

The U.S. Embassy School **Election** Project **2020**



» *Teacher's handbook and
printable worksheets*

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Bei anderen Grafiken ist der Urhebernachweis an selber Stelle angegeben, sofern
es sich nicht um gemeinfreie Materialien handelt.

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Dear Teacher,

Welcome to the U.S Election Project 2020! The Project is an intercultural blended-learning program promoting democratic engagement and civil discourse in the context of the U.S. presidential campaign. Our goal is to provide participants with information and analytical tools to predict as the basis for intercultural engagement.

and evaluate the election outcome of an adopted state. Teachers and students research and understand competing viewpoints and political arguments. This project promotes respect, civility, and open-mindedness

Teaching Principles

In this school project, we offer a selection of up-to-date authentic teaching materials on the U.S. political system and civil discourse for the presidential campaign 2020. The project has an open design allowing for different degrees of implementation in your classroom following local state and school curricula, time budgets, teaching and learning practices, and technological infrastructures. Yet, we do emphasize several core principles of teaching and learning in this project. Tasks-cycles and materials in the U.S Election 2020 project were designed following a task-based, integrated-skills approach to foreign language instruction, they provide a guided introduction of computer-assisted language learning to teachers with little e-learning experience. They also open an exciting avenue to fostering intercultural communicative competence.

Task-based language learning

All U.S election 2020 materials are organized in thematic task-cycles that logically build upon one another, but they can also be used individually. These task-cycles typically involve a chain of activities that (a) conclude with a clearly defined

product, (b) focus on the meaning of communication instead of isolated linguistic and grammatical structures, and (c) reflect patterns of real-world communication. Yet, there is also a place for the explicit study of language: Throughout the curriculum, you or your students can select language exercises according to your specific goals and needs.

Computer-assisted language learning



Whether you complete the U.S Election 2020 project in a blended learning format with your students enrolled on the Teach about US learning platform and include activities such as peer editing, forum discussions, or blog writing, or whether you teach the U.S Election 2020 in a more traditional setting with this paper-and-pencil handbook, the U.S Election 2020

curriculum introduces the following competencies: reading in the web, evaluating information resources critically, participating in digital discourses in forums and social media, and presenting oneself in the digital arena through user videos to your classroom. We understand that even the most fascinating technological advances can be of little use in the classroom if not supported by a critical and robust pedagogy to support its implementation. The U.S Election 2020 materials have been developed in line with current research on school-based blended learning research and close exchange with practitioner teachers.

Intercultural communicative competence

The thematic focus of this teaching unit is on U.S.- States' electoral culture and approaches to civil discourse from a transatlantic perspective. Through the critical review of authentic texts and states' fact sheets, students are encouraged to perform a change of

(cultural) perspectives. While students might hold—and openly exhibit—unreflective stereotypical images of their transatlantic partners (and even their own native culture), authentic texts and states' fact sheets can stimulate learners to develop what has been termed an 'insider's perspective' into the target culture in foreign language research. When German learners, for example, explore that in the U.S. through the lenses of the presidential campaign, they understand the political culture of their environment. Also, the U.S Election 2020 course can serve as an avenue to strengthen or initiate transatlantic partnerships between schools or courses. Does your school participate in a German-American exchange program? Then why don't you participate with your exchange partner as a team?



U.S Election 2020 and German State Curricula for EFL

The U.S Election 2020 project is designed for a target group of intermediate-advanced English learners in grades 10 and above of the German Gymnasium. Yet, the project conducted in 2016 proved that the curriculum also works with younger learners or vocational and other secondary schools. A quick look at the 16 state curricula will show that the topics of civil discourse and the political culture of the U.S. are represented in every curriculum. The overview below lists different bases for integrating the U.S Election 2020 contents in regular classes.

It follows that the suggested classroom work should cover curriculum contents and can, if necessary, be easily extended or adjusted. Think of it as an invitation to incorporate new teaching and learning resources into your classes as well as a strong connection to learning with digital media and authentic resources.

Two more aspects are of interest here:

Although aiming at older high school students, many U.S Election 2020 contents are also suitable for younger learners.



Teachers can make adjustments to tasks and materials as well as to adapt the level of task support on the Teach about the U.S platform or in their classrooms. The proposed classroom work is designed in a way which also allows for selective classroom use if available time budgets are restricted. For example, political cartoons that do not necessarily require a high proficiency in English can be easily adjusted according to specific learner needs and abilities.

We also (and especially) invite teachers and students of English and CLIL (content

and language integrated learning, or bilinguals Sachfachlernen) courses in Germany as well as interesting courses in the U.S. to participate in the project and the student competition. The thematic framework of political culture is highly relevant to other school subjects, such as Geography, Biology, or Social Science, and U.S Election 2020 allows for an interdisciplinary approach.

Contact the Teach about U.S. team for further suggestions regarding these aspects.



Land T = Themenbereich/-schwerpunkt; Q = Thema i. d. Qualifikationsphase; Zahl = Angabe d. Halbjahres (vorgegeben)

BW	T1: zeitgenöss. öffentl. Leben & polit. Kultur d. USA; T2: derzeitige politische Verhältnisse in den USA
BY	T1: E11/12.3 Grundzüge der Entwicklung von demokratischen Systemen; T2: Bedeutung und Einfluss der Medien
BE	Q1: Individuum und Gesellschaft (civil society); Q2: Nationale und kulturelle Identität (overcoming prejudice, ethnic and cultural diversity, nations between tradition and change); Q4: Herausforderungen der Gegenwart (impact of the media)
BB	Q1: Individuum und Gesellschaft (civil society); Q2: Nationale und kulturelle Identität (overcoming prejudice, ethnic and cultural diversity, nations between tradition and change); Q4: Herausforderungen der Gegenwart (impact of the media)
HB	T1: Aktuelle Lebenswirklichkeit in der anglophonen Welt; T2: Mensch und Gesellschaft im Spiegel von Literatur, Kunst und Medien (the media)
HH	T1: Politische und soziale Themen der Gegenwart; T2: Zielsprachenland: Entwicklung und Identität; T3: Kunst, Kultur, Medien
HE	Q1: The challenge of individualism (USA); Q3: The Dynamics of Change (Power and Politics); Q4: The Global Challenge (Globalization, Civil Society); T1: political life and political issues; T2: the U.S. and the world.
MV	T1: Nationale Identität und kulturelle Vielfalt (USA: politics and government, superpower); T2: Globale Herausforderungen der Gegenwart (Entwicklungstendenzen in der Politik und Auswirkung auf die Gesellschaft); T3: Aktuelle Aspekte der Politik und Gesellschaft (Medien: Rolle der Medien, Direkte Demokratie: current political issues)
NI	T1: The media (the influence of the media on public opinion); T2: Beliefs, values and norms in Western societies: Tradition and change (the American experience); T3: Individual and Society (outsider and counter cultures); T4: National Identity and ethnic/cultural/language diversities (migration)
NW	T1: Politische, soziale und kulturelle Wirklichkeiten; T2: Globale Herausforderungen
RP	T1: Landeskunde (Politik - Gesellschaft - Wirtschaft; aktuelle gesellschaftliche Entwicklungen); T2: Sachthema (aktuelle Ereignisse)
SL	Q4: Aspects of Political Life and Institutions; Q1, Q2: Aspects of Society
SN	T1: Beherrschen grundlegenden Sprach- und Sachwissens zu einem ausgewähltem Thema aus dem Bereich: The Englishspeaking World – History, Politics and Society (political systems); T2: Wahlpflicht 3 - Aktuelle Themen aus Politik, ...
ST	T: The American Way of Life, T: Challenges of Our Time;
SH	T3: Individuum und Gesellschaft (u.a. Democracy); T5: Strukturwandel (u.a. Regionalism)
TH	T1: Politics and Economy; T2: The Media (Einflussnahme)



The U.S. Embassy School Election Project Curriculum

The suggested classroom work for U.S. Election 2020 can be divided into five steps: an introduction to your assigned state, a study of the electoral system, a review of the candidates, an exploration of the campaign issues, and a final prediction of the presidential campaign in your state. After completion of the course, you can decide to participate in a nation-wide competition with your well-researched outcome. The overview below shows the course structure in short:

Introduction

This course section introduces you to the U.S. Embassy School Election Project and your adopted U.S. state. Throughout the course, you will become a 'virtual citizen' of one U.S. state, an expert on its population, and predict how it is going to vote on Election Day.

1. The Electoral System

Section 1 introduces you to the electoral system of the U.S. Learn how the President of the U.S. is elected, what happens during the individual phases of the election campaign, and why it is necessary to focus on the individual states.

2. The Candidates

Section 2 is about the two candidates, Mr. Biden and Mr. Trump. Learn about their biographical background, their public personas, and their perception by the American public. This includes different text types: political advertisements, campaign websites and social media, and political cartoons.

3. The Campaign issues

Section 3 explores the topics and issues that American voters will be discussing this fall. This includes getting an overview of the 2020 campaign issues, researching select issues in more detail, and finding out where the candidates stand on these issues.

4. The Election in Our State

Section 4 is the most important section of the project: Here you will return to the focus on your adopted state, get to know its history, culture, population, and local news media. Is your state going to turn red or blue? Make a well-researched prediction and participate in the school competition.



How to Use this Teacher's Handbook

This teacher's handbook is a condensed version of the teaching materials and task-cycles to be found on the Teach about US platform at <http://teachaboutus.org>. The following pages contain the core activities for all five phases of the U.S Election 2020 project in the form of print-ready worksheets. You can use these activities in your classrooms entirely or make your selection and cover the U.S Election 2020 curriculum in a more cursory fashion. While the activities outlined in the worksheets do not require that your students enroll on the platform individually or that you complete all activities in your school's computer lab, they do focus on using different sorts of digital texts and applications. This means that activities like participating in forum discussions, contributing to an online course glossary, or collaborating in a course wiki have been intentionally

excluded from the worksheets. But your students will have to complete several activities using a computer and going online. These online phases are always linked back to face-to-face classroom activity to allow for effective integration into traditional teaching contexts.

Except for these introductory remarks, the teacher's handbook comes without further instructions for teachers like lesson plans or extensive teaching rationales. The preview U.S Election 2020 e-classroom, however, includes detailed 'Teaching Notes' at the beginning of each curriculum section. In addition to information and useful tips for integrating the suggested classroom work in your daily practice, they also offer selected background information complementing the tasks and materials.



Participating in the Student Competition

The U.S. Embassy and its partners invite all participants to enter their elections' prediction into a student competition with awards for outstanding products arising from classroom work. We believe that this is an excellent opportunity to boost student motivation and to strengthen the understanding that their approaches for sustainable development are relevant to their communities and beyond. From the 2016 course we know that in most cases, student engagement to produce a prediction exceeded their teachers' expectations (and ours included) by far! Many participants saw their predictions and project outcomes featured in local newspaper articles and radio reports, at school festivities, and even town hall meetings.

We would like to emphasize that participants are encouraged to submit their contributions, regardless of class grade or school level or even the type of format. In 2016, the competition categories were formed after receiving the submission, reflecting the open character of the contribution. As educators ourselves, we understand that a poster should not have to compete with a complete website and social media campaign, that some participants naturally will have more time to prepare their predictions than others, and that young learners will produce different outcomes than, for example, a year twelve AP English course.

In order to take part in the U.S election student competition, your students (one representative) or you will have to submit your course's contribution by **the submission deadline (Sunday, October 25, 2020, 23:59 CEST)**. This will be done by uploading the product (or a link to the product) onto the Teach about U.S. platform. To do this, a registered and logged -in user needs to visit the platform's U.S. Election section, enter the Virtual Town Hall, and enter your prediction into the 'DATABASE. If—for whatever reason —your upload fails, you may also submit your group's contribution via email to the Teach about U.S. team.

The contributions will go through a two-fold evaluation process: The jury of experts in U.S elections as well as your students themselves will have a chance to evaluate the submissions online. We will announce more information on this procedure in due time.

Joannis Kaliampos,

on behalf of the Teach about US team and partners at the U.S. Embassy in Berlin, the U.S. Consulates and German - American Institutes in Germany, LIFE e.V. Berlin, Leuphana University of Lüneburg, and the Transatlantic Outreach Program in Washington D.C., with support by the Berlin Senate Department for Education, Youth and Science.



Introductory section

This introductory course section leads the students into the project by setting the goal and context of the subsequent curriculum. Participant courses adopt one U.S. state and become its virtual citizens – research its population's demography, culture, economy, and voting history. As a final task in the project, students will make an informed prediction for their state's voting behavior on Election Day and participate in the U.S. Election Project School Competition.

Since this section marks the beginning of your project participation, discuss with your students what you will do in the upcoming weeks, what the anticipated outcomes or learning objectives are, and how they can contribute to the project's trajectory to make it 'theirs'. Also, if working with the Moodle course, ask your students to update and personalize their user accounts.

In this introduction, students explore their state for the first time and form hypotheses about its voting behavior.

The section includes two task cycles

- ★ TASK: Explore Your State
- TASK: Who Would You Vote For?

★ TASK: Explore Your State

The ★ TASK: Explore Your State asks students to take a first look at their adopted state. This is an open task allowing students to decide what aspects of their state they wish to look into and how to get a first overview of their state's culture, history, political landscape, and economy. One suggestion is to fill out a K-W-L chart (**k**now – **w**ant to know – **l**earned) and collect information in the Project Journal. Task support is provided in the form of the state fact sheet with condensed information on the mentioned aspects and links for further research.

If you are participating with a transatlantic partner, then this task provides an excellent opportunity for a first virtual exchange between both courses. Students in Germany could, for example, design questionnaires or interview questions to be forwarded to their U.S. peers about their home U.S. state.

Tech tips

- *Ask students to bring their own devices or reserve the computer lab (although the research portion of the task could be done at home).*
- *Students should get an initial impression of their state and having web-access during this phase would be helpful.*
- *If participating together with a transatlantic partner, discuss with your students how this exchange could best be facilitated (synchronously via Skype, or asynchronously through e-mails and forum discussions etc.).*

TASK: Who Would You Vote For?

In the TASK: Who Would You Vote For? students take a first poll as to who they would vote for in they were allowed to cast their votes on Election Day. In the first part of the task, students take the political typology quiz in order to find out which platform aligns best with their personal political views.

In the second step, they cast their vote in this course and make a first 'impromptu' prediction of how their state might vote in November. The result of this poll can be used as a first hypothesis of the course participants and a backdrop against which to compare the final prediction that they



will make in the final section of this course.

The FORUM: First Assumptions provides space to discuss the students' initial ideas and predictions as they enter the project, and which will shape their subsequent project participation.

Tech tips

- *The President quiz and both polls require access to computers/electronic devices.*
- *Both tasks can be used as homework assignments to generate first ideas and hypotheses as the foundation for a subsequent classroom discussion, especially if the forum discussion is integrated.*
- *Discuss criteria for the forum with your students (no criteria at all? everyone should make at least one posting? everyone should react to one posting? etc.)*

This section also includes a vocabulary warm-up activity, WARM-UP: Political Vocabulary Word Search. As the name implies, this is a simple word search activity that your students can complete as a follow-up to the previous tasks. The subsequent course section will then focus on the technicalities of the electoral system and the necessary vocabulary in more detail.



Explore Your State

In this task, you will:

- ✓ take a look at your adopted U.S. state, its people, geography, and culture as well as its political landscape,
- ✓ develop an idea about how your state might vote on Election Day and discuss this in a class,
- ✓ document your initial findings and refine them gradually as you proceed with the project.

5. Overall impression of 'our' state

Take a look at the websites [1]-[4] below and explore your state in general. Try to understand what the people living there might think and feel about the upcoming election. To guide this exploration, you can fill out a K-W-L chart. Make three columns—**know**, **want to know**, **learned**—and fill in your ideas and questions as well as what you find out as you proceed with the project.

Know	Want to know	Learned

6. First impressions of the political scenario

- (1) Take a look at the state fact sheet [2] to find out how many electors your state will send to the electoral college and what the voting behavior was like in the past.
- (2) Discuss your ideas with your classmates (and potential American partners).
- (3) Keep your ideas, impressions, and hypotheses in mind while working on the project.



RESOURCES FOR THIS TASK

1. Explore USA states, territories, and major cities

Visit the USA | www.visittheusa.com

2. State Fact sheet

<http://bit.ly/TAUS-downloads> (see under 'U.S. Election Project')

3. States and their capitals

www.50states.com

4. Information about the 50 states

<https://www.history.com/topics/us-states>



Who Would You Vote For?

In this task, you will get started with the U.S. Election Project by:

- ✓ taking a quiz and finding out which of the candidates most reflects your political views,
- ✓ and discussing your findings with classmates.

1. Take a quiz

Although non-U.S. citizens are 'only' spectators of this event—they are not allowed to cast a vote in November—they certainly have a political preference. What's yours? Find out by taking the political party quiz on the People Press website **[1]** and see where you fall on the political spectrum and what party best represents your political views.

2. Fill out the poll

Share your initial thoughts on the outcome of the election, by answering the following three questions. Write down your initial thoughts on the outcome of the election.

- (1) *What candidate would you personally vote for, if you could vote?*
- (2) *Before learning more about the elections and your state, who of the candidates do you think is most likely to win your state? Make the first prediction.*
- (3) *What campaign issues do you personally find most important?*

Once you completed the poll, you can compare your answers with those of your classmates. Can you identify any surprising results or overall trends? Do you agree with your classmates' views? Why (not)?

3. Discuss in class

After taking the quiz, discuss the following questions in class:

- (1) *Who do you think your state's citizens will likely vote for on Election Day? And why?*
- (2) *What do you need to know to make a precise prediction? What sources should you consult?*
- (3) *How can you put yourself into someone else's shoes? How can you predict from someone's perspective, who does not share your political views? How could you solve this problem?*



Resources for this task

1. Political typology quiz

PEW Research Center | <https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/quiz/political-typology/>



Section 1: The electoral system

As a thematic introduction to the U.S. Presidential elections, this section introduces the U.S. electoral system. This includes major terminology and procedures of the election process. This is a necessary prerequisite for your students to understand why it makes sense to focus on individual U.S. states and their role for the outcome of the election later in the project. However, keep in mind it is also easy to get lost in the technicalities of the electoral system, which is why we propose this systematic approach:

The section includes two task cycles:

- ★ TASK: Electing the U.S. President
- TASK: The Electoral System—Step by Step

★ TASK: Electing the U.S. President

The ★ TASK: Electing the U.S. President introduces the electoral system with two videos explaining the major procedures in a condensed way. As a systematic form of scaffolding, a PDF viewing guide is provided for each video. They can be filled out while viewing the videos and serve as a guide for the subsequent classroom discussion. (Alternatively, the two links below the task are the same videos in an interactive format.) Task outcomes can be documented by posting them in the Project Journal and by defining the core terminology in the glossary Election Lingo.

Tech tips

- *Individual web-access is not required here; show the videos in plenary mode and make enough copies of the viewing guides.*
- *Have students summarize the main contents for the Project Journal and glossary Election Lingo either during the lesson or as a homework assignment*

TASK: The Electoral System—Step by Step

As an extension, the TASK: The Electoral System—Step by Step asks students to analyze the individual phases of the election campaign with additional resources in group work. Students are supposed to form expert groups on the topics (1) primary elections, (2) political party conventions, (3) Election Day, (4) after the election. Based on their research, the expert groups present what happens during their phase, who is affected, and what the consequences are. They can present their results in a jigsaw puzzle or a brief poster presentation, or online in a forum discussion (in the Course Forum). Again, results can be documented in the Project Journal as a summary and in the glossary Election Lingo.

Conclude the task cycle with the QUIZ: Electing a U.S. President. If you log in on the website with your Google account, you can set up the quiz as a homework assignment and your students can save their results and compete against each other. More online quizzes are provided in the LINK: More quizzes...

Tech tips

- *If done online (computer lab or students' devices), this task invites students to conduct additional research online and document their findings on Moodle.*
- *Alternatively, make copies of the resources (all are available as PDF) and distribute them in class.*

QUIZ: The Electoral System

As a conclusion of this first chapter, have students create a quiz on the electoral system in which they can re-use their findings from both tasks above, e.g. from their expert groups. You can



collect quiz questions in class and read them out or make copies for each student. Alternatively, you can set up an online quiz in the activity QUIZ: The Electoral System. In this case, students can upload their questions and take the quiz individually while logged in. This quiz is easy to set up. Here's a brief tutorial:

- [SWAY: Quiz editing tutorial](#)

For political science classes, have students compare the electoral system of the U.S. and Germany.

Tech tips

- *Setting up the online quiz is easy and only requires a few preparatory steps: Complete these [preparations for creating a Moodle quiz \(click here\)](#).*
- *Further instructions on how your students can insert questions and answers can be found in the QUIZ: The Electoral System.*

Viewing guide: Electing a U.S. President

1. Watch the video “Electing a U.S. President in Plain English” (https://youtu.be/ok_VQ8I7g6I). Note down five things you learned while watching the video about how a U.S. President is elected and explain them to a partner.

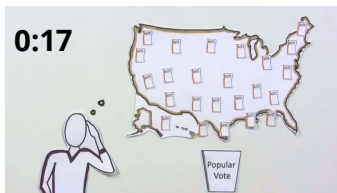
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2. Watch the video a second time. This time you should take notes about what the following screenshots display. Discuss your notes with a partner. Take turns describing the screenshots and complete your notes.



1

.....

