

The USCIS 96: Questions 14-16

Key Words: Vice-President, Electoral College

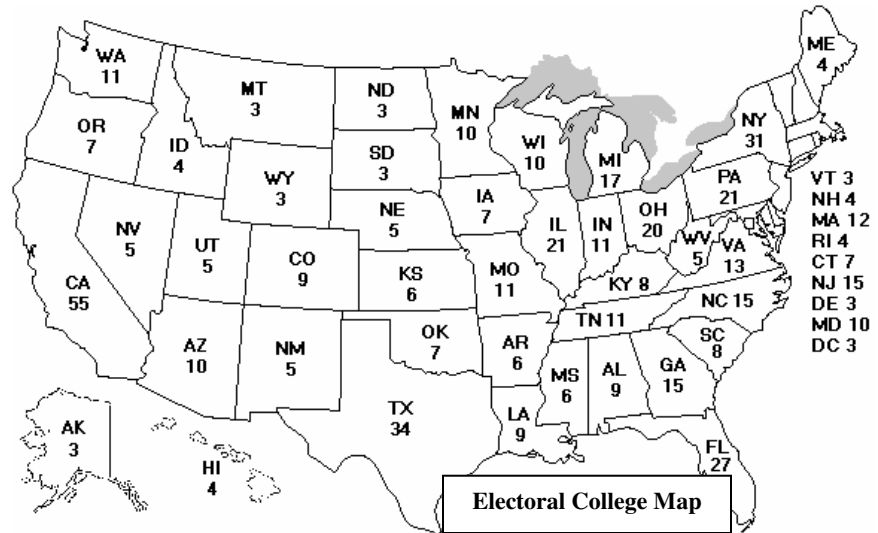
Question 14: Who is the Vice President of the United States today?

Answer 14: Dick Cheney

Richard B. (Dick) Cheney is the 46th Vice President of the United States. Vice President Cheney grew up in Wyoming. He later represented the people of Wyoming in the U.S. Congress. As Vice President, Cheney is President of the U.S. Senate and a top advisor to the President.



The 46th Vice-President
Dick Cheney
2001-present



Question 15: Who elects the President of the United States?

Answer 15: The Electoral College

The Electoral College is not a place or a school. It is a process that was designed by the writers of the Constitution to select presidents. It came from a compromise between the President being elected directly by the people and the President being chosen by Congress. Combining these ideas, the American people vote for a “college” of electors, who then meet to choose the President. Today, the people of each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia vote for the electors in November. The electors then officially vote for the President in December.

Question 16: Who becomes President if the President dies?

Answer 16: The Vice President

The Vice President is first in line to take over as President. This has happened eight times in U.S. history. William Henry Harrison died in office in 1841. Zachary Taylor died in office in 1850. Abraham Lincoln was killed in office in 1865. James Garfield was killed in office in 1881. William McKinley was killed in office in 1901. Warren Harding died in office in 1923. Franklin Roosevelt died in office in 1945. John F. Kennedy was killed in office in 1963.



The Assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, 1865

See: Wikipedia: Vice President http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vice_President_of_the_United_States
US National Archives: Electoral College <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/>
VOA: How the Electoral College Works (2nd Part) <http://www.voanews.com/specialenglish/archive/2004-10/a-2004-10-29-1-1.cfm>

Next: Q17-19: The Constitution and Amendments