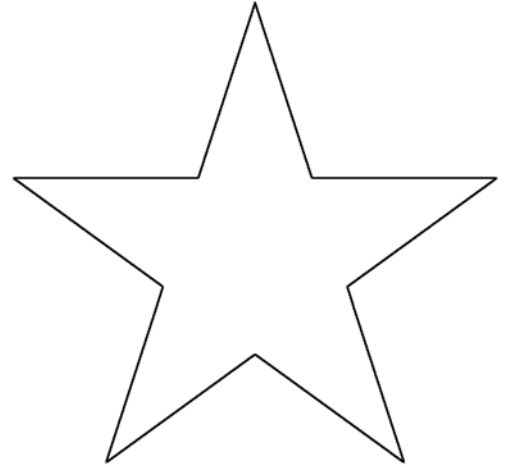
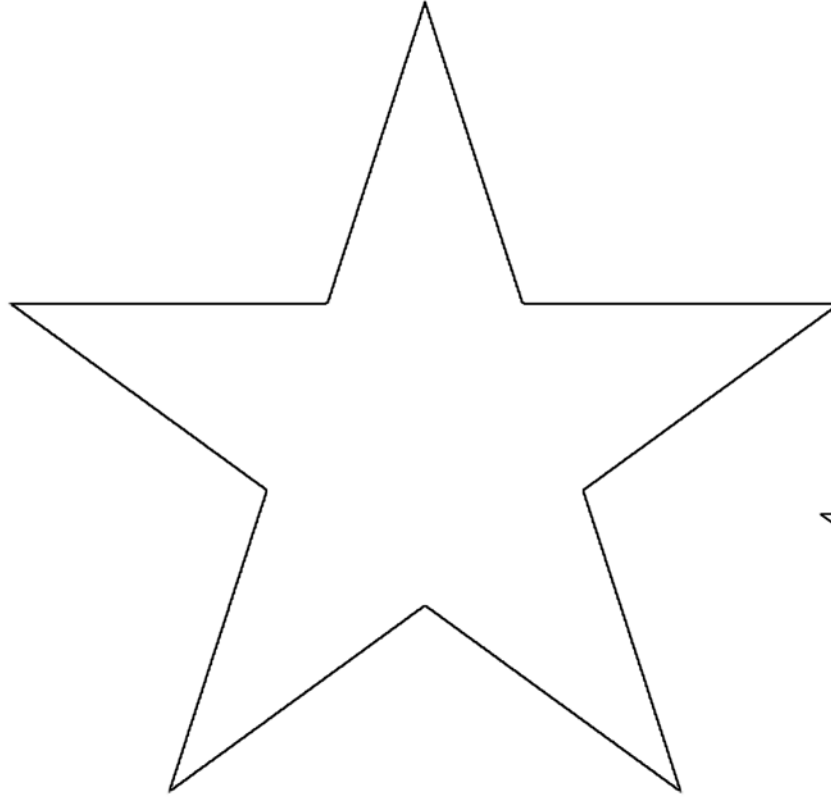
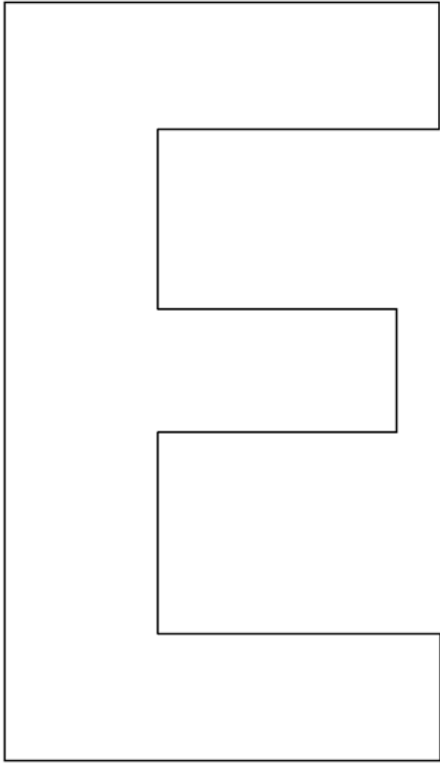
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