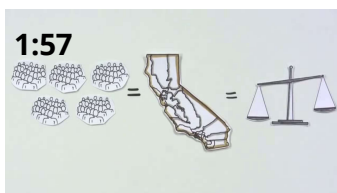
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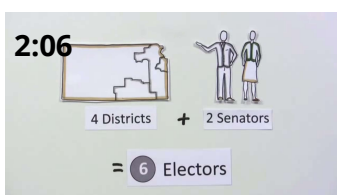
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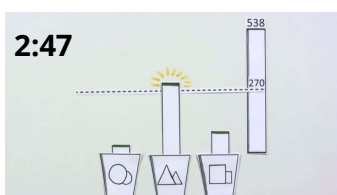
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Viewing Guide: Does Your Vote Count? The Electoral College Explained

Watch the video "Does Your Vote Count? The Electoral College Explained" (<http://youtu.be/W9H3gynN468>). Answer these questions on your own, once you have finished discuss and compare your answers with a partner. (The time stamps in parentheses show you where to look for the information or pause the video.)

1. How is the total number of electoral votes determined? (0:51)

.....

.....

.....

2. How is the number of electors for each state counted? (1:20)

.....

.....

.....

3. Why do some people argue that the U.S. system gives an unfair advantage to states with many electoral votes? (2:56)

.....

.....

.....

4. Why do others argue that the system protects small states and geographically large states with small populations? (3:33)

.....

.....

.....

5. What are the so-called 'safe states'? (3:55)

.....

.....

.....

6. What is meant by 'swing states'? (4:20)

.....

.....

.....

7. In order to be elected President of the U.S., a candidate needs to secure... (pick one)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> more donations than other opponents. | <input type="checkbox"/> the majority of the popular vote. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the majority of states across the U.S. | <input type="checkbox"/> the majority of the electoral vote. |

Explain your answer and give reasons (use the back of this sheet for notes).

.....

.....

.....



The Electoral System—Step by Step

In this task, you will...

- ✓ *focus on the individual steps a candidate has to take in order to become the President of the U.S.*
- ✓ *research one of these phases in expert groups; then brief your classmates on your findings;*
- ✓ *finally create a quiz about the electoral system.*

1. Group Research

Split up into expert groups focusing on one of the following stages of the election cycle (1-4) and research them using the provided texts.

Expert groups

1. *Primary elections (resource **1**, 5, 6)*
2. *Political party conventions resource **2**, 5, 6)*
3. *Election Day (resource **3**, 5, 6)*
4. *After the elections: Presidential Inauguration resource **4**, 5, 6)*

On the second page of this worksheet, you will find links to these resources. Read the provided texts/materials for your group (Review the resources/numbers in **bold** first; **[5]** and **[6]** may be useful for all groups).

Guiding questions

Discuss and answer the guiding questions together with your group members. Work closely with the text—if an aspect is unclear, find a passage in the text that addresses this issue.

- *What is your election stage? When during the election cycle does it take place?*
- *What exactly happens during this stage?*
- *Who is affected and what are the consequences of this stage?*

2. Presentation

Prepare to present your findings in the form of...

- *...a **poster** that will be on display next to your classmates' results for later reference and a short oral presentation (3 minutes).*
- *...a **jigsaw-puzzle discussion**, where everyone in your group will have to present your findings to other classmates.*

While listening, reading, or looking over your classmates' presentations, complete the grid about the phases of the election (see worksheet).

3. Electoral system quiz

Together with your classmates, produce a quiz on the electoral system. In each of the expert groups, formulate at least five short-answer or multiple-choice questions. Your teacher or a group of students will collect the quiz questions and add them to a quiz sheet. Alternatively, take turns in class and pose your questions.



 **RESOURCES FOR THIS TASK**

1. Primary Elections in the U.S.

IIP Digital / U.S. Department of State | <http://bit.ly/TAUS-primaries>

2. Frequently asked questions about U.S. political conventions

Share America | <http://bit.ly/TAUS-conventions>

3. Election Day: Democracy in Action

IIP Digital / U.S. Department of State | <http://bit.ly/TAUS-election-day>

4. What happens after elections?

IIP Digital / U.S. Department of State | <http://bit.ly/TAUS-transition>

5. Presidential Election Process

USA.gov | <https://www.usa.gov/election>

6. Ben's Guide to the U.S. Government (simple language)

U.S. Government Printing Office | <https://bensguide.gpo.gov/>



<i>Phase of election</i>	<i>What happens?</i>	<i>Who is affected?</i>	<i>What are the consequences?</i>



Section 2: The candidates

The focus in this section is on the candidates and their campaigns. This includes their personal and biographical background, their political campaigns and platforms, and their perception in the American public. Understanding who the candidates are and how their public persona is shaped in the election campaign is key to making an informed prediction about the election outcome at the end of the project. This section includes three areas with the following tasks.

This section includes the following tasks

- ★ TASK: Meet the Candidates
- TASK: Job Posting
- TASK: Campaign Ads
- TASK: The Candidates' Secret Playbook
- TASK: What are Political Cartoons?
- TASK: Writing a Political Cartoon Analysis
- TASK: Working with Political Cartoons Creatively

★ TASK: Meet the Candidates

In the ★ TASK: Meet the Candidates, students explore the biographic background of the candidates in a combined research and role-playing activity. In order to draw attention to the candidates' persona, students are supposed to stage a role play between news journalists, the candidates (optionally), and a family member. In addition to emphasizing the candidates' personal background, this approach directs attention towards the significance of the First Family in the U.S. context – an aspect that students can discuss and compare with the situation in Germany. In the research phase of this task, learners work with pre-selected online resources. In addition, they can access the candidates' social media outlets for condensed statements and talking points, or videos that can give them clues on typical gesture and mimicry.

During the role play, those students not performing should take notes on the content of the arguments, argumentative structure, language use, and overall performance. They could also provide feedback in the form of an 'analog Twitter wall' by writing short responses on paper slips and sticking them on the blackboard. In addition, the role play could be video-recorded for a subsequent analysis and reflection.

As an extension or alternative, the TASK: Job Posting involves a job interview for the position of "President of the United States" where your students get to know the necessary qualifications a candidate should bring with him or her.

Tech tips

- *Web-access is necessary in order to use the materials on the candidates and their families.*
- *Ask students to bring/use headphones since many videos are included.*

Campaign Ads

The TASK: Campaign Ads introduces students two one important component of political campaigns: the TV ads that air nationally or in specific areas in the U.S. These ads still reveal much about the campaign strategies and narratives of the candidates.

The TASK: Campaign Ads includes three steps: Students first review a small corpus of successful historic TV ads and deduce successful elements of these examples; they then analyze two TV ads of the current campaign with the help of the TV ad analysis chart that covers visual, aural, textual,



and narrative aspects of the ads; finally, students apply these analysis skills to campaign ads of their choice and share the results with their classmates.

A potential extension activity, the TASK: The Candidates' Secret Playbook introduces the aspect of narrative architecture of political ads. In a video featuring a former campaign strategist for President George W. Bush, campaign ads are likened to storytelling techniques, pointing out that political campaigns typically define the motives of threat, fear, opportunity, hope, villain, resolution, hero, and victim.

Tech tips

- *Have students complete the preparatory task at home and discuss their findings in class.*
- *In order to analyze exemplary TV ads, display them in plenary mode and show the ads several times, allowing students to fill out the TV ad analysis sheet one column at a time.*
- *Web-access is required for the subsequent individual analysis of campaign ads (at least one device per group).*
- *Ask students to use headphones.*

Understanding Political Cartoons

By introducing political cartoons and strategies for analysis and interpreting these texts, this last sub-section places the focus on how the candidates and their campaigns are perceived by the American public.

The TASK: What Are Political Cartoons? serves as an introduction to this text genre by asking students to create a small corpus of political cartoons about the ongoing campaign and look for common characteristics.

In a second step, the TASK: Writing a Political Cartoon Analysis scaffolds the process of analyzing political cartoons from the description of visual elements, to the critical analysis of persuasive techniques, to a final interpretation and evaluation of its communicative effect. In this task, students are asked to compose a written analysis.

Finally, the TASK: Working with Political Cartoons Creatively gives students a choice of three possible extensions to the cartoon analysis, namely preparing a lead discussion about a cartoon of their choice, making cross-cultural comparisons between German and U.S. cartoons, and conducting a cartoon case study on one election topic or one cartoonist.

As an extension activity, the TASK: Create a Political Meme shifts the focus to memes, i.e. a different area of visual culture relevant to the election. As opposed to political cartoons, memes are often created by users themselves, are less curated than political cartoons, commonly published and shared online, even more ephemeral, and follow their own specific genre conventions.

Tech tips

- *The preparatory research for this task can be given as a homework assignment.*
- *The subsequent analysis of political cartoons can be done offline with printouts of the cartoons or online with all students having access to electronic devices and the platform. In this case, you can have students comment on the corpus of political cartoons online either by just posting reactions below the cartoons or, for example, by suggesting captions or titles for the cartoons in this section.*



Meet the Candidates

In this task, you will...

- ✓ *familiarize yourself with the candidates' personal and biographical backgrounds through online research.*
- ✓ *prepare and act out an interview between news journalists and so-called 'character witnesses' for the candidates.*

1. Research the candidates' background

The aim of this task is to stage a TV interview with so-called character witnesses of the candidates in a role-play. You will be given a role card for one of the following roles to prepare:

Option 1: The candidates' family members

Dr. Jill Biden or Ivanka Trump

Option 2: The candidates' former classmates

Maggie C. Martins (for Biden) or Peter Ticktin (for Trump)

After completing your research, get together with the other students representing your role and brief each other on your findings. Support each other in selecting good talking points and arguments for the role-play.

2. Stage the role-play

Your teacher will assign each student a role and ask you to perform an interview together. This will be done spontaneously, so you do not know exactly which questions will be asked or the answers that will be given.

Interview setup

Interview 1: Two interviewers + character witness(es) for Joe Biden

Interview 2: Two interviewers + character witness(es) for Donald Trump

3. Extra: Record your roleplay on video

Record your role-play on video (for example using a tablet or smartphone). Watch the recordings together and discuss how well the roles were represented. Look for the following aspects:

Viewing questions:

- *How accurate and detailed was the information presented? Was it authentic or stereotypical?*
- *How convincing was the argumentation?*
- *How well did the students react to topics, arguments, and questions?*
- *How good was their English?*
- *How well were gestures and body language employed?*
- *Think about more criteria if necessary and add them to the list.*

4. Extra: Write a newspaper article

Based on the role-play, write an article for a local newspaper in your adopted state. Make use of the following template to write your report.



You are **Ivanka Trump**, Donald J. Trump's eldest daughter—ex-fashion model and now businesswoman, and mother. You know your father's political plans very well and defend them in public. However, you also know your father's private side and his character.

Start your research from the quick links provided on Teach About U.S. (<http://bit.ly/TAUS-meet-the-candidates>), but feel free to look up more! When browsing your candidate's profiles, you could focus on questions like:

- *What can you learn about your candidate's biography? Their personal, educational, and professional background?*
- *What is the relationship between the character witness and the candidate?*
- *How reliable is the character witness for what he/she says about the candidate?*
- *What is the character witness's role in the campaign?*



You are a high school teacher, college English professor, and former second lady of the U.S. You've been married for over 40 years and have provided advice to your husband throughout the year, politically and otherwise. Now, you are one of your husband's most vocal supporters.

You are **Dr. Jill Biden**, Joe Biden's wife.

Start your research from the quick links provided on Teach About U.S. (<http://bit.ly/TAUS-meet-the-candidates>), but feel free to look up more!. When browsing your candidate's profiles, you could focus on questions like:

- *What can you learn about your candidate's biography? Their personal, educational, and professional background?*
- *What is the relationship between the character witness and the candidate?*
- *How reliable is the character witness for what he/she says about the candidate?*
- *What is the character witness's role in the campaign?*



Wikimedia Commons / TMG PR (CC BY-SA 4.0)

You are Donald J. Trump's former classmate, **Peter Ticktin**. You and Trump went to New York Military Academy together for High School. During your senior High School year, Trump was your captain. You've known Trump for decades now and you can tell the public how you met him, what you think of him, and what type of person he is.

Start your research from the quick links provided on Teach About U.S. (<http://bit.ly/TAUS-meet-the-candidates>), but feel free to look up more!. When browsing your candidate's profiles, you could focus on questions like:

- *What can you learn about your candidate's biography? Their personal, educational, and professional background?*
- *What is the relationship between the character witness and the candidate?*
- *How reliable is the character witness for what he/she says about the candidate?*
- *What is the character witness's role in the campaign?*



You are Joe Biden's former classmate, **Maggie C. Martins**. Biden and you went together to Archmere Academy, a private school in Claymont, Delaware, and became childhood friends. You've known Joe Biden for decades now and you can tell the public how you met him, what he was like in school, and what type of person he has become.

Start your research from the quick links provided on Teach About U.S. (<http://bit.ly/TAUS-meet-the-candidates>), but feel free to look up more!. When browsing your candidate's profiles, you could focus on questions like:

- *What can you learn about your candidate's biography? Their personal, educational, and professional background?*
- *What is the relationship between the character witness and the candidate?*
- *How reliable is the character witness for what he/she says about the candidate?*
- *What is the character witness's role in the campaign?*

Date:

NEWS

Journalist:

Title:

Introduction:

Where was the interview?

Who was involved?

Why did they meet?

How did the interview go?

Which topics were covered?

Which reactions occurred?

Which arguments were made?

Pull-quote (a short quote from the interview to draw the readers' attention)



Conclusion:

What can be learned from the interview?

Which conflicts remain unresolved?

Outlook? What might happen next in the campaign?



Job Posting for U.S. President (task)

In this task, you will:

- ✓ *familiarize yourself with the candidates' personal and biographical backgrounds through online research*
- ✓ *prepare and act out an interview with the candidates using their background information.*

1. Choose key issues

As a class agrees on two or three key issues you would like to further explore. These key issues will be the issues discussed in an interview.

2. Research the candidate's background

You will be given a role either as a moderator or a candidate and one of the key issues you selected as a class to prepare. Imagine the candidates are applying for the job as U.S. President and the audience is a committee of people who choose which applicant is best for the job. In this activity, you have one opportunity to pitch yourself as the best candidate or as a moderator, one opportunity to help figure out who is best suited for the job. More information about the roles can be found here. Regardless of your role, it may also be helpful to have additional information about the job, consider the job description below to help you best prepare for the interview.

Moderator(s): As a moderator, it is your job to ask the candidates questions. Your task requires coming up with pre-determined questions for each candidate during the interview. Additionally, this role will require some spontaneity in formulating questions, although the candidate may share lots of information, they may also move on quickly to avoid a topic.

Candidates: Research your candidate's background with a focus on your key issue. While researching consider the following questions:

- *What experience do they have that could help them get the job as the U.S. President in regard to your key issue?*
- *Consider how the candidate has voted, spoken, or acted concerning the key issue in order to build a strong argument showing why they should be elected.*
- *What experience does the candidate have?*
- *When completing your research, get together with the other students representing your role and brief each other on your findings. Support each other in selecting good talking points and arguments for the role-play.*



JOB POSTING: U.S. President*

**includes posts as Head of State, Head of Government of the U.S., Commander in Chief of the armed forces*

Only applicants fulfilling these qualifications will be considered for the position:

- 35 years of age
- be a natural-born citizen
- Willing to travel
- Willing to move to Washington D.C. and live in the White House

Whom we are looking for:

- Experience in policy
- Experience in international affairs
- Extensive knowledge of key issues effecting the American people

Some responsibilities may include:

- Governing the United States of America
- Execute and enforce laws created by Congress
- Working on teams to accomplish national goals
- Managing staff in agencies such as the CIA and Environmental Protection Agency
- Managing diplomatic relationships with other nations, incl. signing international treaties, participating in international conventions, as well as
- Working as the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces.
- You'll learn a lot. You aren't stuck doing one task in one place here. Each Crew Member
- contributes to a WOW customer experience by participating in all aspects of the job.

Additional tasks and/or benefits of this job include the power to:

- Execute and enforce laws created by Congress.
- Elect fifteen people to be part of the presidential cabinet and 50 commissions (who are responsible for carrying out the day-to-day administration of the federal government)
- Sign legislation into law and/or veto bills enacted by Congress
- issue executive orders.
- extend pardons and clemencies for federal crimes, except in cases of impeachment.

What we offer:

- A part-time work from home opportunity: the President and the First Family live in the White House, the location of the Oval Office, and the offices of senior staff.
- When traveling by plane or helicopter, free use of Air Force One plane and Marine Corps helicopter, known as Marine One
- When traveling by car an armored limousine will be provided.
- An annual salary of \$400,000
- A competitive pension package
- A four-year contract, with the possibility to renew.

For further information regarding this position please take a look at our website:

<https://ourwhitehouse.org/help-wanted-president-of-the-united-states/#job>



Simple Rules to Speak More Formally

1. Use formal alternatives to common informal words.

Using informal words in a formal setting is a big “no-no.” You may not even know you are using informal language, but here is a shortlist of some of the most common informal words and their formal alternative. These words have been selected, because they may come up during your role-play.

Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal
rich	wealthy	talk about	discuss	say	express
good for	beneficial	at once	immediately	tough	difficult
help	assist/aid	deal with	manage	seem	appear
deal with	handle	bad	negative	hurt	damage
sorry	apologize	older	senior	show	demonstrate
at first	initially	go against	oppose	think of	conceive
but	however	a bit	a little	maybe	perhaps
go after	proceed	seem	appear	better	improved
a lot of	numerous	bring in	introduce	clear	transparent

2. Use the “could” / “would” / “am able” form

We often use the words ‘will’ and ‘can,’ but these words need to be upgraded in a formal setting. Consider the following more polite examples.

Informal	Formal
I <u>can</u> speak Spanish and German	I <u>am able to</u> speak Spanish and German.
I <u>want</u> to work here	I <u>would</u> like to work here
I <u>can</u> start on January 20th, 2021.	I <u>could</u> start on January 20th, 2021.

3. Avoid short forms

This means conjunctions, abbreviations, acronyms, and anything else in a shortened form. Here are some examples of informal abbreviations with their formal alternative.

Informal	Formal
I will happily work with the <u>CIA</u>	I would happily work with the <u>Central Intelligence Agency</u> .
I'd like to help <u>Americans</u>	I would like to help the <u>American people</u> .
<u>USA</u>	<u>United States of America</u>
<u>Dems</u>	<u>Democrats</u>



4. Use Formal Greetings and Farewells

Saying “Hey” or “Buh Bye!” is a completely acceptable greeting or farewell in English, but not in every setting. In a professional setting, it is important to use more respect. Here is a list of alternative greetings and farewells.

Greetings Good morning/afternoon/evening (Mr./Ms. ____)!

Hello (Mr./Ms. ____).

Thank you for inviting me here today.

A pleasure to meet you.

Nice to meet you.

Farewells Goodbye (Mr./Ms. ____).

Thank you for your time (Mr./Ms. ____).

It was great to talk with you.

I look forward to meeting you again!

Have a nice day/afternoon/evening/weekend!

*God bless you, God bless the United States of America. ***

** only presidential



Speaking Formally (matching game)

Below are a list of informal words with their formal alternative. To practice using these words you can cut them out as flashcards and play memory with them. We suggest once you have found a match, creating a sentence with the formal word and an additional sentence with the informal alternative.

rich	wealthy
good for	beneficial
help	assist/aid
deal with	handle
Sorry	apologize
at first	initially
but	however
go after	proceed
talk about	discuss
at once	immediately
deal with	manage
bad	negative
older	senior
go against	oppose
a bit	a little
seem	appear
bring in	introduce
talk about	discuss
at once	immediately
say	express
tough	difficult
seem	appear
hurt	damage
show	demonstrate
think of	conceive
maybe	perhaps
better	improved
clear	transparent



Campaign advertisement analysis chart

Pick two political TV ads from <https://bit.ly/3aRihd3>. Watch each ad four times, each time focusing on only one section in the chart. Fill in your notes.

Candidate:	Ad title:	(Month) Year:
<i>What do you see in the commercial? Describe the images or text.</i>		
<i>What do you hear in the commercial? Describe the voices, music, background sound effect.</i>		
<i>What do you think the commercial producers want to make you feel or think? What makes you say this?</i>		
<i>Do you think the ad is effective? Why or why not?</i>		

Candidate:	Ad title:	(Month) Year:
<i>What do you see in the commercial? Describe the images or text.</i>		
<i>What do you hear in the commercial? Describe the voices, music, background sound effect.</i>		
<i>What do you think the commercial producers want to make you feel or think? What makes you say this?</i>		
<i>Do you think the ad is effective? Why or why not?</i>		

Source: The New York Times / The Learning Network: <http://nyti.ms/1t56SyN>



Analyzing political ads of the 2020 campaign

Get together with a partner and take a look at political ads from the 2020 campaign. Visit Joe Biden's [<https://bit.ly/2YxkZiJ>] and Donald Trump's [<https://bit.ly/2QlrAZd>] YouTube channels and select one for each candidate. Analyze these commercials together using the "Television Commercial Analysis Sheet".

