

The Rocky Road to the White House

Back at the beginning of 2024, it looked like this year’s presidential race was going to be very predictable, and somewhat boring, a replay of 2020. Boy, was that wrong! One candidate, Joe Biden, pulled out after a disastrous first TV debate, which was held untraditionally before the summer. Another, Donald Trump, has been the target of two apparent assassination attempts. And against all odds, latecomer Kamala Harris has created real momentum.

In the spring, despite his popularity with voters, Donald Trump was mired in several legal cases, and was found guilty in June of fraud.

More and more concerns were expressed about [Biden’s] physical and mental capacity to serve a second term. Finally, on 21 July, he withdrew his candidacy and endorsed his Vice-President Kamala Harris.

After her nomination, Harris, and her newly named running mate Tim Walz, quickly began to rise in popularity in opinion polls. On 10 September, Harris was widely considered to have won her TV debate with Donald Trump. The Trump camp then refused to accept the traditional second presidential debate.

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<https://www.speakeasy-news.com/the-rocky-road-to-the-white-house/>

Work on words.

1. Search the text for the English translations for :

- prévisible :

- ennuyeux :

- (se) retirer x 2 :

/
- malgré :

- être empêtré dans :

- mandat :

- sondage / estimation :

2. Find synonyms for the following words in the text :

- catastrophic (adj) =

- support (v) =

- victim (n) =

Comprehension

1. Pick 2 events showing the 2024-election is not boring at all.

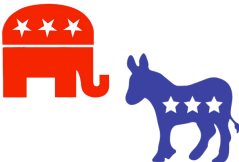
- ⇒
- ⇒

2. Fill in the grid.

Final candidates’ names	Obstacles to victory

GO FURTHER - Search the web to answer the following questions.

- 1- How long is a presidential term in the USA?
- 2- How many terms can a President serve?
- 3- Which party is traditionally represented by an elephant?
- 4- Which party is traditionally represented by a donkey?



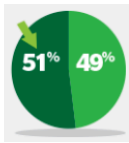
1- Write the words from the list under the corresponding pictures.

absentee voting • ballot • Constitution • debate • term • issues • majority • political party • running mate • swing state •



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2- Match the words with their definitions.

INAUGURATION	•	a person who is a member of a state or country, and has legal rights there
CITIZEN	•	a person who has been officially chosen for a position, a job or an election
NOMINEE	•	President of the United States
VOTER	•	the official ceremony organized to put someone into an important position
FLOTUS	•	First Lady of the United States
TERM	•	a person who votes or who has a legal right to vote
POTUS	•	to make a public statement of your approval or support for something or someone
ENDORSE	•	the fixed period of time that something lasts for

3- Complete the following sentences with words from the list.

cast a vote • a ballot paper • win • lose • the incumbent president • a booth
• nominees • Election Day • running mate • a polling station

- a) Joe Biden is
- b) In 2024 the two are K. Harris and D. Trump.
- c) In this context, the expression refers to the vice-presidential candidate.
- d) is a paper with the candidate's name.
- e) The place where the voting process takes place is
- f) helps people hide from view while slipping their paper in a voting envelope.
- g) The verb expresses a victory, whereas is used or a defeat.
- h) To officially indicate your choice in an election, you
- i) This year, is on November 5th, 2024.

