The Process of Electing a President

Illustrations by Rachel Wimmer

1. Everybody lines up to vote. This is the popular vote. It feels like you are voting for president, but you are really voting for a block of “electors.”

2. The winner of the popular vote gets all the electors. In this picture, a majority of the people voted for the Democratic candidate, so the Democrats get all the electoral votes for Montana, which is three. The Republicans don’t get any electoral votes.

3. The electors sign the “Certificate of Vote,” which is delivered to the Office of the President of the United States Senate. At a special meeting in January after the election, the President of the Senate reads the Certificates of Votes and declares the official winner.