Candidate: <i>Donald Trump</i>		Ad title:	(Month) Year:
<i>What do you see in the commercial? Describe the images or text.</i>			
<i>What do you hear in the commercial? Describe the voices, music, background sound effect.</i>			
<i>What do you think the commercial producers want to make you feel or think? What makes you say this?</i>			
<i>Do you think the ad is effective? Why or why not?</i>			

Candidate: <i>Joe Biden</i>		Ad title:	(Month) Year:
<i>What do you see in the commercial? Describe the images or text.</i>			
<i>What do you hear in the commercial? Describe the voices, music, background sound effect.</i>			
<i>What do you think the commercial producers want to make you feel or think? What makes you say this?</i>			
<i>Do you think the ad is effective? Why or why not?</i>			



The Candidates' Secret Playbook

In this task, you will:

- ✓ analyze the candidate's 'secret playbook', that is, the techniques of storytelling they use to create a certain image of themselves and their opponent.

In order for campaign commercials to be effective, they need to follow a carefully crafted narrative structure. In other words, storytelling, for example, the way arguments are presented, or a candidate's biography is told, makes campaigns effective.

What's in the candidates' secret playbook?

Watch the video "How to Win an Election" by the NYTimes (<https://nyti.ms/3ligSAP>). Marc McKinnon, a former campaign strategist for both election campaigns of George W. Bush, talks about the power of storytelling in running successful political campaigns. Take notes on the following questions and finalize them by discussing with a partner.

1. What are the key components of a political advertisement, according to Mr. McKinnon?

.....

.....

.....

.....

2. What does Mr. McKinnon mean by "narrative architecture"? Specifically, what does he mean by:

- *threat*
- *fear*
- *opportunity*
- *hope*
- *villain*
- *resolution*
- *hero*
- *victim*

3. "There is no question that people can be seduced by a story." (7:22) – What does this mean for political campaigns? Do you agree with this statement? Discuss.

.....

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What Are Political Cartoons?

In this task, you will:

- ✓ *learn how the public sees the candidates – through the eyes and pens of political cartoonists;*
- ✓ *analyze what the tools of the cartoonist are – what techniques they use to create certain reactions in the reader;*
- ✓ *analyze political cartoons from the 2020 campaign and explore what images of the candidates exist in the U.S. public.*

So far, you have looked at how candidates run their campaigns and how they want to be viewed in public. You will now turn to how they are portrayed by others. One way to do this is to look at how the two candidates are characterized by political cartoons.

1. What is going on in the cartoon?

Take a look at the resources below. Pick one cartoon about the election and fill out the handout 'Analyzing political cartoons' by answering the two main questions:

- *What is going on in this political cartoon?*
- *What do you see that makes you say that?*

Take detailed notes. Then, ask yourself what more you can find in the cartoon and go back to the two questions and add notes. Repeat this until no new points come up.

2. What is the main idea of the cartoon?

Now that you are somewhat familiar with the cartoon, try to identify the main idea of the cartoon. (You can use the handout 'Identifying the main idea' or simply use the questions below.)

Guiding questions

- *To what political event or idea is the cartoon referring to?*
- *What key person(s) are targeted in the cartoon?*
- *How has the artist depicted these people? Is there an exaggeration in any way? Does the artist's portrayal of characters cast them in a negative or positive light?*
- *Identify and explain any symbolism incorporated in the cartoon.*
- *Identify and explain captions, labeling, titles, and/or speech bubbles. How do these contribute to the cartoon's message?*
- *What is the message of the cartoon? How is the artist trying to persuade the reader?*
- *What impact and/or reaction is the artist attempting to trigger?*



RESOURCES FOR THIS TASK

1. Daryl Cagle's website

<https://www.cagle.com/>

2. American Association of Editorial Cartoonists

<https://www.editorialcartoonists.com/>

3. U.S. News – Political cartoons

<https://www.usnews.com/cartoons/2020-election>



Analysing an Editorial Cartoon¹

The two questions below are intended to be cyclical. After you finish answering both, ask yourself, "What more can I find?" and go back to the same two questions. Continue the process until you have thoroughly investigated the cartoon. Use the back of this sheet if necessary.

Cartoonist:

Media Outlet:

Date:

PASTE CARTOON HERE

What's going on in this editorial cartoon?

What do you see that makes you say that?

Some elements and techniques you might notice include: visual symbols,² metaphors,³ exaggeration,⁴ distortion,⁵ stereotypes,⁶ labelling,⁷ analogy,⁸ and irony⁹

¹ Document adapted from The New York Times <https://bit.ly/3dzBXC2>, definitions by Cambridge dictionary <https://bit.ly/2yHUzRL>

² [illustrations] used to represent a quality or idea.

³ an expression, often found in literature, that describes a person or object by referring to something that is considered to have similar characteristics to that person or object.

⁴ the fact of making something seem larger, more important, better, or worse than it really is.

⁵ a change to the intended or true meaning of something.

⁶ a set idea that people have about what someone or something is like, especially an idea that is wrong.

⁷ a word or a phrase that is used to describe the characteristics or qualities of people, activities, or things, often in a way that is unfair

⁸ a comparison between things that have similar features, often used to help explain a principle or idea

⁹ the use of words that are the opposite of what you mean, as a way of being funny.



Identifying a Cartoon's Main Idea

Identifying the Main Idea

1. What political event or idea is the cartoon referring to?

2. What key person/people is/are targeted in the cartoon?

3. How has the artist depicted this/these person/people? Are they distorted in any way? Does the artist's portrayal of the character(s) cast them in a negative or positive light?

4. Identify and explain any symbols incorporated in the cartoon.

5. Identify and explain captions, labels, titles and/or speech bubbles. How do these contribute to the cartoon's message?

6. What is the message of the cartoon? How is the artist trying to persuade the reader?

7. What impact and/or reaction is the artist attempting to trigger?

Analyzing the Method Used by the Artist

1. How does the method used by the artist effectively convey a political message?

2. Identify and explain the use of:
 - a. Juxtaposition
 - b. Irony
 - c. Exaggeration



Writing a Political Cartoon Analysis

In this task, you will:

- ✓ analyze political cartoons from the 2020 campaign and discover what's actually in a cartoon;
- ✓ take a closer look at the message of cartoons as well as the cartoonist's toolkit, that is, the methods and tools a cartoonist deploys to evoke a certain image, feeling, or response.

1. Introduction

Select one cartoon from the online resources listed below. Identify its theme or topic. Also, take notes of any unclear or confusing aspects and initial questions you might have. Do a quick web-search to solve them.

2. A look at the cartoon's message

Next, think about your cartoon's message.

- *What is the cartoonist trying to say or convey with this cartoon?*
- *What is the cartoon's effect on you? That is, does it trigger any emotions, reactions, or questions?*

3. Critical analysis

Study the cartoon's visual elements, such as people, objects, setting, speech bubbles, and the caption or title (if provided). Are there any significant, unusual, or surprising aspects?

Now, focus on the persuasive techniques that the cartoonist might have applied. These are the most common techniques:

- *analogy*
- *irony*
- *labelling*
- *exaggeration*
- *juxtaposition*
- *symbolism*

What could be their function and what is their effect on your understanding of the cartoon? Take notes and discuss your findings with your partner or group. Do you all agree or are there any points of disagreement?

4. Writing a cartoon analysis

Use your notes to compose a written analysis of the cartoon (1-2 pages).

Follow the general structure of a cartoon analysis: introduction, description (of visual elements), critical analysis (of persuasive techniques), conclusion



RESOURCES FOR THIS TASK

1. Daryl Cagle's website

<https://www.cagle.com/>

2. American Association of Editorial Cartoonists

<https://www.editorialcartoonists.com/>

3. U.S. News – Political cartoons

<https://www.usnews.com/cartoons/2020-election>



Working with Political Cartoons Creatively

In this task, you will:

- ✓ *apply your skills for analyzing political cartoons in a creative context;*
- ✓ *prepare a lead-discussion with questions for your classmates, or*
- ✓ *compare how German and U.S. cartoons portray the same topic, or*
- ✓ *identify trends and common techniques or motives that occur in the depiction of the campaign issues.*

Alone or in small groups, choose one of the following extension activities. Discuss your findings in a class discussion. Illustrate your findings using one or more examples.

1. Prepare a lead discussion

Go to the Cagle Website (<https://www.cagle.com/>) and select another cartoon about your overall topic. Analyze it critically (as you did above) and prepare a lead discussion for your group or class. Prepare interesting questions and maybe also background materials to be used in class.

2. Make a cross-cultural comparison

Go to the German toonpool Website (<https://de.toonpool.com/>) and browse it for German political cartoons about your topic. Do German and American cartoons cover the topic differently? Such differences can include the use of language and idioms, references to popular culture and literature, personal character traits, a depiction of events or geography, portrayal of persons, and so on. Some of these aspects can be quite culturally specific, which means they might only be understood in one culture but not in another. You can present your results by focusing on one example of a cartoon.

3. Conduct a cartoon case study

Visit the Cagle Website and browse the cartoons addressing your topic. In this case study, you should look for trends and similarities, but also extreme examples. Select not more than five cartoons and analyze them for common features, such as motives, symbols, language features, and others. Document and present your results.



RESOURCES FOR THIS TASK

1. Daryl Cagle's website

<https://www.cagle.com/>

2. Toonpool

<https://de.toonpool.com/>



Section 3: Campaign issues

In this section, students explore the topics and issues that American voters are discussing in 2016. This includes getting an overview of the 2016 campaign issues, researching select issues in more detail, and finding out where the candidates stand on these issues.

Students research the issues by following major U.S. news media and create an issues mind map collaboratively in class. They analyze the candidates' websites and other sources and brief their classmates on central findings. Task support comes from the issues chart handout.

This section includes the following tasks:

- ★ TASK: The Campaign Issues and Where the Candidates Stand
- TASK: Biden's and Trump's Campaign Managers on the Ground
- TASK: Reaction to the Campaign Issues

★ TASK: The Campaign Issues and Where the Candidates Stand

This is the core task of this section. As an introduction, students select one or several U.S. news outlets and scan it for different campaign issues and topics being reported about in order to collect these findings in class (e.g., in the form of a mind map). They then split up into expert groups and select one of the issues for a more detailed analysis and, in a second step, where the two candidates stand on this issue. Task support is provided in the form of a selection of useful resources and the handout 'Issues Chart', which serves to structure and document the research findings. Finally, these findings can be collected in class, for example in the form of a gallery walk.

Tech tips

- *The first part of this task can be done at home.*
- *The group and research phase require web-access at least one device per group.*
- *Ask students to use headphones for videos.*
- *Document results 'offline' by creating posters from the issues charts or online in the Project Journal.*

TASK: Biden's and Trump's Campaign Managers on the Ground

The TASK: Biden's and Trump's Campaign Managers on the Ground is an oral extension to the preceding task in the form of a role play-like issues debate: Students slip into the roles of spokespeople of the two campaigns in their adopted states and defend their proposed policies. Before you begin, discuss the structure and practicalities of oral debates with your students. They should support each other in developing effective arguments and potential counter arguments. In this fishbowl setting, the debaters change fast, so every student should be prepared to 'jump in' if necessary. Alternatively, this task could be done in a video conference format or with pre-recorded statements by the different roles.

Tech tips

- *Individual web-access is required to access texts and videos introducing the characters.*
- *Ask students to bring headphones.*
- *As with the ★ TASK: Meet the Candidates, have your students video-record the debate for a subsequent analysis.*

TASK: Reaction to the Campaign Issues

The TASK: Reaction to the Campaign Issues is a written extension to the first task in this section. Here, students can choose between three options: writing a memo for their candidate's voluntary campaign aides, a press release endorsing the candidate on behalf of an NGO, or a news article '100 days after the Election'. In all three options, students need to apply their findings from the



previous task: They need to define the issue first and then lay out the candidate's proposed policies, quote their statements on the issues, and contextualize these arguments according to the targeted audience.

Tech tips

- *As an extension of the previous task, this task does not require individual web-access.*
- *Students could be asked to upload their texts into the database Learner Texts, so that they can comment on each other's texts and provide peer feedback.*



The Campaign Issues and Where the Candidates Stand

In this task, you will:

- ✓ learn about which issues and topics are discussed in the election campaign.
- ✓ specialize in individual issues like the economy or immigration and research them in U.S. news media.
- ✓ research the candidates' profiles to find out their stance on these issues.

1. Get a first overview

As a homework assignment, browse one or several of the news media sources to find out which topics or issues American voters are concerned about in the 2020 election race. (Note that these sources cover different parts of the political spectrum and thus might report different topics.)

QUICK LINKS

The New York Times - Election 2020 | <https://nyti.ms/3jbwrbU>
 The Washington Post - Election 2020 | <https://wapo.st/2CV02GW>
 CNN - Election 2020 | <https://cnn.it/34sithC>
 NPR Politics | <https://n.pr/3gueu6q>
 Wall Street Journal - Politics | <https://on.wsj.com/3gs8Vpg>
 Fox News - Elections 2020 | <https://fxn.ws/2QjgWSI>

2. Make a mind-map

Brainstorm and discuss in class the central campaign issues in 2020. Make a mind-map with all important issues and controversial challenges that are discussed in the campaign. (Select 5-6 of the most significant or interesting issues to investigate in more detail.)

3. Specialize in one issue

Form small expert groups and select one of the campaign issues. Your task is to determine the core issue and the candidates' stance on that issue. Discuss the issue you selected and take detailed notes. Try to answer the following questions.

Guiding questions

- *What is the overall issue and what are the most important sub-issues?*
- *Who is most affected by the issue, e.g. age, ethnicity, gender, region?*
- *What are the possible solutions?*
- *How do candidates' stances differ? Can you find important differences?*
- *Look up your issue in the sources given below and summarize the relevant information for your issues chart.*

QUICK LINKS

FiveThirtyEight—Election 2020 | <https://53eig.ht/2Qn4ykQ>
 KQED—Let's Talk About 2020 | <https://bit.ly/31qT0mY>

Summarize your findings and write them into the first three rows of the issues chart (see handout). Don't forget to include references to the sources consulted.



4. Where do the candidates stand on the issue?

Find out where the candidates stand on the issue. Distribute the two candidates among the group members (for example, two students for Trump, two for Biden). Start your research with the following links.

QUICK LINKS

General (both candidates)

On the Issues | <https://bit.ly/32qXfhk>

New York Times - Election 2020 | <https://nyti.ms/2YvXSW1>

Joe Biden

Campaign website | <https://joebiden.com/>

PBS: What does Joe Biden believe? | <https://to.pbs.org/3j97Lka>

Donald J. Trump

Campaign website | <https://www.donaldjtrump.com/>

PBS – Where President Trump Stands in the Issues in 2020 | <https://to.pbs.org/34pGDt8>

5. Gallery Walk or Presentation

Create a poster and display all posters in your classroom or brief your classmates on your group's research findings in a short oral presentation (3-5 minutes).



Where Do the Candidates Stand on the Campaign Issues?

Fill out this campaign issues chart with your group discussion and research. Make sure to include any sources you have used.

Present your results in class. Pin this chart on a wall together with the other groups' results.

Campaign issue:

What does the issue include?

How severe is it?

Who is affected?

Joe Biden's position:



Donald Trump's position:



Adapted from: *Citizens, not spectators*, see <http://www.civiced.org/>



Biden's and Trump's Campaign Managers on the Ground

In this task, you will:

- ✓ *stage a policy debate between spokespersons of the two candidates' campaigns in your state;*
- ✓ *debate three of the most pressing election issues in your adopted state.*

Setting

The election campaign is in full swing and your state's largest TV station is hosting a debate between the coordinators of Trump's and Biden's local campaign offices. The debate will cover the three most important campaign issues in your state (as indicated by a poll).

1. Introduction

In class, discuss which campaign issues and topics might be most important to your state's residents. Use the state fact sheet and the report of the 50 State Project for help. Decide on the three most important issues in your state.

Our state's three most pressing campaign issues:

Review your course's findings on where the candidates stand on specific issues from the TASK: The Campaign Issues and Where the Candidates Stand.

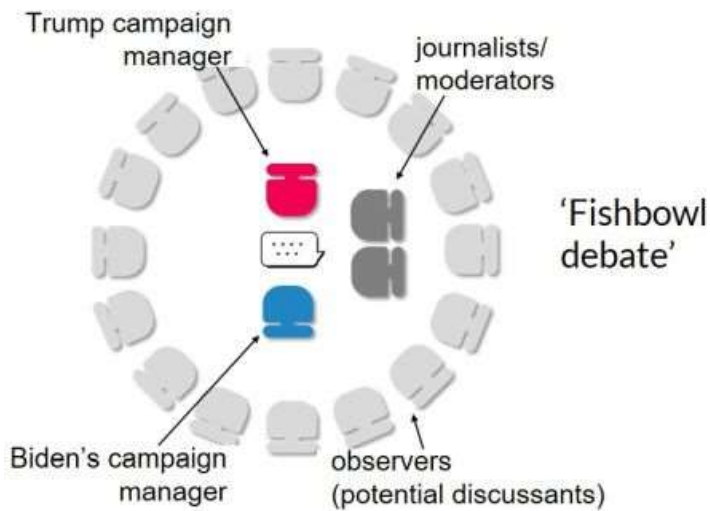
2. You will be assigned one of these roles:

- *two local journalists (who moderate the debate)*
- *state campaign coordinator for Joe Biden*
- *state campaign coordinator for Donald Trump*

Preparing your role

Meet with your candidate's other campaign coordinators and decide who will cover which of the three campaign issues (there might be more than one student covering the same issue for a candidate). Based on your knowledge of your state and your candidate's position on the three issues, prepare arguments for the debate. Also, think of potential arguments that your opponents might use during the debate and prepare counter-arguments. If you assume the role of the moderator, think of potential opening questions and questions to ask in case the debate stagnates.

3. The debate



The debate will follow the structure of a fishbowl discussion: You have an inner circle with the discussants and moderators and an outer circle of observers. The observers can switch seats with the discussants by tapping on their shoulder or being called upon by the moderators.

The debate will begin with the introduction by the moderators and then cover the three campaign topics, allowing both sides to state their arguments and counter-arguments. The moderators will decide whether to ask follow-up questions regarding the campaign issue or to move on to the next topic.

QUICK LINKS

The Biggest Issues Facing State Legislators in 2020

FiscalNote.com | <https://bit.ly/31qxsXy>

The Future of States and Localities

Governing.com | <https://bit.ly/3jgYLtv>



Reaction to the Campaign Issues

In this task, you will:

- ✓ *compose a written text addressing the candidates' positions on the campaign issues*
- ✓ *choose between writing a speech for a candidate, an endorsement on behalf of an organization, or a news article after the first 100 days of the Presidency.*

Choose one of the following writing activities and compose a text of not more than 400 words (or ask your teacher). Use your findings from the worksheet Biden's and Trump's Campaign Managers on the Ground.

1. Write a memo for your candidate's volunteers

You are a member of one of the candidate's teams of consultants for the presidential campaign. As part of the campaign, volunteers all over the country knock on doors and make phone calls to win over voters. Write a memo that outlines what these volunteers would say to make a case for your candidate. Argue why you believe it is important to vote for your candidate and refer to their position on key issues.

2. Endorse a candidate on behalf of an NGO

You are a spokesperson for an NGO (non-governmental organization) or activist group, for example fighting for environmental protection, gender or race equality, religious values, free trade, etc. Choose one group (fictional or real). Write a press release on behalf of your organization endorsing one of the two candidates rather than their opponent. Explain why, based on their positions on key issues, your organization thinks it is important to support them.

3. Write an article "100 Days after the Election"

You are a news journalist and are supposed to write an article about the first 100 days of the Presidency. The candidate you focus on has won the election and you report about what they have achieved so far regarding two to three key issues from the campaign. Describe what the candidate has been able to achieve so far and what they have announced to do in the near future with their government.

Writing tips

For all three options, make sure to introduce briefly what the issues, concrete challenges, and conflicts are that—according to the candidate—America is facing at the moment. Then, layout the candidates' positions on these issues. Feel free to use some of the previous talking points by the candidate as quotations.

Guiding questions

- *What does the candidate stand for?*
- *Why should people vote for them and not for the opponent?*
- *What will the candidate do should they win the election?*
- *What would be the consequences if the other candidate wins the election?*



Section 4: The election in our state

This is the most important section of the project as it contains the target task for your course. Students are supposed to adopt one U.S. state and make an informed prediction about how that state is most likely going to vote on Election Day.

This section includes the following tasks:

- ★ TASK: Predict the Election Outcome
- TASK: Participate in the Student Competition

★ TASK: Predict the Election Outcome

In the target task of this project, students are supposed to predict how their state is going to vote on Election Day. By definition, this task draws on insights and learning outcomes from all preceding task cycles. That is, understanding how the electoral system works, who the candidates are, what their platforms include, and how this is perceived in the national and state context are all potential sources for making the final prediction.

As a first step, students update their findings and hypotheses from the initial ★ TASK: Explore Your State. One core question here is whether your state is a swing state or a solid state. In both cases, one goal of this task is to find out precisely why this is the case, e.g. why the state supports one party or why it is divided. The major resource for the subsequent research phase is the state fact sheet. Here, have your students decide on the procedure and which of their state's aspects they wish to include in the prediction. Have them form expert teams, conduct research on their selected topics, and then bring these insights together to form the prediction.

Your course's prediction must be submitted by **October 25, 2020** in the [DATABASE: Ballot Box & Competition](#) in the Virtual Town Hall. If your students decide to participate in the student competition, then use this database for both your prediction and your competition entry.