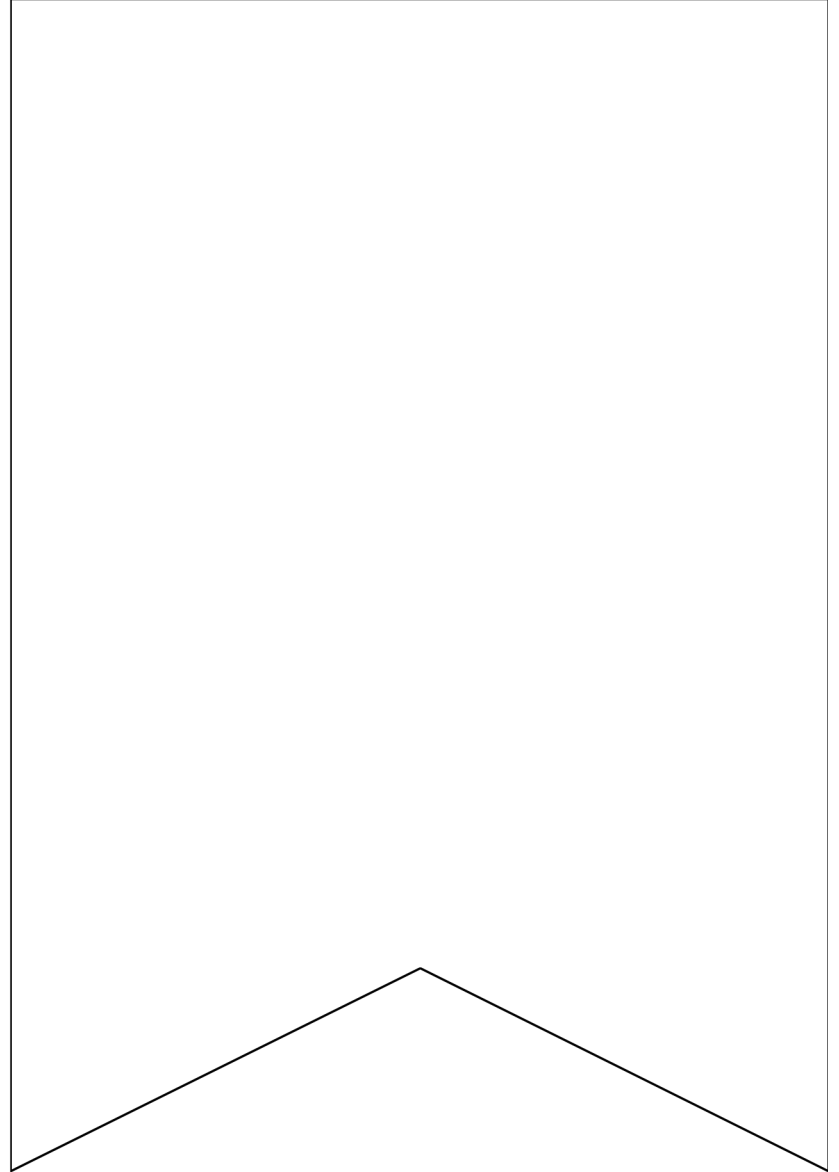
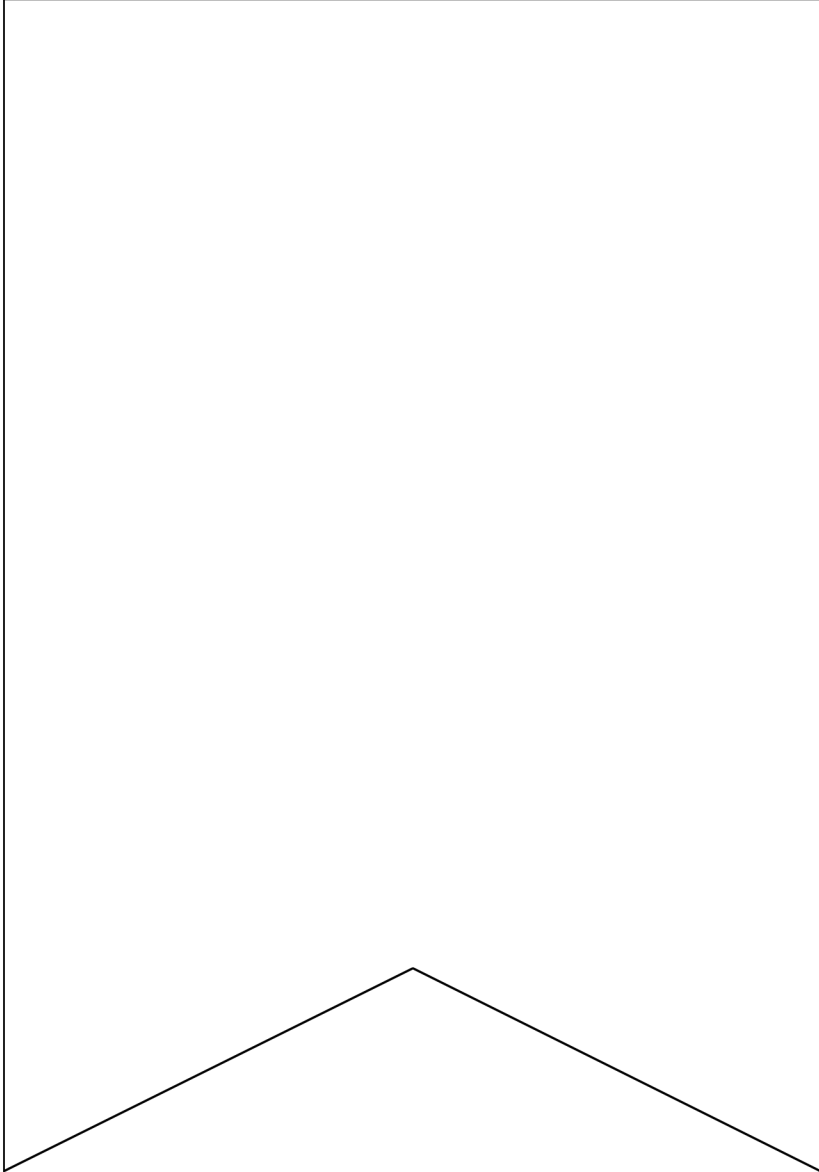
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How to...

