TEACH ABOUT U.S.

United States of America

Capital: **Washington, D.C.**
Area: **3,796,742 sq mi. / 9,833,520sq km**
Population: **328,239,523**
Country motto: **"In God We Trust"**
President: **Donald Trump (R)**
Legislature: **Upper house (Senate)**
Lower house (House of Representatives)

Wikimedia Commons

How will United States vote?

Predicting a vote is a challenging task. Political researchers have different opinions on how to predict an election outcome. Different formulas and methods are used, however none is perfect. Each prediction is a snapshot of the voters' opinion at a certain point in time. But with election issues and current events changing so fast, it is quite a challenge to have an accurate prediction of how the election will turn out. In the 2016 election, most political pundits and polls before Election Day had Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton in the lead. Yet, while Clinton won the majority of the popular vote, the Republican candidate Donald J. Trump won the Electoral College votes of key swing states and thus the Presidency.

What are the most common predictors to determine how citizens will vote? Socio-economic factors are among the most important ones. They include, but are not limited to, citizens' education, income, and ethnicity. While these are often mentioned as decisive, others are important to consider as well. For example, many Americans cast their vote based on a single issue like health care, women's reproductive rights, the economy, or the environment. These voters choose their preferred candidate based on the issue most important to their identity, their social network, or personal biography, for example religious affiliation, ideology, or health. Americans also often cast their vote in a local context and are influenced by political and social issues affecting their own state. Finally, calculating voter turnout is key to an accurate prediction.

Some key variables for predicting the election outcome

Voting history

How have people in the state voted in the past? Is the state solidly red, blue, or purple? What is the expected turnout?

Ethnicity

What ethnic group does a citizen belong to? What is the ethnic make-up of the state?

Religion

How important is religion to the citizens? How often do they pray or attend worship service?

Economy

What's the current economic situation in the state? How many citizens live in poverty? How many are without a job?

Income inequality

How wide is the gap between wealthy and poor people? How much income does the top 1% in the state take home?

Education

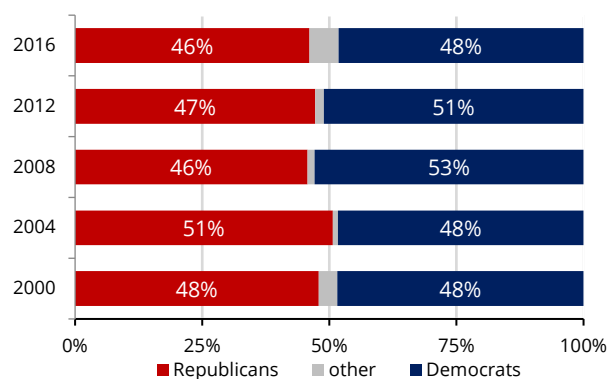*How many people graduate from high school in your state? How many have a college degree?*

📊 Voting history [2] [7]

Through 2016, there have been 58 presidential elections. Each presidential race is determined by the Electoral College, which is a body of electors established by the United States Constitution. The Electoral College consists of 538 electors, and an absolute majority of at least 270 electoral votes is required to win the election. According to the Constitution, each state legislature determines the manner by which its state's electors are chosen. Each state's number of electors is equal to the combined total of the state's membership in the Senate and House of Representatives. As has been the case since 1972, Iowa will hold the first presidential nominating contest in 2020. Super Tuesday follows on March 3. By the end of March, events covering well over 50% of each party's delegates will have taken place.

ⓘ Voting history assesses how citizens of a state have voted in the past five presidential elections, i.e. from 2000 to 2016. The figures indicate to which party a state has been leaning historically, how close that difference has been, and whether this has been changing over the past two decades.

➕ Further details available at https://www.270towin.com/states/ This website includes a prediction of the 2020 election and background information on the development of number of electoral votes since the state joined the Union.