Tech tips

- *You can make copies of the state fact sheet for each student.*
- *Reserve your school's computer lab for this phase or ask your students to bring their own devices in order to complete the research task.*

TASK: Participate in the Student Competition

This task is a continuation of the preceding task. If you and your students decide to participate in the U.S. Election Project student competition, you can integrate both tasks in this section. Here, students are asked to present their prediction creatively with their own product. Such a product can take a variety of forms, for example, a video, a song, a poster etc. In the task description, you will find a list of all possible types of products and the competition criteria. Most importantly, only one contribution per course is possible and in order to participate, one representative of the course (or you) must upload the product onto the Virtual Town Hall by **October 25, 2020**. The product must not violate any copyrights. (See task description for more info and the upload link.)

Tech tips

- *You can make copies of the State Fact Sheet for each student. It is advisable to reserve your school's computer lab for this phase or ask your students to bring their own devices in order to complete the research task.*
- *In the [Virtual Town Hall](#), in the section 'More Links, Tools, and Resources', you will find a selection of useful web applications for creating your competition entry, (video or presentation apps, online databases for copyright-free sounds and images, etc.).*



Predict the Election Outcome

In this task, you will:

- ✓ *focus on your adopted U.S. state and become an expert on what makes your state's population 'tick' politically;*
- ✓ *research the state's demographics, local media, political leaders, culture, and voting history;*
- ✓ *based on your research, make an informed prediction about your state's vote on Election Day.*

In 2020, as in most election cycles, the race for President of the U.S. is going to be neck-and-neck. Take a closer look at your adopted U.S. state and become its 'virtual citizen'—see who lives there, what the population's economic situation is, what they read and watch to learn about the election, and how they will vote on Election Day.

1. Class discussion

- *Has your state voted solidly for one of the two parties in the past or is it rather a swing state?*
- *Is your state the traditional 'home state' of any of the two candidates?*
- *What do the state's demographics tell you about the people living there?*
- *What is the current economic situation in your state?*
- *Are some campaign issues more (or less) important in your state than elsewhere in the U.S.?*
- *How do local news media report on the election campaign?*

Based on the information you have reviewed so far, decide whether your state will most likely vote for Democrats or Republicans, or whether it is unclear.

2. Group research and presentation

Now, research the reasons why you think your state is going to vote one way or another. In other words, why would your state prefer one candidate/party over the other

a. Research

Form expert groups, for example on state history, local media, elected representatives, economy, education, etc., and conduct research on these topics starting from the third page of the State Fact Sheet. Be prepared to briefly present your findings to your classmates.

b. Presentation

Each group presents their findings in class (decide on an appropriate procedure). When all findings are shared, continue the discussion from above (part 1) and finalize the prediction for your state's election outcome.

3. Submit your prediction

Submit your class's prediction for the election outcome in your state via the DATABASE: Ballot box & competition in the Virtual Town Hall. When submitting your results, provide the most significant reasons for your projected outcome in a rationale of not more than 100 words. If you wish to complete the TASK: Participate in the Student Competition and submit your own product to the student competition, please wait and submit your prediction and product together.



RESOURCES FOR THIS TASK

State fact sheet

<http://bit.ly/TAUS-downloads> (see under 'U.S. Election Project')



U.S. Embassy School Election Project 2020: School Competition

Design a creative product

In addition to the prediction, participate in the student competition by producing and submitting a creative product that should illustrate your vote.

Possible types of products

- collage/painting
- political cartoon or comic
- photo/snapshot
- film (do not exceed 60 seconds)
- jingle, song, or poem (do not exceed 60 seconds)
- website or blog
- newspaper page
- a set of three to five campaign materials, e.g. for an election party for your candidate (items may include flyer, button, poster, bumper sticker, etc.)

Competition criteria

Your product should:

- be in English or bilingual (German and English);
- focus on your state (for example, its culture, socioeconomic factors, demographics, local media, etc.) or ideally apply the unique perspective of the citizens in your state;
- reference your research findings;
- be submitted on behalf of your whole course (multiple entries per course are not possible)
- be submitted via the DATABASE: Ballot box & competition in the Virtual Town Hall.

The deadline for your competition entries is Sunday, October 25, 2020, 23:59 CEST.

Please note

Materials and contents of your product may not infringe upon copyright law. You may use copyright-free music and visual materials and must attribute the sources (see declaration of authorship when submitting in the DATABASE: Ballot box & competition; a list of copyright-free resources can be found in the Virtual Town Hall in the section 'More links, tools, and resources'). Contributions that do not meet these criteria will not be accepted for the competition.

Representatives of participating courses will have the opportunity to present their prediction at a concluding student meeting organized by the U.S. Embassy or Consulates and their partners.



Web tools, apps, and resources for your competition entry

Word clouds

Wordle: <http://www.wordle.net/> word cloud

WordArt: <https://wordart.com/> word cloud

Voice, sound, podcast

Create a voki: <http://www.voki.com/site/create> animated videos

Podcasts

Podomatic | <http://www.podomatic.com/directory> podcasting

Learn how to podcast | <http://podcastanswerman.com/learn-how-to-podcast/>

Spreaker | <http://www.spreaker.com/> podcasting

Create MP3-Files

Audacity: <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/> audio recording/editing

VoiceThreads

VoiceThread: <http://voicethread.com/> multimedia presentation video

Presentation and visualization

Prezi | <https://prezi.com/> interactive presentations

Slideshare: <https://www.slideshare.net/> online slideshow

Google slides: <https://www.google.com/slides/> online slideshow

Glogster | <https://edu.glogster.com/> multimedia posters

Visual.ly | <https://visual.ly/> infographics visualizations

Smilebox: <https://www.smilebox.com/>

Calaméo: <http://www.calameo.com/> online publishing

Timelines, puzzles, brainstorming

Dipity | <http://www.dipity.com/> timeline

Timetoast | <https://www.timetoast.com/> timeline

Padlet | <https://padlet.com/> online notice board

JigsawPlanet | <http://www.jigsawplanet.com/> online puzzles

Online comics and movies

Bitmoji | <https://www.bitmoji.com/> online comic

Make belief comix | <https://www.makebeliefscomix.com/> online comic

Pixton | <https://www.pixton.com/> online comic

Vyond | <https://www.vyond.com/> online comic

Dvolver Moviemaker | <http://www.dvolver.com/moviemaker/make.html> video editing

Royalty-free resources

Free images and stock photos

Unsplash: <https://unsplash.com/>

Freepik: <https://www.freepik.com/>

Freeimages: <https://www.freeimages.com/>

Free stock videos

Dareful: <https://www.dareful.com/>

Pexels: <https://www.pexels.com/>

Pixabay: <https://pixabay.com/>



Teach About U.S. is a joint project of the U.S. Embassy Berlin, Leuphana University Lüneburg, and LIFE e.V., in cooperation with the German-American Institutes.



Participating teachers in the U.S. Embassy School Election Project 2016 (Image: U.S. Embassy Berlin)





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?



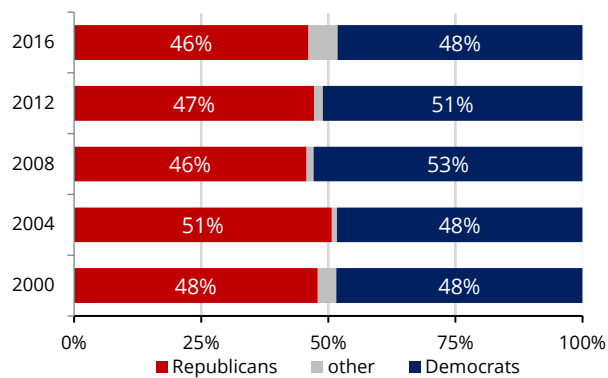
Voting history ^[2] ^[7]

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.

i **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]



i **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 how 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:



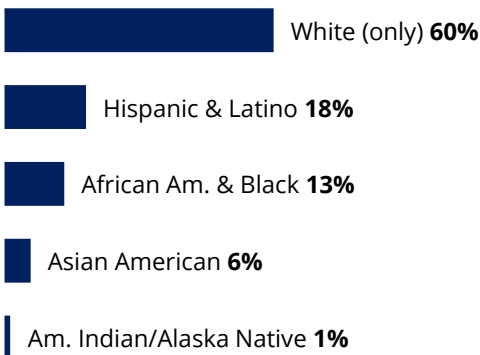
i **Voter turnout 2016** This is a measure to measure how many citizens in your state have participated in the last presidential election. This information is based on the number of voting-eligible population (VEP) who cast their vote in 2016. VEP represents an estimate of persons eligible to vote regardless 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]



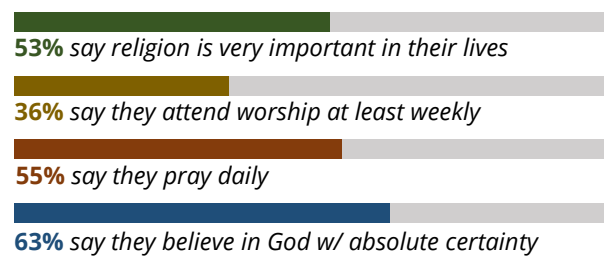
i **Ethnicity** The U.S. Census Bureau collects race data in accordance with guidelines provided by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and these data are based on self-identification. The racial categories included in the census

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]



i **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)

i **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](#).

i **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.

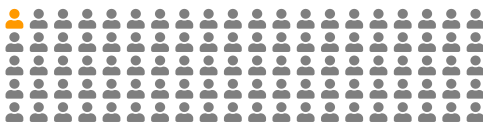
+ For more details on [definitions](#) or labor statistics, visit the [U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics](#).



Income inequality ^[6]

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

1% of the families



21% of the income



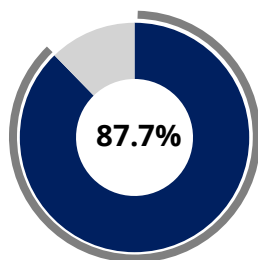
i **Income inequality** is portrayed by the share of the overall income going to the top 1% of the population. Income inequality trends vary from state to state, and even within states. The higher this figure is in a state, the higher income inequality is considered there. Nationally, a pattern has emerged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



Education ^[4]

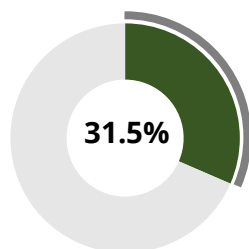
High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old



Bachelor's degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old



i **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



<https://democrats.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/democrats/>

<https://bit.ly/2WW6CVf>

<https://twitter.com/thedemocrats>

Republican Party

<https://www.gop.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/GOP>

<https://bit.ly/3bAdRGk>

<https://twitter.com/GOP>

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Sources: 1. State map: [Wikimedia Commons](#); 2. Voting history text: adapted from [270towin.com](#); 3. U.S. election history: [David Leip's Election Atlas](#); 4. Ethnicity, economy, and education data: [U.S. Census Bureau](#); 5. Religion data: [Pew poll: How religious is your state?](#); 6. Wealth and income inequality data: [Economic Policy Institute – The Unequal States of America](#); 7. United States Electoral College: adapted from [Wikipedia](#); 8. [National Archives](#).



Alaska (AK) (3 votes)

Capital: **Juneau**
 Area: **663,268 sq mi. / 1,717,856 sq km**
 Population: **710,249**
 Nickname: **"The Last Frontier"**
 State motto: **"North to the Future"**
 Governor: **Mike Dunleavy (R)**
 U.S. Senators: **Lisa Murkowski (R),
 Dan Sullivan (R)**



How will your state 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]

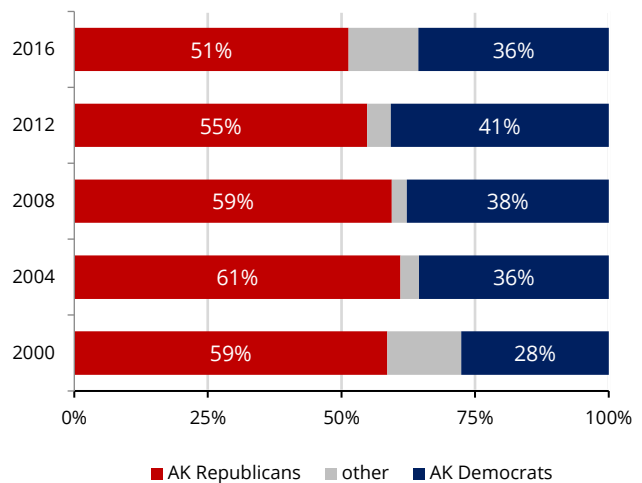
Alaska, the 49th state, entered the Union in January 1959, participating in its first presidential election in 1960.

Since then, Alaska has voted reliably Republican, only going “blue” for Lyndon Johnson’s rout of Barry Goldwater in 1964. The last two elections have seen Republican nominees Mitt Romney and Donald Trump win the state by just under 15%.

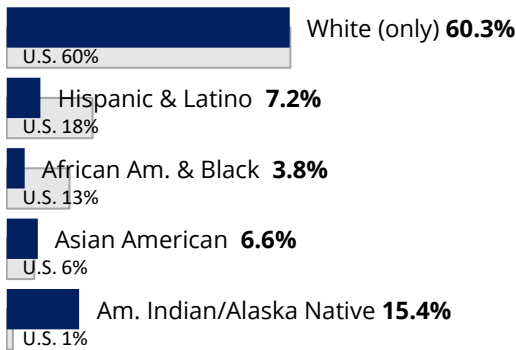
Voter turnout 2016:



Election results in Alaska (2000–2016): ^[3]



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

AK is tied for **44th** most religious state overall

45% of adults in AK are “highly religious,” based on an overall index

Religious profile of Alaska

41% (47th) say religion is very important in their lives

30% (39th) say they attend worship at least weekly

49% (38th) say they pray daily

55% (42nd) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

10.5% (42nd highest) poverty rate

6.4% (51st lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **11% of all the income in AK.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



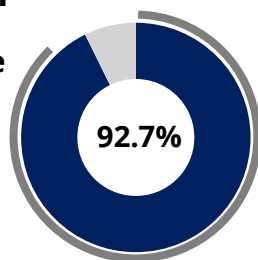
11% of the income



Education ^[4]

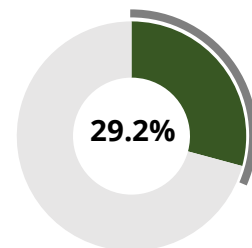
High school degree or higher
persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 87.7%



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

U.S. average: 31.5%



More information on Alaska*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <http://www.alaska.gov/>



Government information:

Governor: <https://gov.alaska.gov>

State and Local Government on The Net: <http://www.statelocalgov.net/>

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Election 2020

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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



<http://www.alaskademocrats.org/>



<http://www.facebook.com/AlaskaDemocrats>



no official site



<https://twitter.com/alaskademocrats>

Republican Party

<https://alaskagop.net>

<http://bit.ly/AlaskaGOP>

no official site

<https://twitter.com/akgop>

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Arizona (AZ) (11 votes)

Capital:	Phoenix
Area:	113,990 sq mi. / 295,234 sq km
Population:	7,171,646
Nickname:	"The Grand Canyon State"
State motto:	"God enriches"
Governor:	Doug Ducey (R)
U.S. Senators:	Kyrsten Sinema (D), Martha McSally (R)



How will your state 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.

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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?

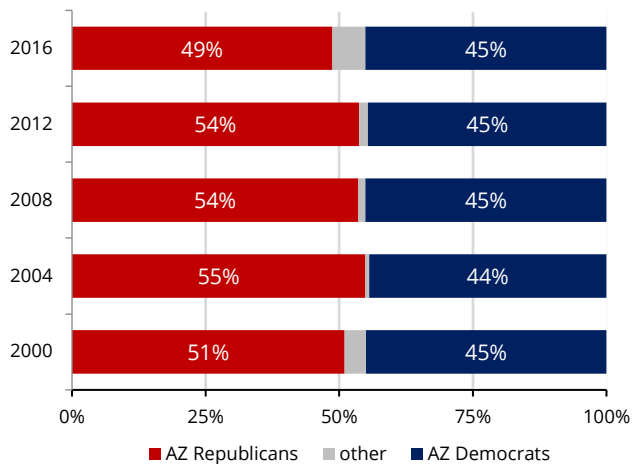


Voting history ^[2]

Arizona has traditionally gone Republican in presidential elections.

Except for Bill Clinton’s win in 1996, Arizona has voted Republican since 1952. Mitt Romney beat Barack Obama by about nine points in 2012, roughly the same margin-of-victory as that of home state Senator John McCain in 2008. The 2016 election was much more competitive; Donald Trump prevailed by 3.5%. The Grand Canyon State’s population has grown rapidly in the past half century, and its number of electoral votes has almost tripled from four in 1960. Population trends this decade have the Grand Canyon State on track to earn another one after the 2020 presidential election. If that happens, it will be the 7th consecutive Census where Arizona has gained at least one electoral vote.

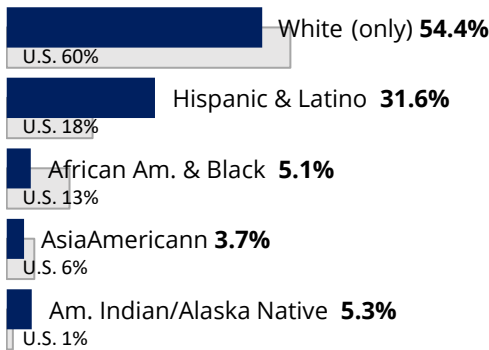
Election results in Arizona (2000–2016):^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

AZ is tied for 27th most religious state overall

53% of adults in AZ are “highly religious,” based on an overall index

Religious profile of Arizona

51% (24th) say religion is very important in their lives

34% (28th) say they attend worship at least weekly

55% (19th) say they pray daily

62% (28th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

15.7% (10th highest) poverty rate

4.9% (47th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **18 % of all the income in AZ.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



18% of the income

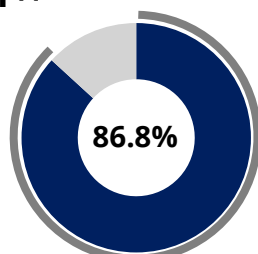


Education ^[4]

High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

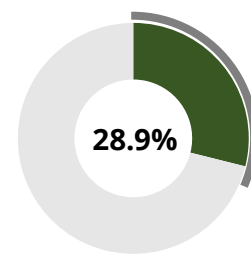
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor’s degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 31.5%



More information on Arizona



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <https://az.gov/>



Government information:

Governor: <https://azgovernor.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



<http://www.azdem.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/AZDemParty>

no official site

<https://twitter.com/azdemparty>

Republican Party

<http://www.arizonagop.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/ArizonaGOP>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/AZGOPcomm>

<https://twitter.com/azgop>

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Arkansas (AR) (6 votes)

Capital: **Little Rock**
 Area: **53,180 sq mi. / 137,733 sq km**
 Population: **3,013,825**
 Nickname: **"The Natural State"**
 State motto: **"The People Rule"**
 Governor: **Asa Hutchinson (R)**
 U.S. Senators: **John Boozman (R)**
 Tom Cotton (R)



How will your state 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?

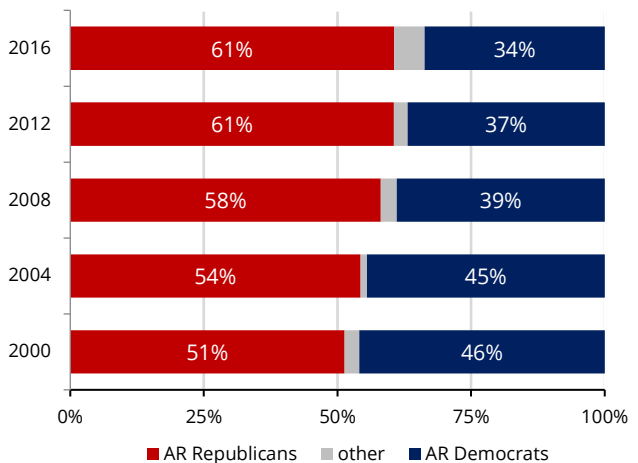


Voting history ^[2]

Arkansas joined the Union as the 25th state in June 1836.

Arkansas voted Democratic over a span of 23 consecutive elections from Reconstruction until 1964. Like many southern states, this changed with opposition to civil rights legislation. In 1968, the state sided with third-party candidate George Wallace. Since then, it has gone Republican in nine of twelve elections, voting Democratic twice for fellow Arkansan Bill Clinton and once for Jimmy Carter. In recent elections, it has become a solidly red state, with the Republican margin of victory increasing in each of the last four elections. In 2016, Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton by almost 27 points.