Plan a fun election party

Use these ideas to mark a big moment in our democracy with family and friends.

Election Day is almost here. On November 5, the Democratic nominee, Vice President Kamala Harris, and the Republican nominee, former President Donald Trump, will face off to see who becomes President. Americans will also cast votes for senators, representatives, governors, and local politicians. It's an important part of our nation's democratic process, so why not celebrate with an election party? Here's how to plan one.



Get festive

Break out the red, white, and blue decorations. Use craft supplies you already have to make a vote garland (see the box at top right for instructions). You can also make patriotic snacks and snack holders (see the box at bottom right for instructions). Try adding elephants (a symbol of the Republican Party) or donkeys (for the Democrats) to your decor.

Cast ballots

Everyone can vote at your election party! Create ballots so family members can choose their top candidates. You can also include other things to vote on, like what to watch on movie night or what your next family book club pick should be. Make a ballot

box (a decorated shoebox with a slot cut into the top works great). Then tally the votes and announce the winners during the party.

Watch the results

The main event is watching the election results on TV. Some polls across the country close at 6 p.m., but many states close theirs later. Still, you can start watching in the early evening because news stations will air informative segments before the results are final.

Map it out

News programs will be focused on which states each Presidential candidate wins. A candidate needs at least 270 total votes in the Electoral College to win the Presidency, and they receive these votes from different states. To keep track of the results, create your own electoral map placemat (see instructions below).



Be patient

The new President is usually announced on election night. In 2020, though, it took several days to count all the ballots and declare the winner. Several states have since made changes to enable faster vote counting. Some states may still take days to report their results.



Make an electoral map placemat

Instructions

1. Cut a paper bag into a 12-by-18-inch rectangle. Use red and blue paint to make stripes then let them dry.
2. With an adult, you can go to kids.theweekjunior.com/activities and print out the Electoral College Map. Use a glue stick to attach it to the paper bag.
3. On election night, use pencils, markers, or crayons in red (for the Republicans) and blue (for the Democrats) to color in each state based on its winner.





Create a vote garland

What you need

- Letters, stars, and flag templates (download them with an adult from kids.theweekjunior.com/activities)
- Recycled cardboard boxes, such as cereal or other dry-food boxes
- Recycled aluminum foil box (optional, for metallic stars)
- Scissors
- Tape or glue
- Foam adhesive dots (optional)
- String, like baker's twine

Instructions

1. Print out the templates. With scissors, trim off some of the white space around the designs.
2. Tape the letter and star templates to the colorful side of the cardboard pieces. Stick the flag templates onto the cardboard's plain brown side.
3. Use scissors to cut along the outlines of the letters and shapes, slicing through the paper and cardboard at the same time.
4. Tape or glue the letters to the cardboard flags (or use foam adhesive dots to make them raised).
5. Spell the word "VOTE" with the letter flags. Place a star between each one. Turn them all upside down and lay a string across their top edges, adding extra length on either side for hanging. Cut the string, then glue or tape it to the backs of the stars and flags.

Prep your party snacks

Election trail mix

In a large bowl, mix together 6 cups cereal squares (like Rice Chex), 3 cups yogurt-covered pretzels, 1 cup M&M'S (single-colored ones are sold at party stores or online), 1 cup yogurt raisins or cranberries, 1 cup mini marshmallows, and 1 cup pretzel sticks. Spoon mix into decorated snack cups (instructions below).

Polka-dot cups

Make a dot stamp by tracing a dime onto a white eraser. Have an adult help you use a craft knife to cut it out. Spread a thin layer of paint onto a paper plate, dip the stamp into the paint, and stamp the dot onto the cup. For striped cups, use a paintbrush to create lines.

Patriotic popcorn bags

Use a paintbrush to make stripes (or any design you like) on brown paper lunch bags. When the bags are dry, cut them down to your desired height with pink shears (to make a zigzag edge) or regular scissors. Fill with popcorn.

