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INSIGHT

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Global Elections

There was nothing more heated or more discussed than the US Election Day last week.

But do you know that the winners won't be determined by the number of the overall total voters? Their votes actually count towards a group of electors who pledge to vote for a specific candidate in the Electoral College - a group of citizens selected by the people to cast votes for President and Vice President. The pair who wins the popular vote in any given state receives all of the state's Electoral College votes. In the end, the winner of the race is the candidate who receives a majority (270 or more) of the 538 Electoral College votes.

Now that's quite different, isn't it? Here are some other little known facts about presidential elections around the globe:

1. In most places, elections are held on Sundays. Except in countries where English is the primary language.
2. Voting is compulsory for anyone over 18 in Australia. Failure to do so results in a AU\$20 fine.
3. Since 2005, Estonians can cast their votes online.
4. In Chile, men and women voted separately until 2012.
5. Up until 2018, citizens of Gambia vote by dropping marbles into color-coded metal drums with pictures of the candidates.



Yours trully,

the community editor