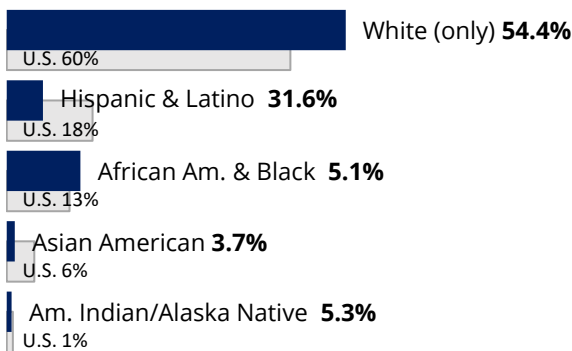
Election results in Arkansas (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

AR is tied for 5th most religious state overall

70% of adults in AR are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Arkansas

70% (5th) say religion is very important in their lives

41% (12th) say they attend worship at least weekly

65% (8th) say they pray daily

77% (4th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

17.1% (6th highest) poverty rate

3.5% (23rd lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **19% of all the income in AR.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



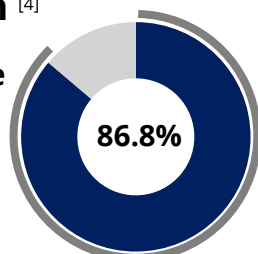
19% of the income



Education ^[4]

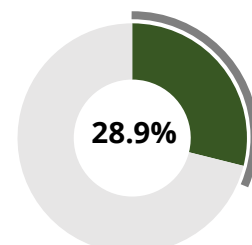
High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old
U.S. average: 31.5%





More information on Arkansas*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: www.arkansas.gov



Government information:

Governor: <https://governor.arkansas.gov>

State and Local Government on The Net: <http://www.statelocalgov.net/>

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Election 2020

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OfficialUSA.com – Local TV stations:

<http://www.officialusa.com/stateguides/media/television/states.html>



Democrats and Republicans in the state

Democratic Party



<https://www.arkdems.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/ArkDems>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/arkdems567>

<https://twitter.com/arkdems>

Republican Party

<http://www.arkansasgop.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/arkansasGOP>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/GOParkansas>

<https://twitter.com/argop>

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California (CA) (55 votes)

Capital:	Sacramento
Area:	163,696 sq mi. / 423,970 sq km
Population:	39,557,045
Nickname:	"The Golden State"
State motto:	"Eureka"
Governor:	Gavin Newsom (D)
U.S. Senators:	Dianne Feinstein (D), Kamala Harris (D)



How will your state 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.

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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?

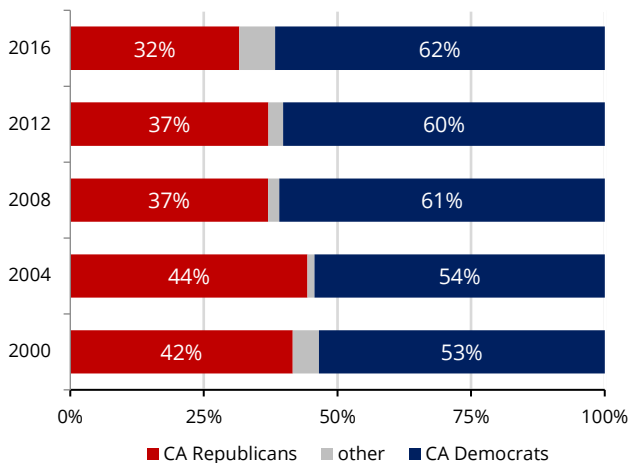


Voting history ^[2]

With the exception of 1920 and 2010, California has gained electoral votes from every census since its founding.

In 1972, California reached 45 electoral votes, passing New York for most in the country. With 55 currently, the state has more than 10% of all available electoral votes. While growth in the Latino population has helped make California a reliably Democratic state today, this was not always the case. In fact, from 1952 through 1988, Republicans won every presidential election except the landslide loss of Barry Goldwater in 1964. In 2016, Hillary Clinton won the state by 30 points over Donald Trump. This marks the third consecutive election that the Democratic nominee has surpassed 60% in the state.

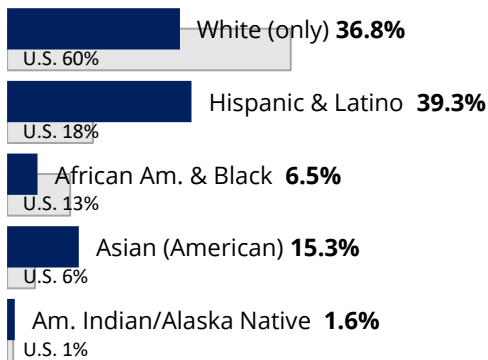
Election results in California (2000–2016):^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



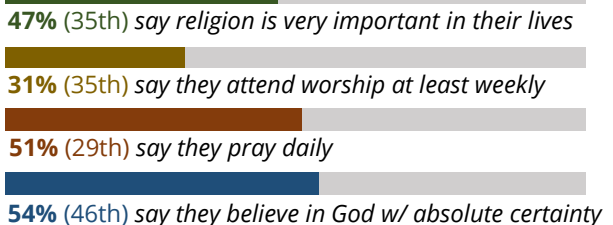
(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

CA is tied for 35th most religious state overall

49% of adults in CA are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of California



Economy ^[4]

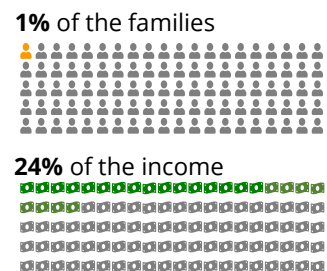
14.0% (20th highest) poverty rate

4.2% (41st lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **24% of all the income in CA.**

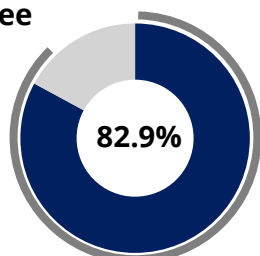
(U.S. average: 21%)



Education ^[4]

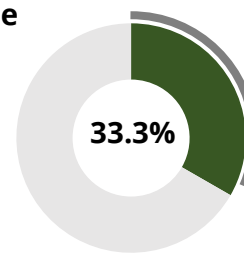
High school degree or higher
persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 87.7%



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

U.S. average: 31.5%



More information on California*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: www.ca.gov/



Government information:

Governor: <https://www.gov.ca.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



<http://www.cadem.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/cadems>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/cademorg>

https://twitter.com/ca_dem

Republican Party

<http://www.cagop.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/CARepublicanParty>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/CRPTV>

<https://twitter.com/cagop>

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Colorado (CO) (9 votes)

Capital: **Denver**
 Area: **104,094 sq mi. / 269,837 sq km**
 Population: **5,695,564**
 Nickname: **"The Centennial State"**
 State motto: **"Nothing without Providence"**
 Governor: **Jared Polis (D)**
 U.S. Senators: **Cory Gardner (R),
 Michael Bennet (D)**



How will your state 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

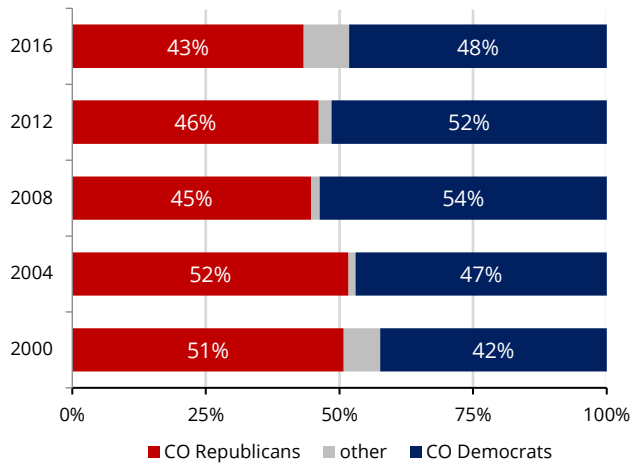
How many people graduate from high school in your state? How many have a college degree?

Voting history ^[2]

Colorado gained statehood in August 1876.

After voting primarily Republican from 1920-2004, the state has voted with the Democrats in the last three presidential elections, including Hillary Clinton's five-point margin in 2016. That election saw one of Colorado's electors attempt to vote for Bernie Sanders. That vote was disallowed and the elector was replaced. Surrounded by deeply red states (except for New Mexico to the south), the state is today one of the few battlegrounds in the Western half of the country. Colorado's population has been growing, and it now has 50% more electoral votes than it did in the 1960s. Based on population trends at the end of 2016, the state may gain a 10th electoral vote after the 2020 presidential election.

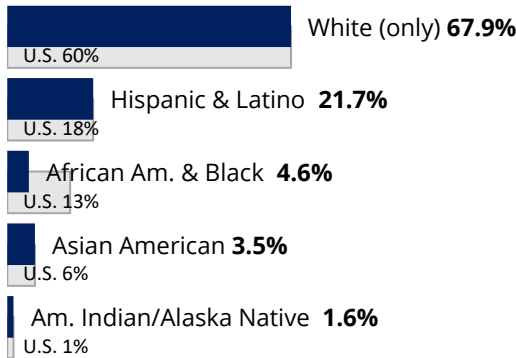
Election results in Colorado (2000-2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

CO is tied for **41st** most religious state overall

47% of adults in CO are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Colorado

47% (35th) say religion is very important in their lives

30% (39th) say they attend worship at least weekly

50% (35th) say they pray daily

55% (42nd) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

10.7% (40th highest) poverty rate

3.0% (11th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **17% of all the income in CO.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



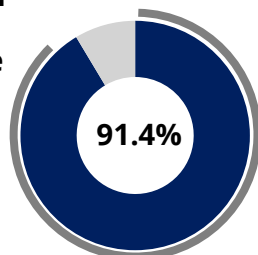
17% of the income



Education ^[4]

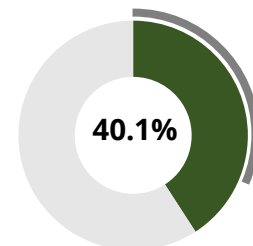
High school degree or higher
persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 87.7%



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

U.S. average: 31.5%



More information on Colorado



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <http://www.colorado.gov/>



Government information:

Governor: <http://www.colorado.gov/governor/>

State and Local Government on The Net: <http://www.statelocalgov.net/>

U.S. Senators from the state: <http://www.senate.gov/senators/contact/>

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Election 2020

270towin.com: <http://www.270towin.com/states>

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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



<http://www.coloradodems.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/coloradodems>

<http://www.youtube.com/coloradodems>

<http://twitter.com/coloradodems>

Republican Party

<http://www.cologop.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/cologop>

<http://www.youtube.com/ColoGOP>

<http://twitter.com/ColoGOP>

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Connecticut (CT) (7 votes)

Capital: **Hartford**
 Area: **5,567 sq mi. / 14,357 sq km**
 Population: **3,572,665**
 Nickname: **"The Constitution State"**
 State motto: **"He Who Transplanted Still Sustains"**
 Governor: **Ned Lamont (D)**
 U.S. Senators: **Richard Blumenthal (D),
 Christopher S Murphy (D)**



How will your state 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]

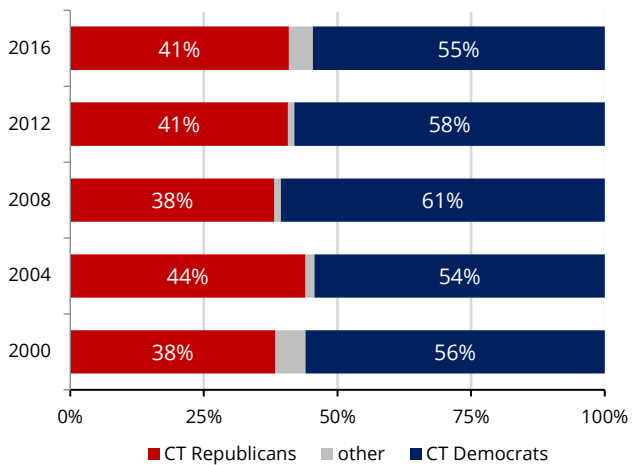
Connecticut, one of the 13 original colonies, joined the Union in January 1788 and has participated in all 58 presidential elections.

The state maintained eight electoral votes from the 1930s through 2000, but dropped back to seven in 2004. Connecticut has gone through periods where it primarily voted Republican. However, it has gone Democrat for the last seven elections, and is not currently considered a battleground state. In 2016, Hillary Clinton defeated Donald Trump by about 13.5%.

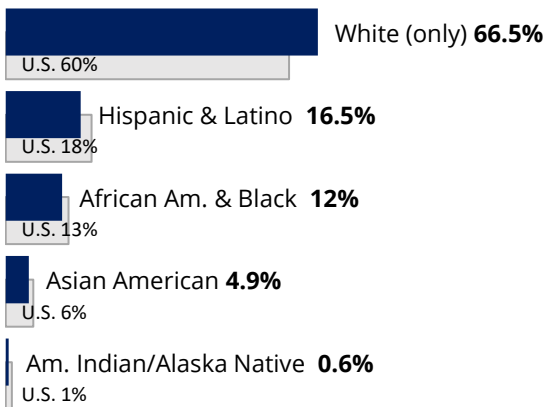
Voter turnout 2016:



Election results in Connecticut (2000–



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

CT is the 47th most religious state overall

43% of adults in CT are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Connecticut

42% (46th) say religion is very important in their lives

28% (44th) say they attend worship at least weekly

47% (43rd) say they pray daily

54% (46th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

9.8% (48th highest) poverty rate

3.7% (31st lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The top 1% take home 27% of all the income in CT.

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



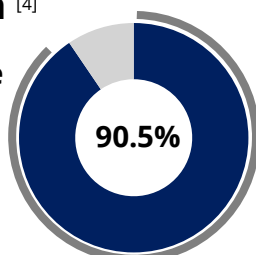
27% of the income



Education ^[4]

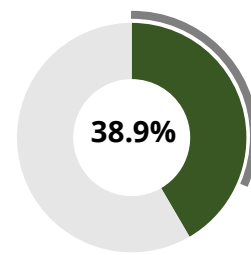
High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old
U.S. average: 31.5%



More information on Connecticut*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <https://portal.ct.gov>



Government information:

Governor: <https://portal.ct.gov/governor>

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



<http://www.ctdems.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/ctdemocrats>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/cthousedemocrats>

<https://twitter.com/ctdems>

Republican Party

<http://www.ct.gop/>

<http://www.facebook.com/ctGOP>

<http://bit.ly/ctgop>

<https://twitter.com/ctgop>

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Delaware (DE) (3 votes)

Capital: **Dover**
 Area: **1,982 sq mi. / 5,130 sq km**
 Population: **945,934**
 Nickname: **"The First State"**
 State motto: **"Liberty and Independence"**
 Governor: **John Carney (D)**
 U.S. Senators: **Tom Carper (D),
 Chris Coons (D)**



How will your state 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?

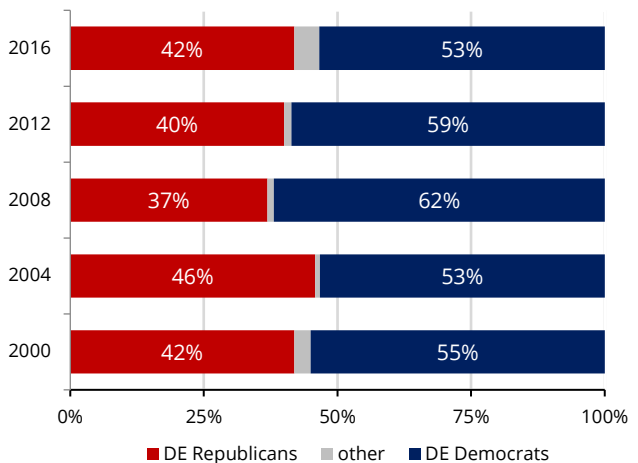


Voting history ^[2]

Delaware has participated in all 58 presidential elections.

For 56 of those elections, the state has had three electoral votes – it contributed four in 1812 and 1820. The fact that Delaware sided with the Republicans throughout most of the 20th century can be partially attributed to the presence of the DuPont Company and the Du Pont family and their effect on state politics. That influence waned toward the end of the century as Delaware’s businesses became more diversified. Like many northeastern states, Delaware has voted Democratic in the last seven elections, with Hillary Clinton beating Donald Trump by 11.5 points in 2016. This margin was down from the previous two elections, when the state's long-time Senator, Joe Biden ran for Vice-President on the Democratic ticket.

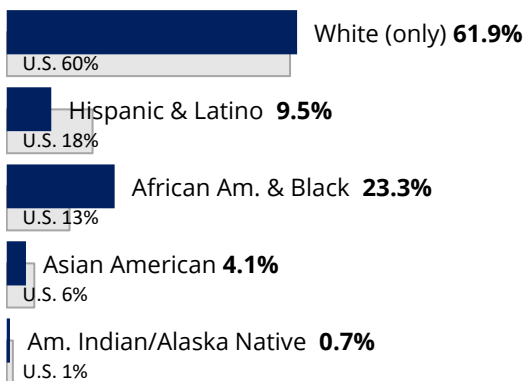
Election results in Delaware (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

DE is the **32nd** most religious state overall

52% of adults in DE are “highly religious,” based on an overall index

Religious profile of Delaware

46% (37th) say religion is very important in their lives

34% (28th) say they attend worship at least weekly

49% (38th) say they pray daily

61% (31st) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

11.6% (34th highest) poverty rate

3.2% (14th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **15% of all the income in DE.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



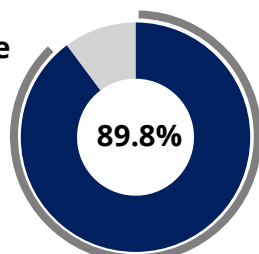
15% of the income



Education ^[4]

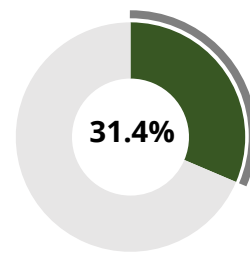
High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor’s degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old
U.S. average: 31.5%



More information on Delaware*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <https://delaware.gov>



Government information:

Governor: <https://governor.delaware.gov>

State and Local Government on The Net: <http://www.statelocalgov.net/>

U.S. Senators from the state: <http://www.senate.gov/senators/contact/>

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Election 2020

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Democrats and Republicans in the state

Democratic Party



<http://www.deldems.org/>

<http://bit.ly/DelDems>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/Deldems>

<https://twitter.com/deldems>

Republican Party

<http://www.delawaregop.com/>

<http://bit.ly/DelawareGOP>

<http://bit.ly/DelGOP>

<https://twitter.com/deGOP>

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District of Columbia [Washington D.C.] (DC) (3 votes)

Capital:	District of Columbia (D.C.)
Area:	68.34 sq mi. / 177 sq km
Population:	702,445
Nickname:	"Capital City", "The District"
State motto:	"Justice to all"
Mayor:	Muriel Bowser (D)
U.S. House:	Eleanor Holmes Norton (D)



How will your state vote?

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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?

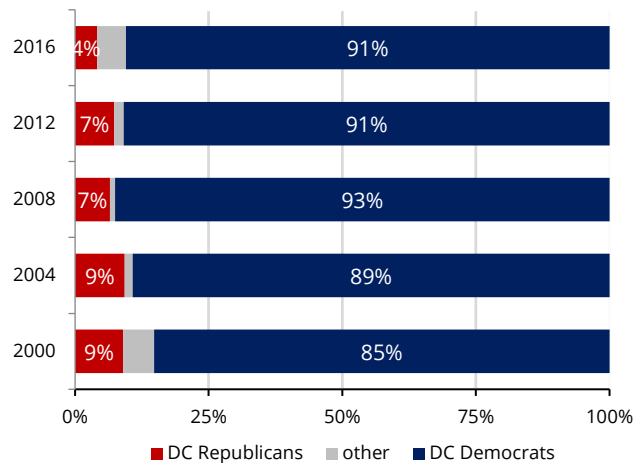


Voting history ^[2]

The District of Columbia (D.C.) is the nation's capital.

It has no senators or representatives in Congress. Instead, D.C. sends a delegate to the House of Representatives with essentially no voting privileges. Thus, Washington D.C. is the only non-state to be enfranchised for presidential elections. It gained its three electoral votes through the ratification of the 23rd Amendment in 1961. That amendment gave D.C. a share of electors proportional to its population (like the states), but limited it to no more electors than the least populous state. This meant three electoral votes in 1964, and that number has not changed since. The vote here has always been heavily Democratic; no Republican has ever won an electoral vote. In 2016, Clinton received about 22 votes for each one vote for Trump.

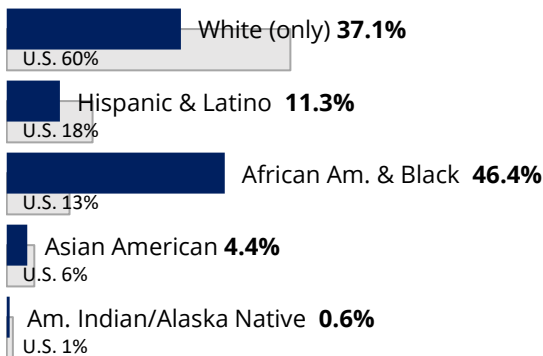
Election results in District of Columbia (2000–



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

DC is tied for 27th most religious state overall

53% of adults in DC are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of District of Columbia

50% (27th) say religion is very important in their lives

28% (44th) say they attend worship at least weekly

51% (29th) say they pray daily

55% (42nd) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

16.0% (8th highest) poverty rate

5.6% (50th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The top 1% take home 24% of all the income in DC.

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



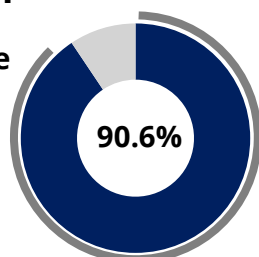
24% of the income



Education ^[4]

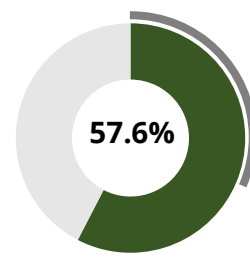
High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old
U.S. average: 31.5%





More information on District of Columbia*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <https://dc.gov>



Government information:

Governor: <https://mayor.dc.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



<http://www.dcdemocraticparty.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/DCDemocraticParty>

<http://www.youtube.com/dcdsc2>

<https://twitter.com/dcdemocrats>

Republican Party

<http://www.dcgop.com/>

<http://www.facebook.com/DCRepublicanParty>

no official site

<https://twitter.com/dcgop>

* 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.

