

# THIS ELECTION IS UNPRECEDENTED



## **And that's why we're preparing to mobilize quickly and peacefully in unprecedented numbers if the need arises.**

Donald Trump routinely ignores democratic norms, lies about mail-in voting, or falsely calls the election "rigged." That's why we're building a grassroots network of millions of Americans ready to take to the streets to protect our democracy.

This is a broad coalition of over 100 grassroots organizations, progressive and conservative advocacy groups, government watchdogs, voting rights advocates, and labor unions that will fight to make sure every single vote is counted.

We're also urging election officials, the press, and our country's leaders to not only make it abundantly clear before the election that returns will be delayed, but to also call out Trump's efforts to cast doubt on the outcome of the election.

## **We simply cannot ignore the risk that Donald Trump poses to our democracy, especially as he works to delegitimize the 2020 election.**

Back in 2016, Trump repeatedly threatened not to accept the election results unless he won, and spread baseless claims of voter fraud even after he won. Since then, Trump has taken steps to dispute the 2020 election, saying that it is "rigged" against him, spreading lies about mail-in voting, and [claiming](#) "mail boxes will be robbed" or that "ballots will be forged" to preemptively cast doubt on the results.

Donald Trump and his allies are already lying about voter fraud and calling the upcoming election "rigged" in order to suppress the vote and sow doubt about the results. Trump has repeatedly hinted that he will not leave the White House willingly, warning that "people would demand that I stay longer." He even threatened to [deploy the United States military](#) against the American people to quash peaceful protests.

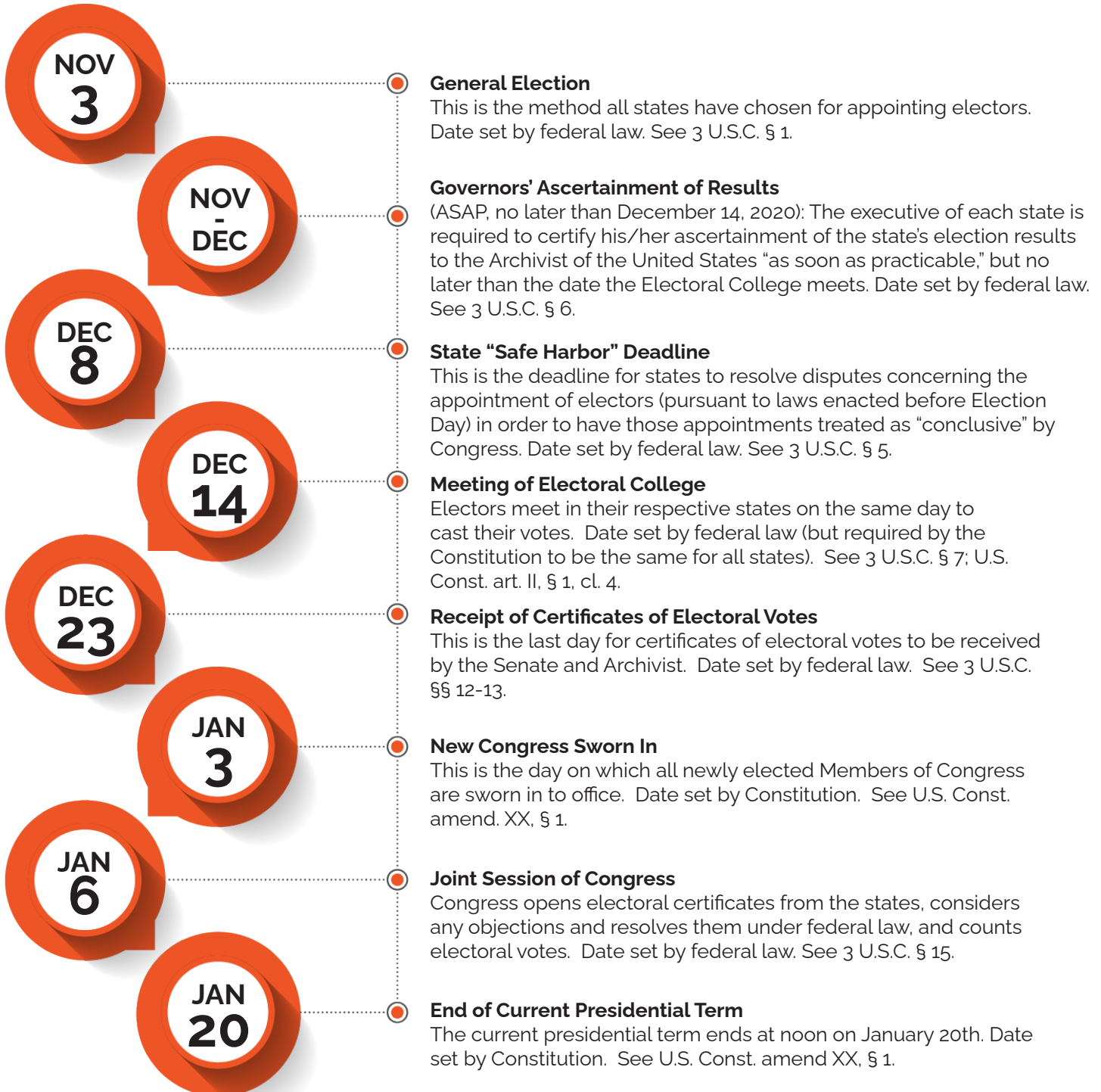
## **Throughout American history, presidents who have lost re-election have always stepped down willingly and respected the peaceful transition of power.**

