

Government Overview

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During Revolutionary War we operated under the Articles of Confederation

- **States had ALL the power**
- **States had own money**
- **Tariffs between states**
- **U.S. seen as weak by European Countries**

- **James Madison got delegates from the colonies to go to Philadelphia to revise the Arts. Of Confederation**
- **The meeting was called the 2nd Continental Congress**
- **They met in same room where Declaration of Independence was signed**
- **Wrote a new constitution to replace the Articles of Confederation**

Constitution of the U.S.

- **Supreme law of the U.S.**
- **No law can supersede the Const.**
- **In U.S. Rule of law is supreme**
- **Says how the government will be organized**
- **3 Branches, all equal**
- **Says the U.S. will have a republican form of government**

Constitution of the U.S.

- **7 Articles**
 - **Art I Congress**
 - **Art II President**
 - **Art III Supreme Court**
 - **Art IV Relations Among States**
 - **Art V Methods of Amendment**
 - **Art VI National Supremacy**
 - **Art VII Ratification**

3 Branches of Government

Congress

**Legislative
Branch**

President

**Executive
Branch**

**Supreme
Court**

**Judicial
Branch**

All Branches are equal

***Each Branch has different
responsibilities***

Responsibilities of each branch

Congress

**Legislative
Branch**

**Makes
Laws**

President

**Executive
Branch**

**Enforces
Laws**

**Supreme
Court**

**Judicial
Branch**

**Interprets
Laws**

Congress

House of Representatives

- States get reps based on their population
- 435 members
- Elected 2 years
- Members elect Speaker of Hse (powerful)

Senate

- Every State gets 2 Senators
- 100 members
- Elected 6 years
- VP is President of Senate (votes in ties)
- Majority Leader very important

How do they divide up the 435 members of the House of Reps?

- **Every 10 years they hold a census**
- **Percentage of total population of the U.S. = Percentage of 435 members**
- **Calif. Has 53 members in House**
- **Alaska has 1 member in the House (Every state is guaranteed at least 1)**

Congress

House of Representatives

- **New House of reps elects Speaker**
- **The Speaker controls House**
- **Is 3rd in line to be President if Pres. & VP die**

Senate

- **The president of the Senate is the Vice President of U.S.**
- **Only votes in case of ties**