Sources: 1. State map: [Wikimedia Commons](#); 2. Voting history text: adapted from [270towin.com](#); 3. U.S. election history: [David Leip's Election Atlas](#); 4. Ethnicity, economy, and education data: [U.S. Census Bureau](#); 5. Religion data: [Pew poll: How religious is your state?](#); 6. Wealth and income inequality data: [Economic Policy Institute – The Unequal States of America](#).



Florida (FL) (29 votes)

Capital:	Tallahassee
Area:	65,757 sq mi. / 170,312 sq km
Population:	21,299,325
Nickname:	"The Sunshine State"
State motto:	"In God We Trust"
Governor:	Ron DeSantis (R)
U.S. Senators:	Marco Rubio (R), Rick Scott (R)



How will your state 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?

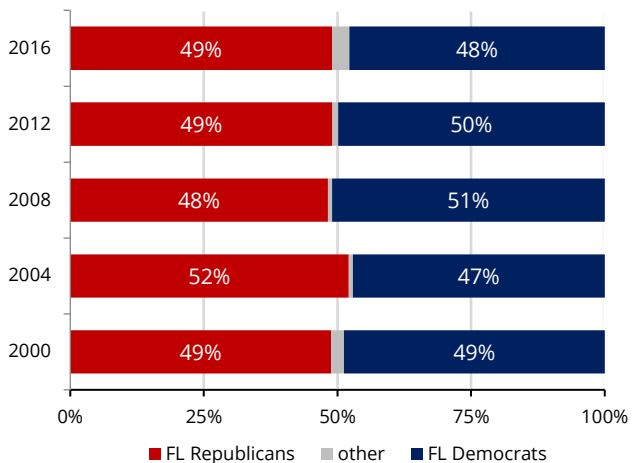


Voting history ^[2]

Florida has 29 electoral votes, tied for third most in the country.

Influxes of Cubans, retirees, service workers to the theme park economy booming near Orlando and other groups have resulted in a state much more diversified – both economically and politically – than many of its southern brethren. As a result, although leaning slightly Republican, Florida is today seen as perhaps the ultimate battleground state, its population a microcosm of the country as a whole. In 2012, Florida was the only state decided by less than 1%, with Barack Obama besting Mitt Romney 50.0% to 49.1%. 2016 was almost as close, with Donald Trump edging Hillary Clinton by 1.2%. Except for 1992, when it sided with incumbent George Bush, the state has voted with the winner in every presidential election since 1964.

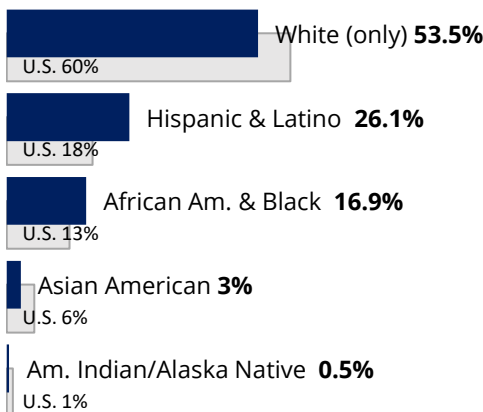
Election results in Florida (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

FL is tied for 22nd most religious state overall

54% of adults in FL are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Florida

- 53% (20th) say religion is very important in their lives
- 35% (25th) say they attend worship at least weekly
- 56% (17th) say they pray daily
- 64% (21st) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

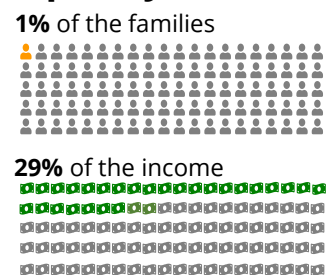
14.5% (17th highest) poverty rate

3.4% (19th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

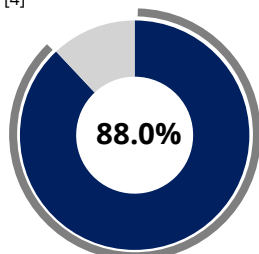
The top 1% take home **29% of all the income in FL.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

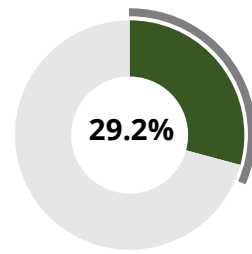


Education ^[4]

High school degree or higher
persons 25+ yrs. old
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher
persons 25+ yrs. old
U.S. average: 31.5%





More information on Florida*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <http://www.myflorida.com/>



Government information:

Governor: <http://www.flgov.com/>

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

270twin.com: <http://www.270twin.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



<http://fladems.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/FlaDems>

<https://www.youtube.com/fladems>

<https://twitter.com/fladems>

Republican Party

<http://rpof.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/FloridaGOP>

<http://www.youtube.com/floridagop>

<https://twitter.com/floridagop>

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Georgia (GA) (16 Votes)

Capital: **Atlanta**
 Area: **59,425 sq mi. / 153,909 sq km**
 Population: **10,519,475**
 Nickname: **"Peach State"**
 State motto: **"Wisdom, Justice, Moderation"**
 Governor: **Brian Kemp (R)**
 U.S. Senators: **Johnny Isakson (R),
 David Perdue (R)**



How will your state 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?

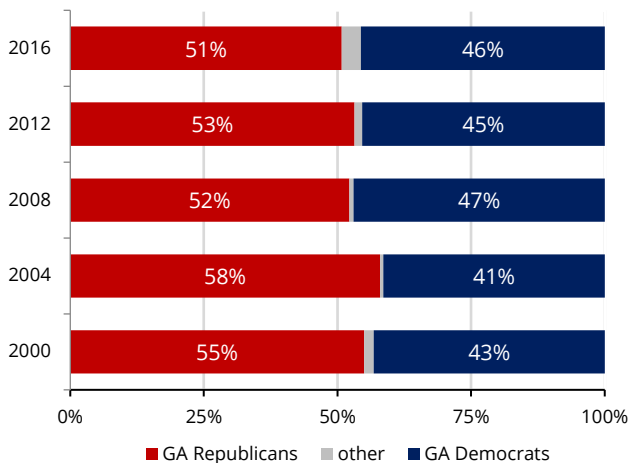


Voting history ^[2]

Georgia has been reliably Republican since 1972, except when a southern Democrat was on the ticket – Georgians sided with native son Jimmy Carter in 1976 and 1980 and Bill Clinton in 1992.

In 2004, George Bush easily defeated John Kerry by 58% to 41%. Republican margins have been more narrow since then, as the state's rapidly growing population has led to some shifts in overall demographics. In 2016, Donald Trump beat Hillary Clinton by about 5%. The growing population has led to Georgia gaining at least one electoral vote in each of the last three Census reapportionments. Only seven states now have more than its 16 electoral votes.

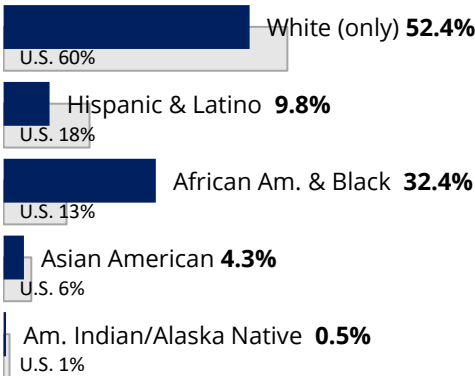
Election results in Georgia (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

GA is tied for 8th most religious state overall

66% of adults in GA are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Georgia

64% (7th) say religion is very important in their lives

42% (10th) say they attend worship at least weekly

64% (10th) say they pray daily

74% (8th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

15.6% (11th highest) poverty rate

4.4% (31st lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **19% of all the income in GA.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



19% of the income

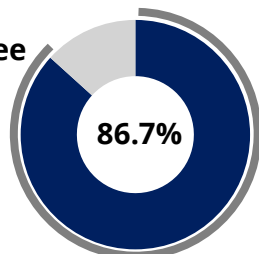


Education ^[4]

High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

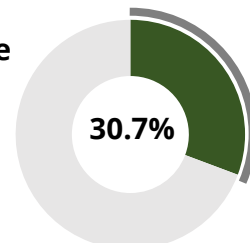
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 31.5%





More information on Georgia*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <https://georgia.gov>



Government information:

Governor: <https://gov.georgia.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>



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Media Collection by the U.S. Embassy:

<http://usa.usembassy.de/media.htm>



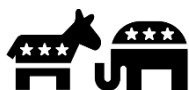
50states.com – Local newspapers:

<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



<http://www.georgiademocrat.org/>



<http://www.facebook.com/georgiademocrat>



no official site



<https://twitter.com/georgiademocrat>

Republican Party

<https://gagop.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/GAGOP>

no official site

<https://twitter.com/garepublicans>

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Hawaii (HI) (3 votes)

Capital:	Honolulu
Area:	10,931 sq mi. / 28,311 sq km
Population:	1,420,491
Nickname:	"The Aloha State"
State motto:	"The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness"
Governor:	David Ige (D)
U.S. Senators:	Brian Schatz (D) Mazie Hirono (D)



How will your state 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?

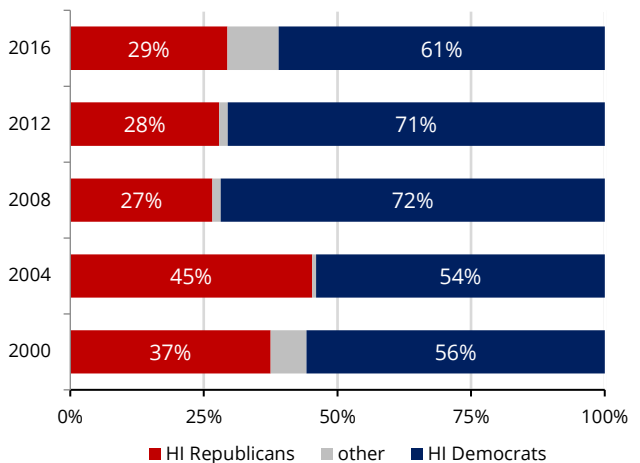


Voting history ^[2]

Hawaii, the 50th state, joined the Union in August 1959.

The state had three electoral votes in the 1960 election, and has had four ever since. Hawaii is “blue”, having voted Democratic in every election except the 1972 and 1984 contests, when the state gave wins to Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan, respectively. (In those two landslide elections, the Democratic candidate won only one state plus Washington, D.C.) Native son Barack Obama easily won the state in 2008 and 2012, gaining over 70% of the vote both times. While 2016 saw a slightly closer result, Hillary Clinton's margin of nearly 32% was her largest in any of the 50 states. One of Hawaii's Electors was faithless that year, voting for Bernie Sanders, Clinton's primary challenger for the Democratic nomination.

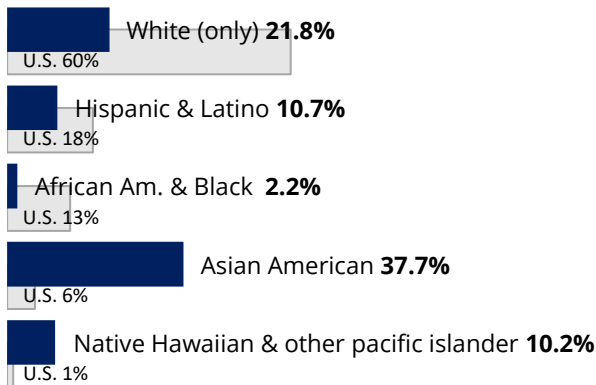
Election results in Hawaii (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

HI is tied for 41st most religious state overall

47% of adults in HI are “highly religious,” based on an overall index

Religious profile of Hawaii

44% (41st) say religion is very important in their lives

28% (44th) say they attend worship at least weekly

52% (26th) say they pray daily

62% (28th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

9.7% (49th highest) poverty rate

2.8% (5th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **12% of all the income in HI.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



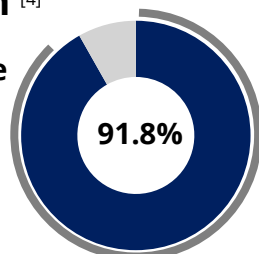
12% of the income



Education ^[4]

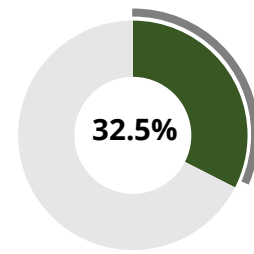
High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old
U.S. average: 31.5%





More information on Hawaii*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <https://portal.ehawaii.gov/>



Government information:

Governor: <https://governor.hawaii.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



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Democrats and Republicans in the state

Democratic Party



<https://hawaiidemocrats.org/>



<http://www.facebook.com/hawaiiDems>



no official site



<https://twitter.com/hawaiidems>

Republican Party

<http://gophawaii.com/>

<http://www.facebook.com/HawaiiRepublicanParty/>

<http://bit.ly/HIgovAssembly>

<https://twitter.com/gophawaii>

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Idaho (ID) (4 votes)

Capital:	Boise
Area:	83,797 sq mi. / 216,900 sq km
Population:	1,754,208
Nickname:	"Gem State"
State motto:	"Let it be perpetual"
Governor:	Brad Little (R)
U.S. Senators:	Mike Crapo (R), Jim Risch (R)



How will your state 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.

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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?

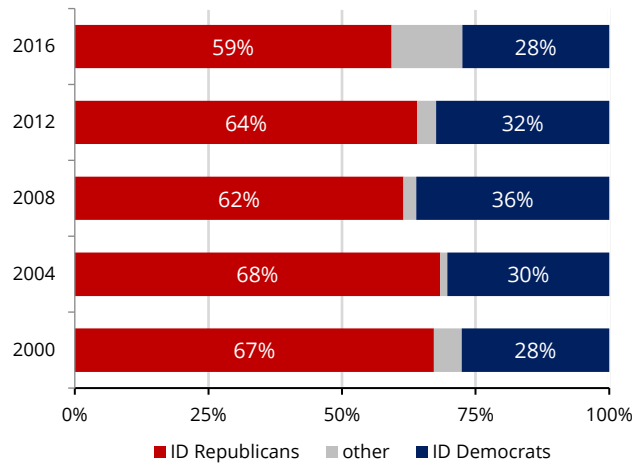


Voting history ^[2]

Idaho gained statehood in July 1890, with Republicans and Democrats both winning elections up through 1928.

During the Great Depression and throughout World War II Idahoans voted for FDR four times. And they went for Harry Truman in 1948, before the state turned “red” in 1952 and chose Dwight Eisenhower. Like most other states in the Mountain West, Idaho is currently a Republican stronghold in presidential elections, having voted Democratic just once since 1952 – the 1964 landslide victory of Lyndon Johnson over Barry Goldwater. In 2016, this trend continued, as Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton by 59.3% to 27.5%.

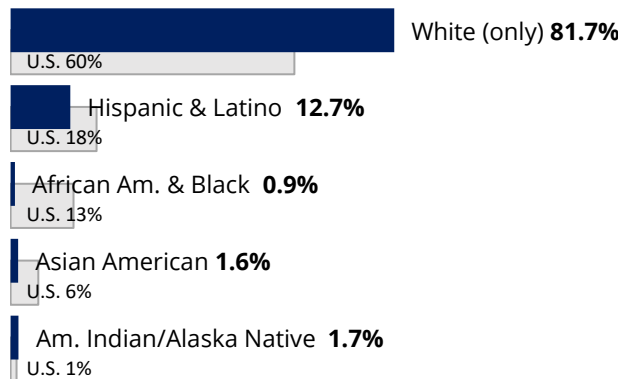
Election results in Idaho (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

ID is tied for **33rd** most religious state overall

51% of adults in ID are “highly religious,” based on an overall index

Religious profile of Idaho

51% (24th) say religion is very important in their lives

35% (25th) say they attend worship at least weekly

50% (35th) say they pray daily

62% (28th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

13.6% (24th highest) poverty rate

2.8% (5th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **15% of all the income in ID.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



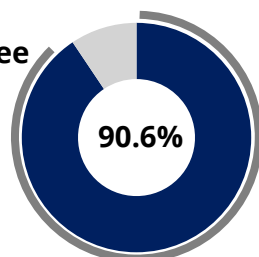
15% of the income



Education ^[4]

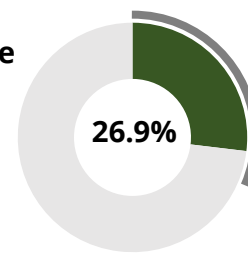
High school degree or higher
persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 87.7%



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

U.S. average: 31.5%





More information on Idaho*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <https://www.idaho.gov>



Government information:

Governor: <https://gov.idaho.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>

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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



<http://idahodems.org/>



<http://www.facebook.com/idahodems>



no official site



<https://twitter.com/idahodems>

Republican Party

<http://www.idgop.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/IdahoGOP>

no official site

<https://twitter.com/idahogop>

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Illinois (IL) (20 votes)

Capital:	Springfield
Area:	57,914 sq mi. / 149,997 sq km
Population:	12,741,080
Nickname:	"Prairie State"
State motto:	"State Sovereignty, National Union"
Governor:	J. B. Pritzker (D)
U.S. Senators:	Dick Durbin (D), Tammy Duckworth (D)



How will your state 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?

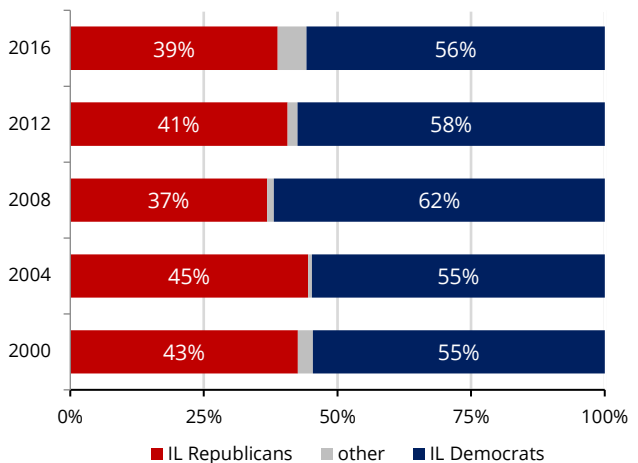


Voting history ^[2]

Illinois voted republican for eight out of 10 elections from 1952 through 1988.

However, Illinois has voted Democratic in the last seven elections. In 2016, Hillary Clinton easily beat Donald Trump 56% to 39%. With 20 electoral votes, the state is the largest electoral prize in the Midwest, although nearby Ohio, with 18, gets much more visibility in the general election thanks to the fact that it is much more of a battleground state. Like many other northern industrial states, Illinois has lost electoral influence as its population has not grown with the rest of the country. This has cost it at least one electoral vote after each of the last four Censuses. It is currently on track to lose two more after the 2020 presidential election.

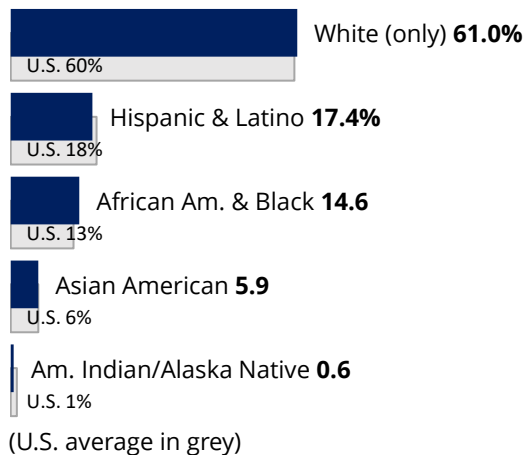
Election results in Illinois (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



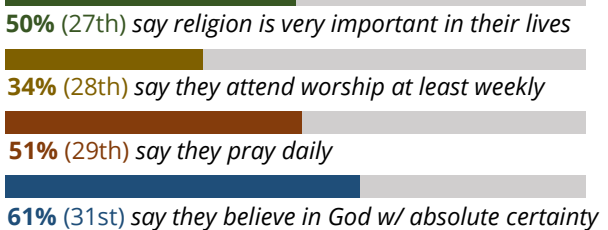
Ethnicity ^[4]



Religion ^[5]

IL is tied for **33rd** most religious state overall
51% of adults in IL are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Illinois



Economy ^[4]

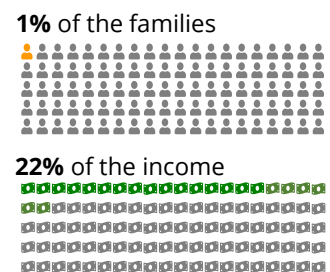
12.8% (28th highest) poverty rate

4.3% (43rd lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **22% of all the income in IL.**

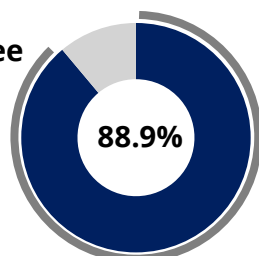
(U.S. average: 21%)



Education ^[4]

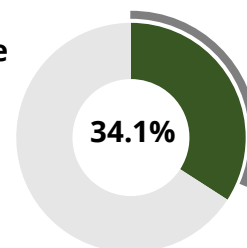
High school degree or higher
persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 87.7%



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

U.S. average: 31.5%





More information on Illinois*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <https://www2.illinois.gov>



Government information:

Governor: <https://www2.illinois.gov/agencies/GOV>

State and Local Government on The Net: <http://www.statelocalgov.net/>

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Election 2020

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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



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<http://usa.usembassy.de/media.htm>



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<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



<http://ildems.com/>

<http://bit.ly/FBIllinoisDem>

no official site

<https://twitter.com/ildemocrats>

Republican Party

<https://illinois.gop>

<http://bit.ly/ILGOPSenate>

<http://bit.ly/ILGOP>

<https://twitter.com/ilgop>

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Indiana (IN) (11 votes)

Capital:	Indianapolis
Area:	36,418 sq mi. / 94,321 sq km
Population:	6,691, 878
Nickname:	"The Hoosier State"
State motto:	"The Crossroads of America"
Governor:	Eric Holcomb (R)
U.S. Senators:	Todd Young (R), Mike Braun (R)



How will your state 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?

