

# KEY DATES FOR REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY 2021

NOV 03	<b>Election Day:</b> In a close election, we are unlikely to know which candidate won on election night.
DEC 08	<b>The “Safe Harbor” Deadline:</b> States must resolve disputes over which ballots to count and report final vote totals or risk their Electoral College votes not being counted by Congress.
DEC 14	<b>Deadline for Governors to Report Election Results to Congress:</b> In each state, the governor must send a document called the “certificate of ascertainment” to Congress reporting which candidate won the state and which slate of electors has been appointed to the Electoral College.  <b>The Electoral College Meets:</b> In each state, the winning candidate’s slate of pledged electors meet, cast their votes, and send a record of their votes to Congress.
JAN 03	<b>Start of the 117th Congress:</b> All newly elected or reelected senators and representatives are sworn in.
JAN 06	<b>Congress Counts Electoral College Votes:</b> Congress meets in a joint session, with all the Members of Congress and all the Senators, to count Electoral College votes and choose the next president. This vote by Congress is the vote that officially makes someone President.
JAN 20	<b>Inauguration Day:</b> The newly-elected President is sworn in. If Congress hasn’t chosen a new president, the newly-elected Vice President is sworn in as the acting president. If Congress hasn’t chosen a new Vice President, the Speaker of the House is sworn in as the acting president.