Other Officers Congress

House of Representatives

Majority Leader
Majority Whip

Minority Leader
Minority Whip

Senate

Majority Leader
(most powerful)
Majority Whip

Minority Leader
Minority Whip

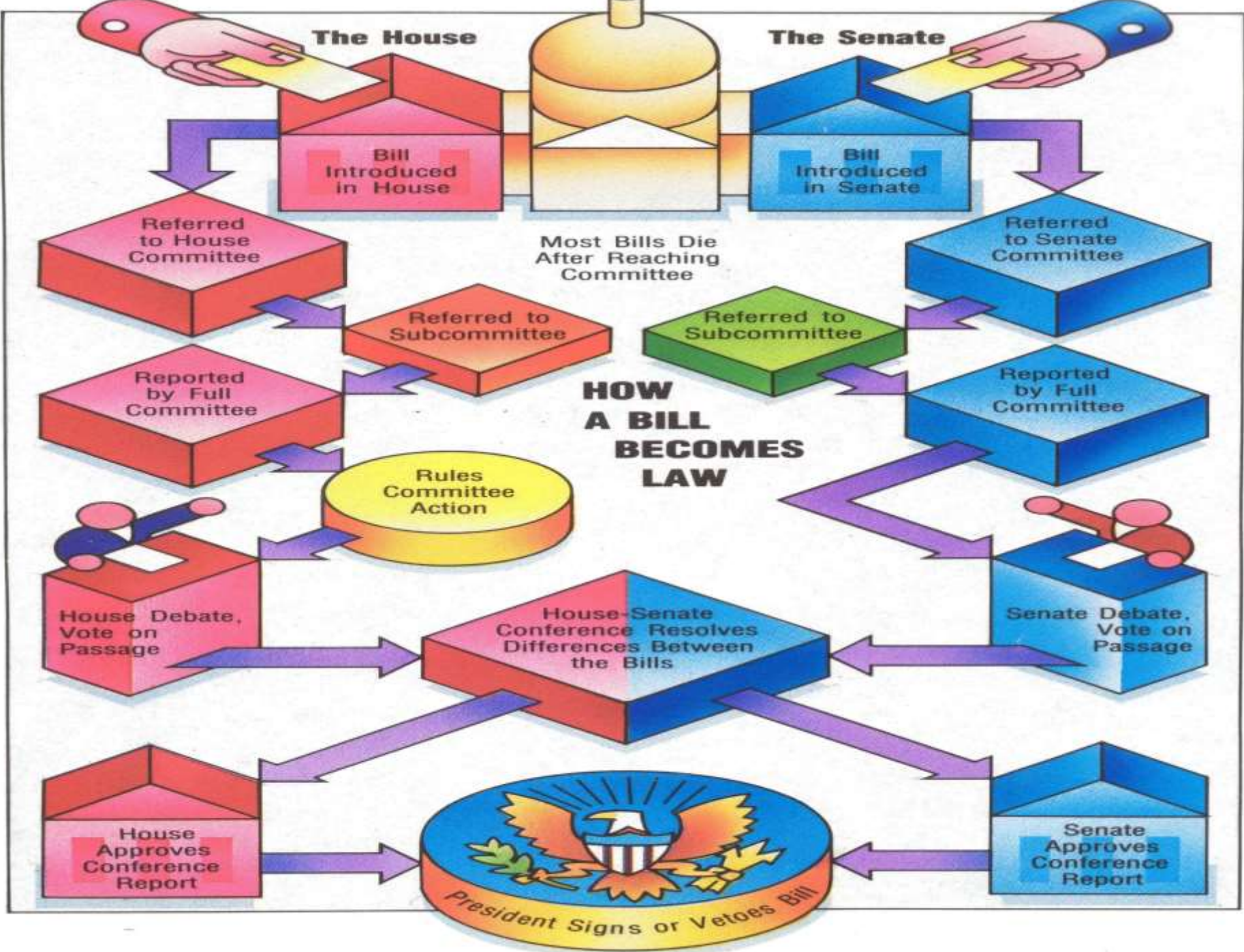
The Congress

The House



The Senate





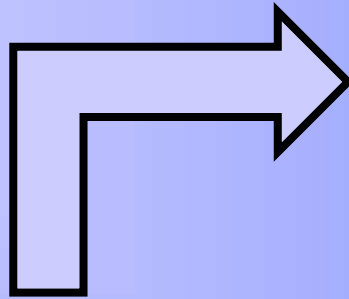
Executive Branch

President and Vice President

- **Serves 4 years**
- **Elected by the States using the Electoral College**
- **President enforces laws**
- **In charge of all government departments.**
- **Commander in Chief of Armed forces.**
- **Heads FBI, CIA, Justice, Defense etc**

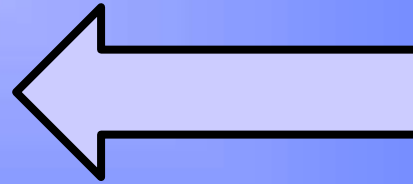
- **What is the line of succession in the event the president dies?**
- **Vice President**
- **Speaker of the House**
- **President Pro Temp of the Senate**
- **Secretary of State**
- **Other cabinet officials**

- **In the United States the people do NOT elect the president.**
- **The States elect the president**
- **The States use a system called the Electoral College**

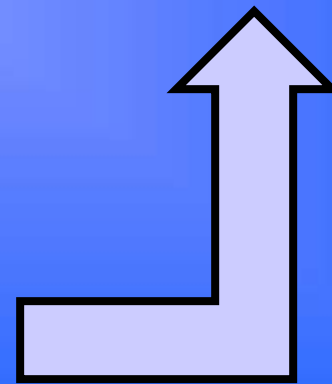


US SENATE

STATE CAPITAL



OBAMA ELECTORS



Electoral College

- **There are 538 electoral votes**
- **Number of Reps + Senators = States Electoral votes**
- **When you vote for President you are actually voting for electors**
- **Electors go to state capitals in January and then on to the Senate where electoral vote is counted**
- **Electors can vote for anyone**

Electoral College Continued

- **Must get 51% of 538 electoral votes to be elected Pres.**
- **270 Electoral votes to win**
- **If no one gets 51% of Vote**
 - ***House elects President***
 - ***Senate elects Vice President***
 - ***House and Senate can elect anyone they want***