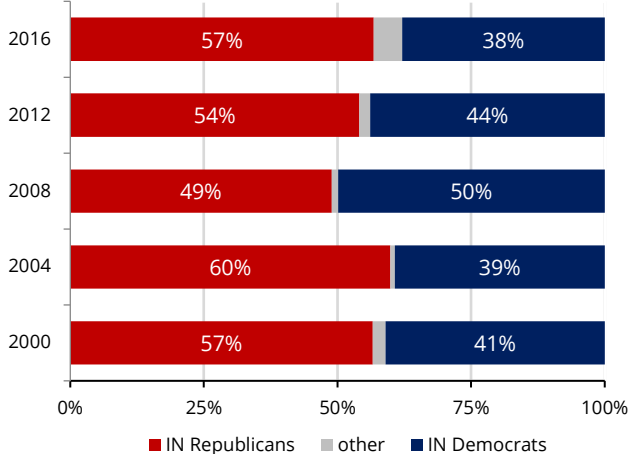


Voting history ^[2]

Indiana joined the Union in December 1816.

It has been primarily Republican throughout its history, and today is the “reddest” state in the Midwest. Since 1940, it has only voted Democratic in 1964, when Lyndon Johnson won a landslide over Barry Goldwater and again in 2008, when Barack Obama edged John McCain in the 3rd closest race of that election (behind Missouri and North Carolina). Republicans have won by double-digits in the last two elections, with Donald Trump receiving about 57% to Hillary Clinton's 38% in 2016. An interesting factoid: In both 1992 and 1996, Indiana was an island of red, its

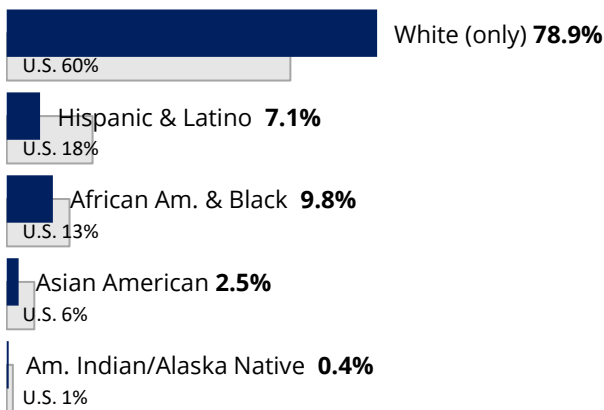
Election results in Indiana (2000-2016) ^[3]
 Election results in Indiana (2000-2016) can't be used to predict how you can vote in any direction.



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

IN is tied for 22nd most religious state overall

54% of adults in IN are “highly religious,” based on an overall index

Religious profile of Indiana

53% (20th) say religion is very important in their lives

37% (18th) say they attend worship at least weekly

52% (26th) say they pray daily

63% (25th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

13.7% (23rd highest) poverty rate

3.5% (23rd lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **15% of all the income in IN.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



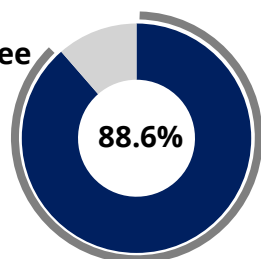
15% of the income



Education ^[4]

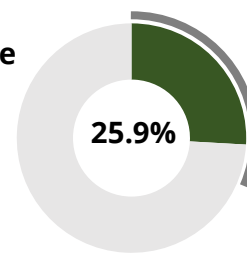
High school degree or higher
 persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 87.7%



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

U.S. average: 31.5%



More information on Indiana*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: www.in.gov/



Government information:

Governor: www.in.gov/gov

State and Local Government on The Net: <http://www.statelocalgov.net/>

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Election 2020

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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



<http://www.indems.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/indems>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/inhousedems>

<https://twitter.com/indems>

Republican Party

<http://indiana.gop/>

<http://www.facebook.com/indgop>

<http://bit.ly/IndGop>

<https://twitter.com/indgop>

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Iowa (IA) (6 votes)

Capital:	Des Moines
Area:	58,272 sq mi. / 145,746 sq km
Population:	3,156,145
Nickname:	"The Hawkeye State"
State motto:	"Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain."
Governor:	Kim Reynolds (R)
U.S. Senators:	Chuck Grassley (R), Joni Ernst (R)



How will your state vote?

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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?

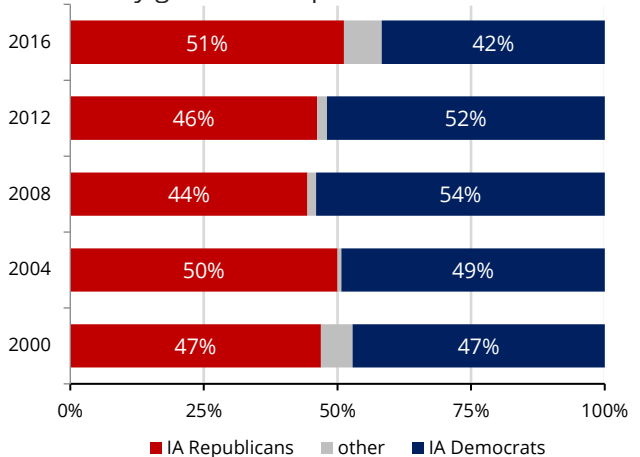


Voting history ^[2]

While a battleground every four years, Iowa had sided with the Democrats in six of seven elections from 1992 through 2012.

That changed dramatically in 2016, when Donald Trump won the state by nearly 9.5%, a 15 point swing from 2012 when Barack Obama won the state by 5.8%. Iowa has gradually lost electoral clout as the state's population growth has been slow relative to the rest of the country. With six electoral votes today, the state has fewer than half of the 13 it had from the 1880s through the 1920s. Despite this, the closeness (usually) of the general election vote and the importance of its caucuses, which kick off the nominating process every election cycle, give the citizens of the

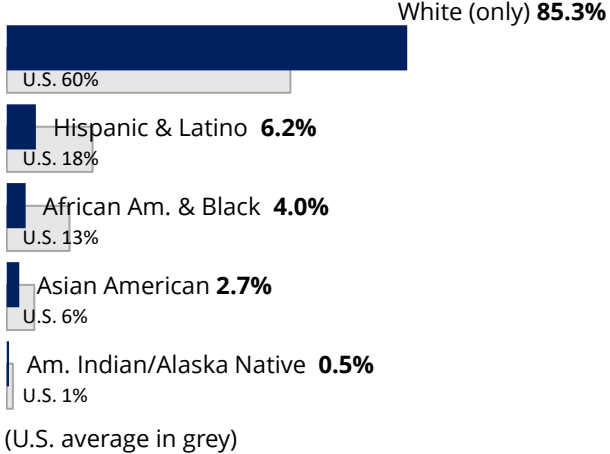
Election results in Iowa (2000-2016) ^[3] of who ultimately gets elected president.



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]

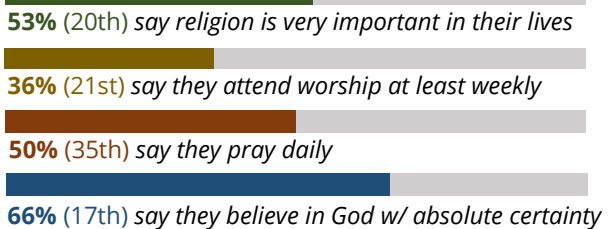


Religion ^[5]

IA is tied for 19th most religious state overall

55% of adults in IA are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Iowa



Economy ^[4]

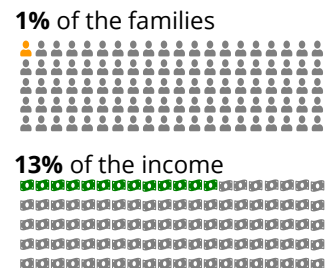
11.3% (35th highest) poverty rate

2.4% (3rd lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The top 1% take home 13% of all the income in IA.

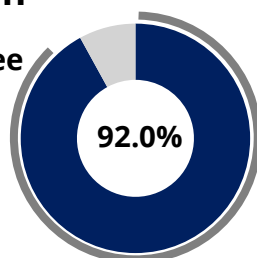
(U.S. average: 21%)



Education ^[4]

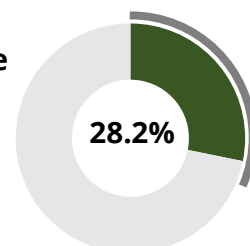
High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old
U.S. average: 31.5%





More information on Iowa*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <http://www.iowa.gov/>



Government information:

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Election 2020

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Democratic Party



<http://www.iowademocrats.org/>



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<https://twitter.com/iowademocrats>

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<https://twitter.com/IowaGOP>

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Sources: 1. State map: [Wikimedia Commons](#); 2. Voting history text: adapted from 270towin.com; 3. U.S. election history: [David Leip's Election Atlas](#); 4. Ethnicity, economy, and education data: [U.S. Census Bureau](#); 5. Religion data: [Pew poll: How religious is your state?](#); 6. Wealth and income inequality data: [Economic Policy Institute – The Unequal States of America](#).



Kansas (KS) (6 votes)

Capital:	Topeka
Area:	82,278 sq mi. / 213,100 sq km
Population:	2,911,505
Nickname:	"The Sunflower State"
State motto:	"To The Stars Through Difficulties"
Governor:	Laura Kelly (D)
U.S. Senators:	Par Roberts (R), Jerry Moran (R)



How will your state 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?

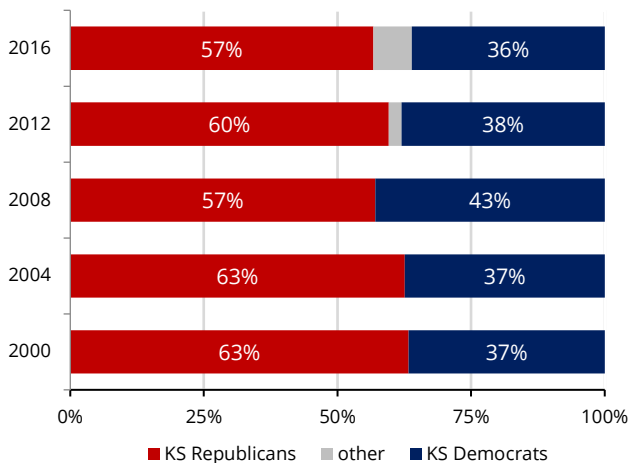


Voting history ^[2]

Kansas entered the Union in January 1861, a little over two months prior to the start of the Civil War and seven years after it became a territory under the aptly named Kansas-Nebraska Act.

The state is strongly Republican in presidential elections; it hasn't voted for a Democrat since 1964, when Lyndon Johnson won in a landslide in 2016, Donald Trump won by 57% to 36% over Hillary Clinton. Kansas' population growth has been slower than the nation's as a whole in recent decades, as population trends have been away from rural locations to more urban centers. As a result, the state has lost electoral influence: From a peak of 10 electoral votes in the early part of the 20th century, the state has been reduced to six today.

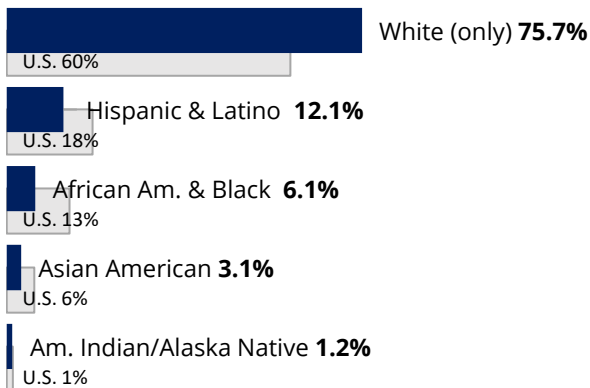
Election results in Kansas (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

KS is tied for 19th most religious state overall

55% of adults in KS are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Kansas

50% (27th) say religion is very important in their lives

37% (18th) say they attend worship at least weekly

53% (22nd) say they pray daily

66% (17th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

12.0% (32nd highest) poverty rate

3.4% (19th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **16% of all the income in KS.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



16% of the income

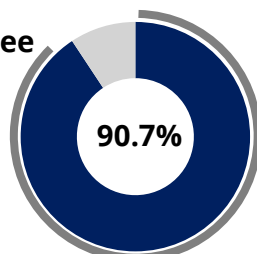


Education ^[4]

High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

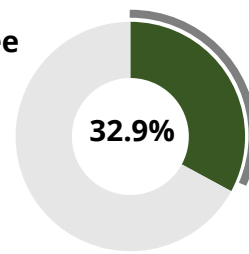
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 31.5%





More information on Kansas*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <https://www.kansas.gov/>



Government information:

Governor: <https://governor.kansas.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

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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



<http://www.ksdp.org/>



<http://www.facebook.com/KansasDems>



no official site



<https://twitter.com/kansasdems>

Republican Party

<https://www.kansas.gop>

<http://bit.ly/KansasGOP>

no official site

<https://twitter.com/kansasgop>

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Kentucky (KY) (8 votes)

Capital:	Frankfort
Area:	40,408 sq mi. / 104,659 sq km
Population:	4,468,402
Nickname:	"The Bluegrass State"
State motto:	"United We Stand, Divided We Fall"
Governor:	Matt Bevin (R)
U.S. Senators:	Mitch McConnell (R), Rand Paul (R)



How will your state 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?

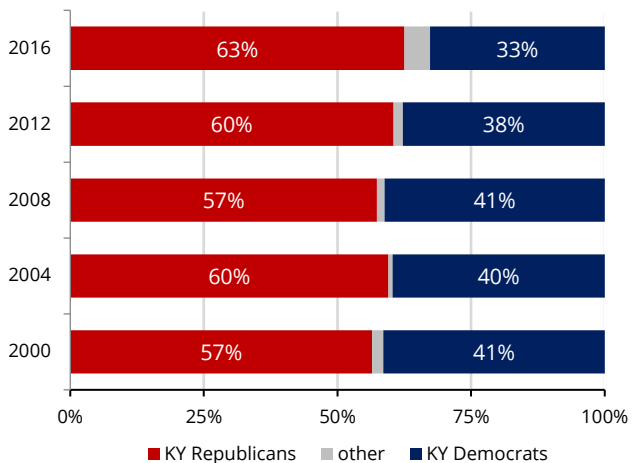


Voting history ^[2]

Kentucky entered the Union in June 1792, the second state to join after the original 13 colonies.

A border state, Kentucky remained in the Union during the Civil War, yet joined most other southern states in voting almost exclusively Democratic from that era through World War II. Since the 1950s, Kentucky has been reliably Republican, although its voters have been willing to vote Democratic when a southern governor has run – the state voted for Jimmy Carter in 1976 and for Bill Clinton in both 1992 and 1996. In 2016, Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton 63% to 33%.

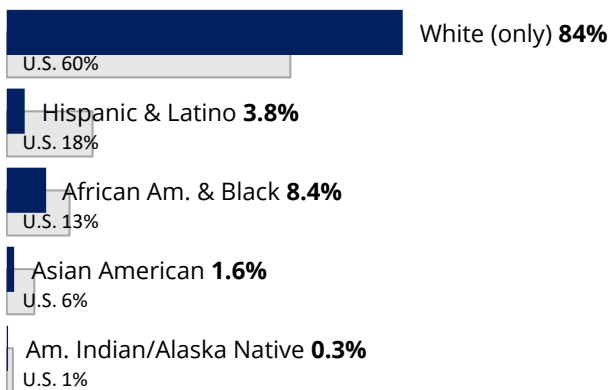
Election results in Kentucky (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

KY is the 13th most religious state overall

63% of adults in KY are “highly religious,” based on an overall index

Religious profile of Kentucky

63% (10th) say religion is very important in their lives

39% (13th) say they attend worship at least weekly

63% (11th) say they pray daily

75% (6th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

17.4% (4th highest) poverty rate

4.1% (38th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **16% of all the income in KY.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



16% of the income

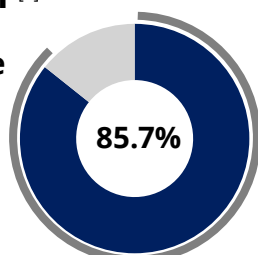


Education ^[4]

High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

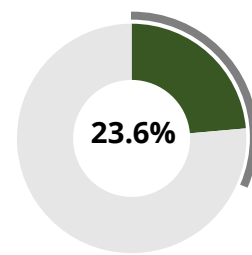
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 31.5%





More information on Kentucky*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/home.aspx>



Government information:

Governor: <https://governor.ky.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

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Rock the Vote – voting information: <https://www.rockthevote.org/voting-information/>

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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



<https://kydemocrats.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/KyDems/>

<http://bit.ly/KentuckyDems>

<https://twitter.com/kydems>

Republican Party

<http://www.rpk.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/kygop>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/gopkentucky>

<https://twitter.com/kygop>

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Louisiana (LA) (8 votes)

Capital: **Baton Rouge**
 Area: **52,069 sq mi. / 135,382 sq km**
 Population: **4,659,978**
 Nickname: **"Pelican State"**
 State motto: **"Union, Justice, Confidence"**
 Governor: **John Bel Edwards (D)**
 U.S. Senators: **John Kennedy (R),
 Bill Cassidy (R)**



How will your state 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.

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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?

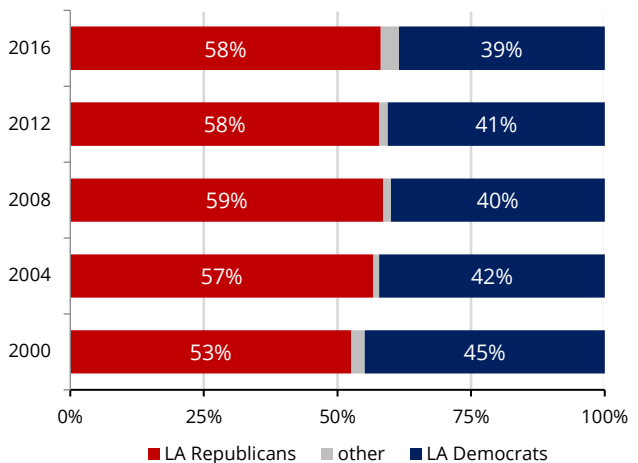


Voting history ^[2]

Largely due to outward migration after Hurricane Katrina, Louisiana lost one electoral vote, giving it 8 through the 2020 presidential election.

Louisiana, created mostly, but not entirely, from land bought from France in the Louisiana Purchase, became a state in April 1812. Like many southern states, Louisiana voted Democratic from Reconstruction through World War II. Although perceived as solidly Republican today (Donald Trump won over Hillary Clinton by nearly 20 points in 2016), Louisiana has voted Democratic three times since 1976 when the nominee of that party was a Southern governor. Jimmy Carter won there in 1976, as did Bill Clinton, both in 1992 and 1996.

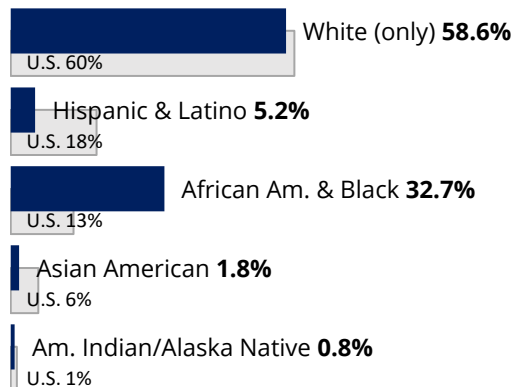
Election results in Louisiana (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

LA is the 4th most religious state overall

71% of adults in LA are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Louisiana

71% (3rd) say religion is very important in their lives

46% (6th) say they attend worship at least weekly

68% (4th) say they pray daily

75% (6th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

18.8% (3rd highest) poverty rate

4.3% (43rd lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **15% of all the income in LA.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



15% of the income

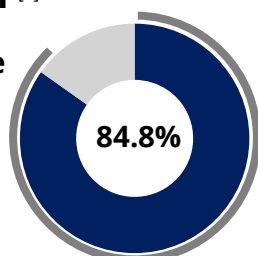


Education ^[4]

High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

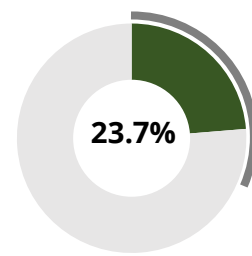
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 31.5%



More information on Louisiana*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <https://www.louisiana.gov>



Government information:

Governor: <https://gov.louisiana.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



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<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



<https://louisianademocrats.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/LaDemoParty/>



no official site



<https://twitter.com/LaDemos>

Republican Party

<http://www.lagop.com/>

<http://www.facebook.com/lagop>

no official site

<https://twitter.com/lagop>

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Maine (ME) (4 votes)

Capital:	Augusta
Area:	35,385 sq mi. / 91,646 sq km
Population:	1,338,404
Nickname:	"The Pine Tree State"
State motto:	"I Direct"
Governor:	Janet Mills (D)
U.S. Senators:	Susan Collins (R), Angus King (I)



How will your state vote?

