

New York Times. "Finding Fairer Ways to Elect a President." *The Opinion Pages - Letters*. Accessed December 16, 2012. http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/24/opinion/finding-fairer-ways-to-elect-a-president.html?_r=0.

"Live Results - President." *New York Times - Politics*. Accessed December 16, 2012. <http://elections.nytimes.com/2012/results/mobile/president>.

This is an Electoral College map created by the New York Times that calls the winner of the 2012 Presidential election. According to this map, incumbent Democrat Barack Obama earned 332 electoral votes while Republican candidate Mitt Romney earned 206 electoral votes. To ensure their call was correct, the New York Times also cites the electoral vote count of six other major news networks in the United States: The Associated Press, ABC News Network, CBS, CNN, Fox News, and NBC. All of these networks agreed that the count was 332 to 206. This article shows an interesting facet of our country's presidential races. While our next president is not formally chosen until January, when the electoral votes are counted by Congress, our major news networks are able to (quite accurately) call the election on Election Day by using a series of precinct polls.

Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration. "The 2012 Presidential Election." *U.S Electoral College*. Accessed December 16, 2012. <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/key-dates.html>.

This web page, created by the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, provides a summary of key dates for the Electoral College related to the 2012 presidential election. It describes in detail, the deadlines that each state's electors have to vote, and the processes by which they must vote. This article also states the deadlines by which state electors must send their votes to Congress; this date is December 17th, 2012. On this day, six "certificates of vote" are actually distributed by each state. One set goes to the Vice President for the official count; two sets are sent to the Secretary of State in the electors' home state: 1 for archival purposes, one to be placed "on-call" in case of an emergency with the other sets; two packages get sent the national Archivist, one to actually be archived, the other placed "on-call"; the final certificate of vote is sent to the federal district judge where the electors actually voted, this set is placed "on-call" as well. Another interesting legal nuance this website describes is the role of the Vice President of the United States. As President of the Senate, he oversees the counting of the Electoral College vote and is the person who *officially* calls the presidential election.