Election results (2000–2016): [3]

Year	Republicans	other	Democrats
2016	46%		48%
2012	47%		51%
2008	46%		53%
2004	51%		48%
2000	48%		48%

(scale: 0% – 25% – 50% – 75% – 100%)

■ Republicans ■ other ■ Democrats

ⓘ Election results (2000-2016) displays the share of votes for Democratic, Republican, and "other" in the popular vote. Percentages for "other" (gray bar) may include third-party candidates (e.g. Libertarian or Greens) and so-called 'write-in votes'. All states, except for Maine and Nebraska, have a winner-take-all policy where all of the state's Electoral College votes go to the winner of the popular vote, no matter or narrow the difference between both parties is. Maine and Nebraska, however, appoint individual electors based on the winner of the popular vote for each Congressional district and then two electors based on the winner of the overall state-wide popular vote.[8]

Note: This graph shows the overall national result of the popular vote, i.e. the total number of citizen's votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia combined. Because of a very narrow margin in the popular vote and the way Electoral College votes are determined, the presidency went to the party with the minority of the popular vote in two out of the last five elections. In 2000, Republicans obtained 286 votes compared to 227 for Democrats. In 2016, Republicans reached 304 votes in contrast to Democrats' 227, even though Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton received over three million more popular votes than the eventual President, Donald Trump.

Voter turnout 2016:

U.S. 60%

ℹ️ **Voter turnout 2016** This is a measure to measure how many citizens in your state have participated in the last presidential election. This information is based on the number of voting-eligible population (VEP) who cast their vote in 2016. VEP represents an estimate of persons eligible to vote regardless of voter registration status in an election. This indicator is constructed by adjusting the voting-age population for non-citizens and ineligible felons, depending on state law. National estimates are further adjusted for overseas eligible voters, but no state level adjustments are made since there is no reliable method of apportioning overseas voters to states.

In your assigned State Fact Sheet, two figures are provided. The gray bar represents average turnout in the U.S. while the dark one refers to your state's turnout. This allows you to determine whether participation in the election in your state was below or above average in 2016.

➕ More info about your state's official voting procedures and further VEP values can be retrieved from http://www.electproject.org/2016g

👪 Ethnicity [4]

White (only) **60%**

Hispanic & Latino **18%**

African Am. & Black **13%**

Asian American **6%**

Am. Indian/Alaska Native **1%**

ℹ️ **Ethnicity** The U.S. Census Bureau collects race data in accordance with guidelines provided by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and these data are based on self-identification. The racial categories included in the census questionnaire generally reflect a social definition of race recognized in the United States and not an attempt to define race biologically, anthropologically, or genetically. In addition, it is recognized that the categories of the race item include racial and national origin or sociocultural groups. People may choose to report more than one race to indicate their racial mixture, such as "American Indian" and "White." People who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race.

In your assigned State Fact Sheet, two figures are provided. The gray bars represent the U.S. average, while the dark one refers to your state's specific data.

➕ For the definition of each category consult the US Census Bureau

🕎 Religion [5]

53% *say religion is very important in their lives*

36% *say they attend worship at least weekly*

55% *say they pray daily*

63% *say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty*

ℹ️ **Religion** The diagram for religion shows a combined index based on the Pew Research Center's Religious Landscape Study. The research is based on a nationally representative telephone survey of 35,000 adults. Despite many potential ways of defining religiosity, in this analysis, Pew looked at four common measures of religious observance: worship attendance, prayer frequency, belief in God, and the self-described importance of religion in one's life.

In addition to the four colored categories on the left, each State's Fact Sheet contains a combined index value at the top.

➕ If you are interested in exploring the Religious Landscape report, visit the PEW Research Center.

💵 Economy [4]

13.4% poverty rate (2017)

3.6% unemployment rate (2019)

ℹ️ **Poverty** is defined as a state of extreme levels of destitution. People are poor when their income falls below a certain threshold of money, which is determined by the United States Census Bureau. For 2019, the Bureau determined such threshold at $20,347 for a family of three members.

➕ More info under U.S. Census Bureau Poverty thresholds.