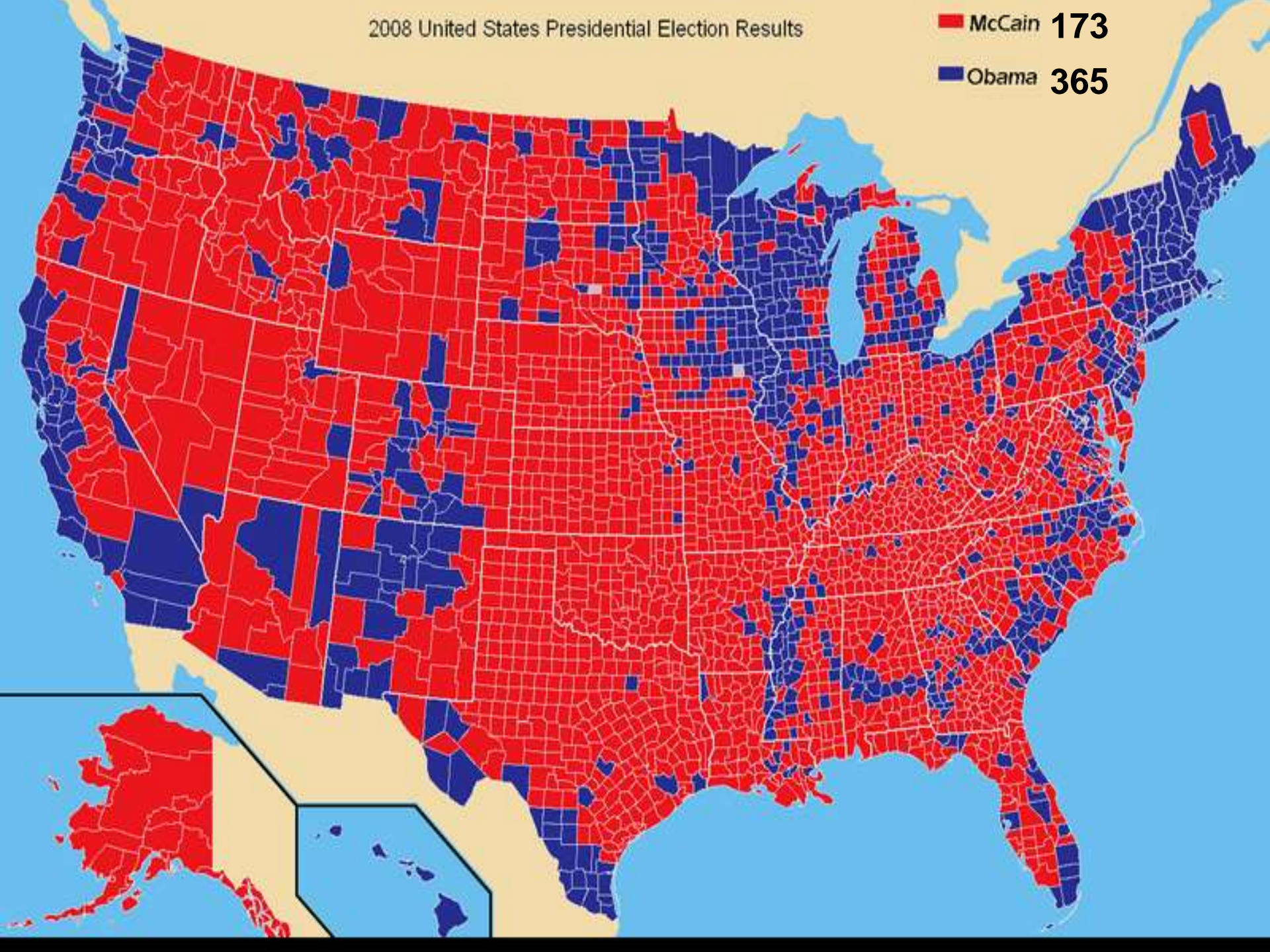


Electoral Votes by State

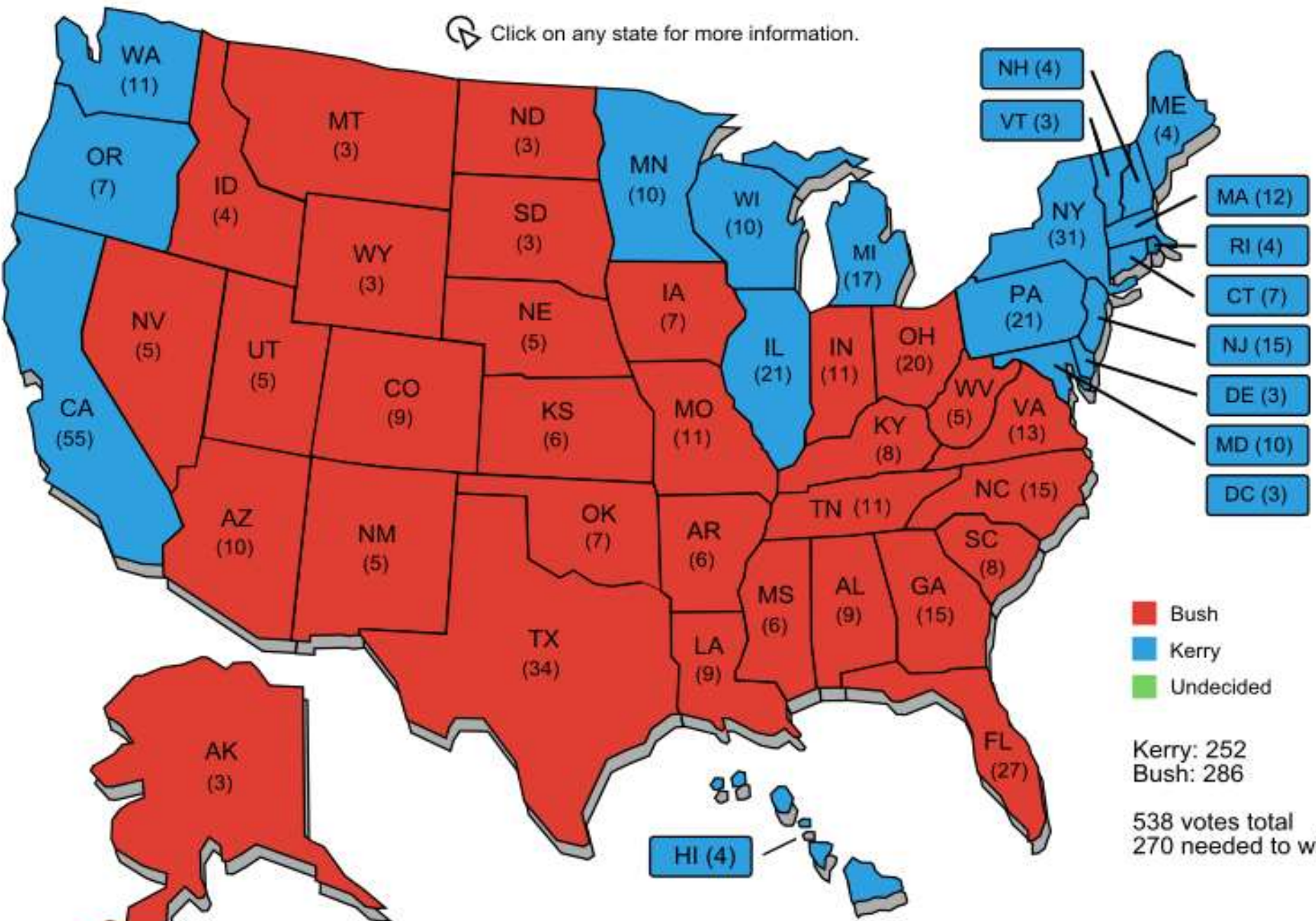
2008 United States Presidential Election Results

■ McCain 173

■ Obama 365



Click on any state for more information.



■ Bush
■ Kerry
■ Undecided

Kerry: 252
Bush: 286

538 votes total
270 needed to win

A state is "called" when the Secretary of State certifies the final vote tally. Failing that, the state belongs to the candidate for whom three major networks (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, and CNN) declare the state.



The Supreme Court



Supreme Court

9 members
Appointed for life

President Appoints
Senate must approve

Court interprets laws and says if
they are constitutional or not.
(Judicial Review)

**The principal of judicial review was
established in the**

Marbury v. Madison case

Chief Justice John Marshal



***Served
1801 to 1835***

Major Parties in the U.S.

Republicans

Democrats

Minor Parties in the U.S.

Libertarian

Green Party

Socialist Workers (communist)

Many more.....

Good Luck on the Quiz