This is foundational to American democracy. That's why we cannot and will not allow Trump to follow through on his threats to ignore the will of the people.

**We will demand that every vote is counted.** Tens of millions of Americans will cast their ballots by mail this year, and it may take days or weeks to get an accurate count from key states. If Trump attempts to pressure state officials to certify election results, or declares victory, before all votes are counted, we will take action.

**We will organize to ensure that if Trump loses, he concedes**—whether that means pressuring Congress, the Electoral College, or state officials to ensure they honor the accurate, final vote count.

# PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION TIMELINE



# POST ELECTION

# DEFINITIONS



The United States Constitution and federal law (including the Electoral Count Act) set a detailed timeline by which states certify their election results and Electoral College votes. Below are definitions of key moments between Election Day and Inauguration Day. These critical inflection points govern the process by which we choose our next president.

## General Election Day

All states have chosen to appoint Electoral College electors based on popular elections in each state. The date for the general election is set by federal law. Early and/or absentee voting can begin before Election Day and has already begun in several states.

Though voting will conclude on Election Day, the counting of ballots and resolution of disputes will continue for days or weeks.

## Safe Harbor Deadline

This is the deadline for states to resolve disputes concerning the appointment of electors and have those appointments be treated as "conclusive" by Congress. Federal law sets that date as December 8, 2020.

Note that states are not required by federal law to appoint their electors by the Safe Harbor deadline. This date is meant to act as an incentive for states to resolve election disputes in a timely manner.

## Electoral College Meetings and Receipt of Electoral Certificates

The Constitution requires all states' electors to cast their votes on the same day, then send those votes to the Capitol. Federal law sets that date as December 14, 2020.

States that fail to meet the Safe Harbor Deadline can still resolve their disputes and certify their results before their Electoral College meets, but states that fail to resolve disputes and appoint electors by December 14 put their state at risk of disenfranchisement.

By December 23, federal law dictates that all states' certificates of their electoral votes must be in the possession of the President of the Senate and the Archivist.

## Joint Session of Congress

On January 3, the new Congress is sworn in. Three days later, on January 6, the House and Senate meet in a joint session to open the states' Electoral Certificates, resolve any objections or disputes, and count the votes. The Electoral Count Act of 1887 governs this process.

If neither presidential ticket has a majority of electoral votes, the Twelfth Amendment dictates that the House of Representatives choose the president, while the Senate chooses the vice president.