

KRIS W. KOBACH
Secretary of State



Memorial Hall, 1st Floor
120 S.W. 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612-1594
(785) 296-4575
www.sos.ks.gov

STATE OF KANSAS

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact Information

V. Kay Curtis, Public Affairs Director
Kansas Secretary of State
785-296-4580 | media@sos.ks.gov

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS TO MEET

TOPEKA (December 12, 2012) – At noon on Monday, December 17, 2012, the six Kansas electors will meet in the Old Supreme Court Chamber at the Capitol to cast their votes for president and vice president of the United States. Once the ballots are tabulated, Secretary of State Kris Kobach will announce the number of votes each candidate received and the electors will sign certificates that will be submitted to the federal government.

Secretary Kobach noted, “The drafters of the United States Constitution chose the electoral college system purposefully as the best means of selecting the president. It remains one of the most significant features of our Constitution for ensuring the importance of the sovereign states in the choosing of our president.”

Before the November presidential election, each political party recognized in Kansas and each team of independent candidates for president and vice president that successfully petitioned for ballot access chooses a slate of six electors. Each state is apportioned a number of presidential electors equal to its total representation in the U.S. Congress. Kansas has six electors because it has four U.S. Representatives and two U.S. Senators.

After the November election results are certified by the state board of canvassers, the secretary of state sends a certificate of election to each elector representing the party whose candidate won the statewide popular vote. This year the Republican candidates for president and vice president won the popular vote in Kansas, so the Republican electors are chosen to cast the state’s official votes for president and vice president. Whereas electors in about 27 states are bound to cast their vote for a specific candidate by state law or by pledges to their political parties, electors in Kansas are not bound to cast their vote for a specific candidate.

After the meeting of the electors, Secretary of State Kobach will certify the results of the vote to the president of the U. S. Senate (who is the vice president of the United States) and to the U.S. Archivist. On January 7, 2013, the electoral votes will be counted in a joint session of Congress with the president of the Senate presiding. If one pair of candidates for president and vice president receives a majority of the nationwide electoral votes (270), those candidates are deemed to be elected. The winners will be inaugurated at noon on January 21.