ℹ️ **Unemployment rate** represents the number of unemployed people as a percentage of the civilian labor force. All civilians 16 years old and older are classified as unemployed if they (1) were neither "at work" nor "with a job but not at work" during the reference week, and (2) were actively looking for work during the last 4 weeks, and (3) were available to accept a job. Also included as unemployed are civilians who did not work at all during the reference week, were waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off, and were available for work except for temporary illness.

Note that unemployment rates may either refer to frictional, structural, or cyclical unemployment.
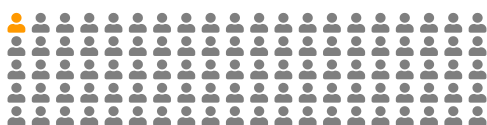
➕ For more details on definitions or labor statistics, visit the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics.

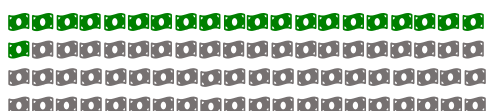## 🪙 Income inequality [6]

The **top 1%** take home **21% of all the income in the USA**.
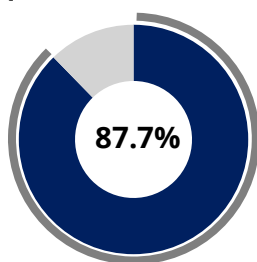
1% of the families

21% of the income

ℹ️ **Income inequality** is portrayed by the share of the overall income going to the top 1% of the population. Income inequality trends vary from state to state, and even within states. The higher this figure is in a state, the higher income inequality is considered there. Nationally, a pattern has emerged in the past: the top 1% is receiving more and more income.
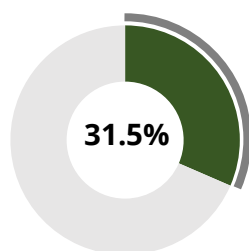
🎓 Education [4]

High school degree or higher
persons 25+ yrs. old

87.7%

Bachelor's degree or higher
persons 25+ yrs. old

31.5%

ℹ️ **High School Graduates and Persons with a Bachelor's Degree** include people whose highest degree was a high school diploma or its equivalent, people who attended college but did not receive a degree, and people who received an associate's, bachelor's, master's, or professional or doctorate degree. People who reported completing the 12th grade but not receiving a diploma are not included. These data include only persons 25 years old and over. The percentages thus represent the share of people with a high school diploma or Bachelor's degree among the total population ages 25 and older.

➕ Further information is available at the American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2018 Subject Definitions.

More information

State information
Infoplease.com: http://www.infoplease.com/states.html
Official USA website: https://www.usa.gov/

Government information:
Presidency: https://www.whitehouse.gov/
State and Local Government on The Net: http://www.statelocalgov.net/
U.S. Senators from the state: http://www.senate.gov/senators/contact/
U.S. Representatives from the state: https://www.house.gov/representatives

Election 2020
270towin.com: http://www.270towin.com/states
Rock the Vote – voting information: https://www.rockthevote.org/voting-information/
Vote.org – voter registration rules: https://www.vote.org/voter-registration-rules/

Statistics
Quick Facts from the US Census Bureau (select state): https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/
Economic Policy Institute – The Unequal States of America: https://epi.org/108519

Media

Media Collection by the U.S. Embassy:
http://usa.usembassy.de/media.htm

50states.com – Local newspapers:
http://www.50states.com/news

OfficialUSA.com – Local TV stations:
http://www.officialusa.com/stateguides/media/television/states.html

Democrats and Republicans in the state

Democratic Party	**Republican Party**
https://democrats.org/	https://www.gop.com/
https://www.facebook.com/democrats/	https://www.facebook.com/GOP
https://bit.ly/2WW6CVf	https://bit.ly/3bAdRGk
https://twitter.com/thedemocrats	https://twitter.com/GOP

* For most web-resources, you will have to select your state from a list or type in your state name in a search field. Please note, these are third-party resources, Teach About U.S. is not responsible for this content.