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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?

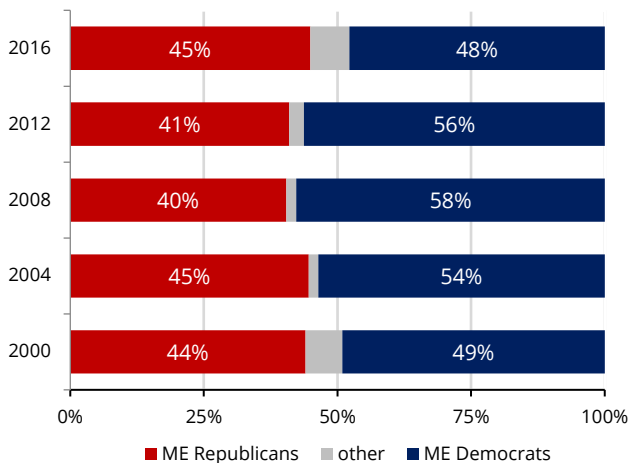


Voting history ^[2]

Maine has voted Democratic in the last seven elections.

In 2016 Hillary Clinton won the state by just 2.9% over Donald Trump. Maine was a tale of two states in that 2016 election, as Clinton won the 1st congressional district by nearly 15%, while Trump took the more rural 2nd by over 10%. This is significant in that Maine is one of only two states -along that do not use a winner-take-all electoral vote allocation. Here, the winner of the popular vote gets two electoral votes, while one is assigned to the winner of each of Maine’s two congressional districts. As a result, Trump won one of the state’s four electoral votes. This is the first split since Maine established this approach beginning with the 1972 election.

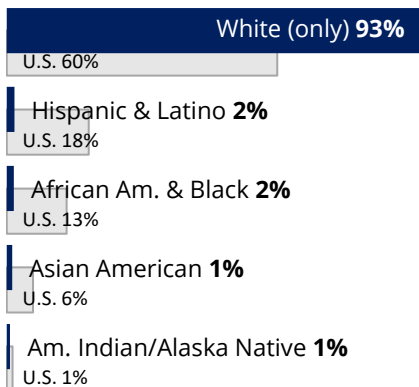
Election results in Maine (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

ME is tied for **48th** most religious state overall

34% of adults in ME are “highly religious,” based on an overall index

Religious profile of Maine

34% (48th) say religion is very important in their lives

22% (49th) say they attend worship at least weekly

35% (50th) say they pray daily

48% (48th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

12.1% (31st highest) poverty rate

3.2% (14th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **14% of all the income in ME.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



14% of the income

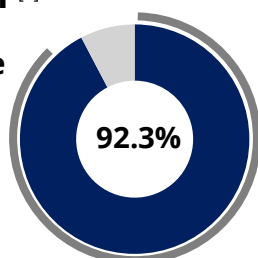


Education ^[4]

High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

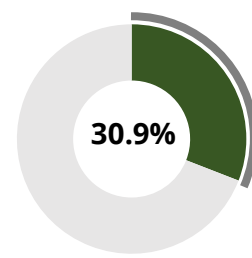
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor’s degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 31.5%



More information on Maine*



State information

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Official state website: www.maine.gov/



Government information:

Governor: www.maine.gov/governor

State and Local Government on The Net: <http://www.statelocalgov.net/>

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U.S. Representatives from the state: <https://www.house.gov/representatives>



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OfficialUSA.com – Local TV stations:

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Democrats and Republicans in the state

Democratic Party



<http://www.mainedems.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/mainedems>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/MaineDems>

<https://twitter.com/mainedems>

Republican Party

<http://www.mainegop.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MaineHouseGOP>

<http://bit.ly/MEGOPyoutube>

<https://twitter.com/mainegop>

* 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.

Sources: 1. State map: [Wikimedia Commons](#); 2. Voting history text: adapted from [270towin.com](http://www.270towin.com); 3. U.S. election history: [David Leip's Election Atlas](#); 4. Ethnicity, economy, and education data: [U.S. Census Bureau](#); 5. Religion data: [Pew poll: How religious is your state?](#); 6. Wealth and income inequality data: [Economic Policy Institute – The Unequal States of America](#).



Maryland (MD) (10 votes)

Capital: **Annapolis**
 Area: **12,407 sq mi. / 32,133 sq km**
 Population: **6,042,718**
 Nickname: **"Old Line State"**
 State motto: **"Strong Deeds, Gentle Words"**
 Governor: **Larry Hogan (R)**
 U.S. Senators: **Chris Van Hollen (D),
 Ben Cardin (D)**



How will your state 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?

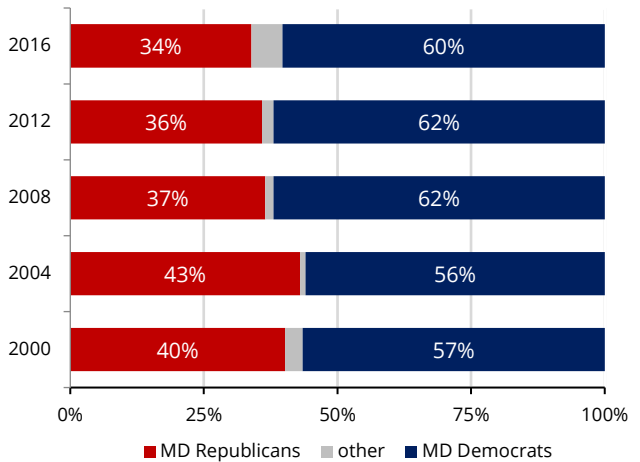


Voting history ^[2]

Maryland, one of the original 13 colonies, entered the Union in April 1788 and has participated in all 58 presidential elections.

Maryland has been primarily a “blue” state since the founding of the modern political parties (around the time of the Civil War). Since 1960, Maryland has voted Republican only in the landslide wins of Richard Nixon in 1972, Ronald Reagan in 1984 and George H. W. Bush in 1988. In 2016, Hillary Clinton easily overcame Donald Trump here (60% to 34%).

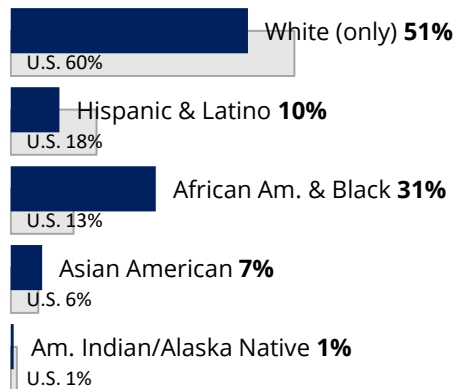
Election results in Maryland (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

MD is tied for **22nd** most religious state overall

54% of adults in MD are “highly religious,” based on an overall index

Religious profile of Maryland

50% (27th) say religion is very important in their lives

31% (35th) say they attend worship at least weekly

51% (29th) say they pray daily

64% (21st) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

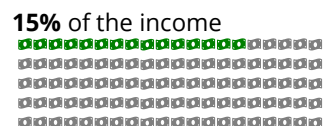
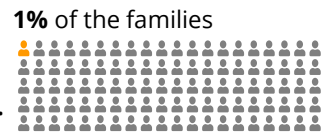
9.2% (50th highest) poverty rate

3.8% (33rd lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **15% of all the income in MD.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

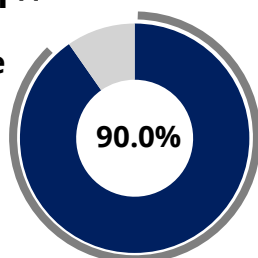


Education ^[4]

High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

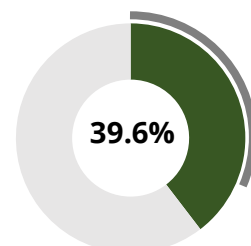
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor’s degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 31.5%



More information on Maryland*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: www.maryland.gov/



Government information:

Governor: <https://governor.maryland.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



<https://www.mddems.org/>



<http://bit.ly/mddemsfb>



<http://bit.ly/mddemsyoutube>



<https://twitter.com/mddems>

Republican Party

<http://www.mdgop.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/mdreps>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/mdreps>

<https://twitter.com/MDRepub>

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Massachusetts (MA) (11 votes)

Capital: **Boston**
 Area: **10,565 sq mi. / 27,337 sq km**
 Population: **6,969,420**
 Nickname: **"The Bay State"**
 State motto: **"By the sword we seek peace, but peace only under liberty"**
 Governor: **Charlie Baker (R)**
 U.S. Senators: **Elizabeth Warren (D), Ed Markey (D)**



How will your state 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?

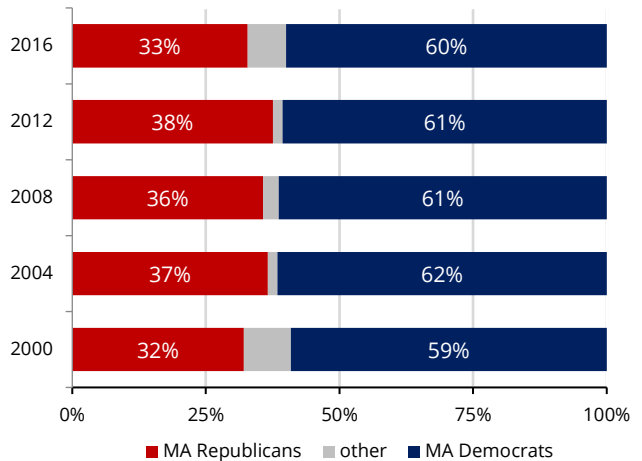


Voting history ^[2]

Massachusetts, one of the original 13 colonies, joined the Union in February 1788, and has participated in all 58 presidential elections.

Massachusetts, one of the original 13 colonies, joined the Union in February 1788, and has participated in all 58 presidential elections. The state has been reliably Democratic since 1928, but has voted Republican four times since then – twice each for Dwight Eisenhower and Ronald Reagan. Massachusetts was the only state to vote for George McGovern in his huge 1972 electoral loss to Richard Nixon. Like many northeastern states, Massachusetts slowly lost its electoral clout over the course of the 20th century. The state has lost 1/3 of its electoral votes since the 1920s, falling from 18 to 11. In 2016, Hillary Clinton beat Donald Trump 60% to 33%.

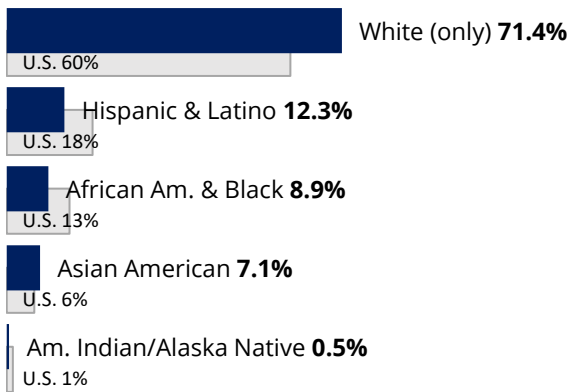
Election results in Massachusetts (2000–2016):



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



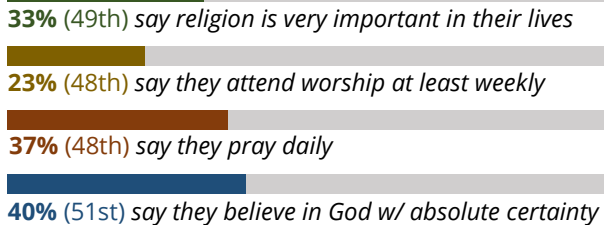
(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

MA is tied for 50th most religious state overall

33% of adults in MA are “highly religious,” based on an overall index

Religious profile of Massachusetts



Economy ^[4]

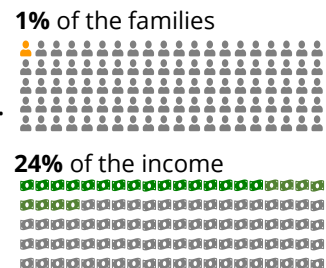
10.4% (44th highest) poverty rate

3.0% (11th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

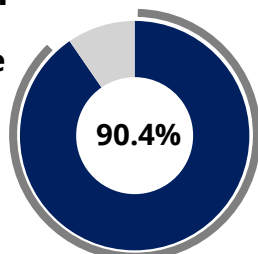
The **top 1%** take home **24% of all the income in MA.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

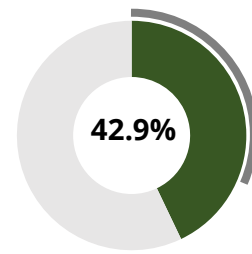


Education ^[4]

High school degree or higher
persons 25+ yrs. old
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher
persons 25+ yrs. old
U.S. average: 31.5%





More information on Massachusetts*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: www.mass.gov/



Government information:

Governor: www.mass.gov/governor/

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



<http://www.massdems.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MassDems/>

<http://bit.ly/massdemsyoutube>

<https://twitter.com/massdems>

Republican Party

<https://massgop.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/massgop/>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MASSTATEGOP>

<https://twitter.com/massgop>

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Michigan (MI) (16 votes)

Capital: **Lansing**
 Area: **96,716 sq mi. / 250,493 sq km**
 Population: **9,995,915**
 Nickname: **"The Great Lake State"**
 State motto: **"If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you."**
 Governor: **Gretchen Whitmer (D)**
 U.S. Senators: **Debbie Stabenow (D), Gary Peters (D)**



How will your state 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?

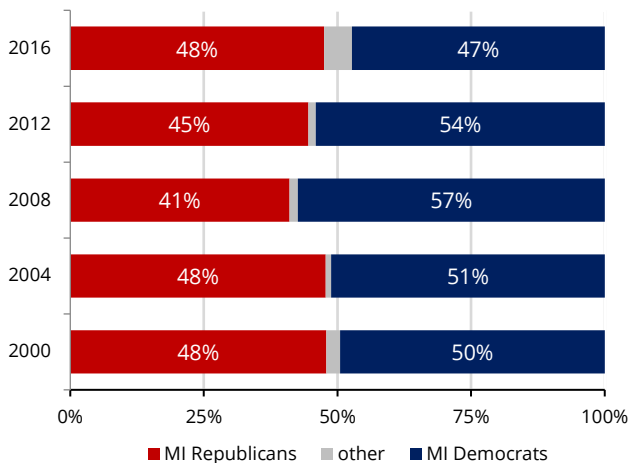


Voting history ^[2]

From 1972 through 1988 Michigan voted exclusively Republican, before becoming part of the 'blue wall' that voted Democratic in six consecutive presidential elections from 1992 through 2012.

Donald Trump narrowly flipped the state in 2016, defeating Hillary Clinton by just 0.2%. This was the closest state by popular vote percentage in 2016. Michigan has experienced significant economic turmoil since the 1970s and has seen slow population growth relative to the rest of the country. It was the only state to actually lose population in the 2010 Census. This trend has resulted in a loss of electoral votes, from 21 in the 1970s to 16 in 2012. As of late 2016, Michigan is on track to lose another electoral vote after the 2020 presidential election.

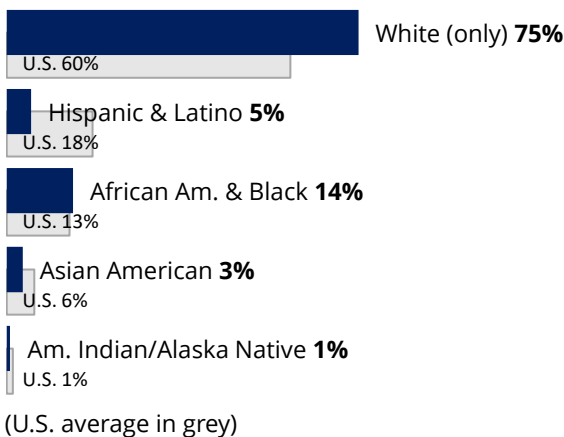
Election results in Michigan (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]

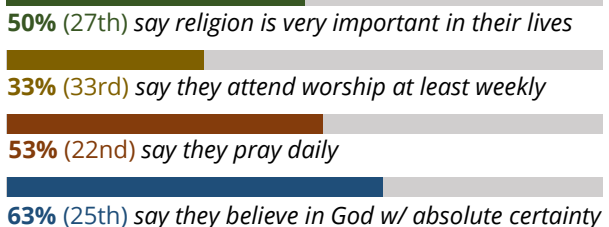


Religion ^[5]

MI is tied for 27th most religious state over-

53% of adults in MI are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Michigan



Economy ^[4]

14.6% (16th highest) poverty rate

4.2% (41st lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **18 % of all the income in MI.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



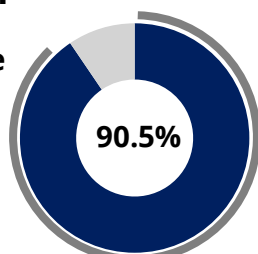
18% of the income



Education ^[4]

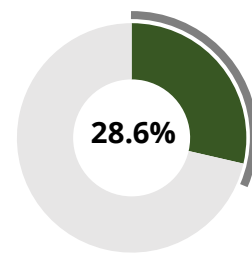
High school degree or higher
persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 87.7%



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

U.S. average: 31.5%



More information on Michigan



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <http://www.michigan.gov/>



Government information:

Governor: <https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/>

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/>

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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



<http://www.michigandems.com/>

<http://www.facebook.com/michigandems>

<http://www.youtube.com/midemocraticparty>

<https://twitter.com/MichiganDems>

Republican Party

<http://migop.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/MIGOP>

<http://www.youtube.com/migopf>

<https://twitter.com/migop>

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Minnesota (MN) (10 votes)

Capital: **Saint Paul**
 Area: **86,950 sq mi. / 225,163 sq km**
 Population: **5,679,718**
 Nickname: **"The North Star State"**
 State motto: **"The Star of the North"**
 Governor: **Tim Walz (DFL*)**
 U.S. Senators: **Amy Klobuchar (DFL),
 Tina Smith (DFL)**

* Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party



How will your state vote?

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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?

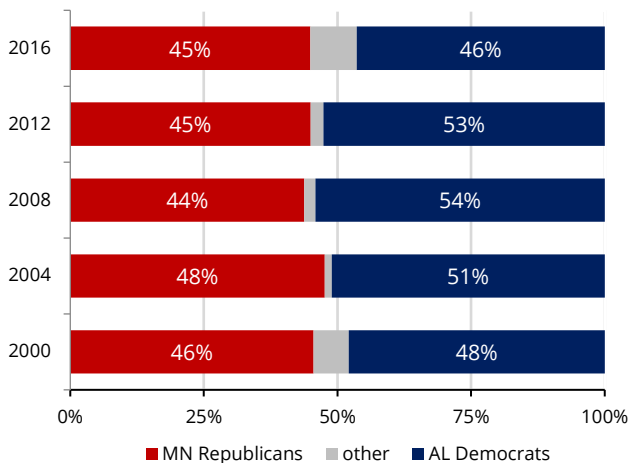


Voting history ^[2]

Since 1932 Minnesota has primarily voted Democratic, last voting Republican during Nixon's landslide victory in 1972.

In 1984, Minnesotans gave homegrown Senator Mondale his only state in the lopsided loss to Ronald Reagan. While the Democratic winning streak grew to 11 straight elections in 2016, Hillary Clinton only beat Donald Trump by 1.5%. One elector that year attempted to vote for John Kasich. That was disallowed and the elector was replaced. Minnesota has had 10 electoral votes since 1964. However, population projections as of the end of 2016 put it on track to lose one of those electoral votes after the 2020 presidential election.

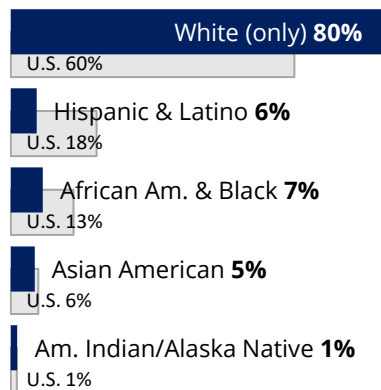
Election results in Minnesota (2000–2016):



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

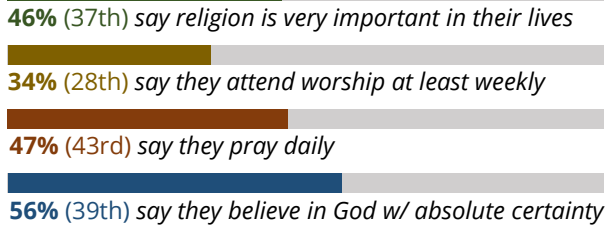


Religion ^[5]

MN is tied for 35th most religious state overall

49% of adults in MN are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Minnesota



Economy ^[4]

9.9% (47th highest) poverty rate

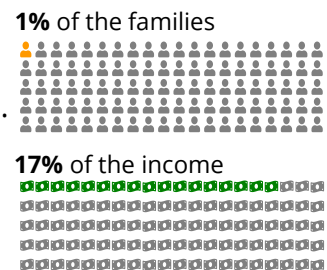
3.3% (17th lowest) unemployment rate



Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **17% of all the income in MN.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

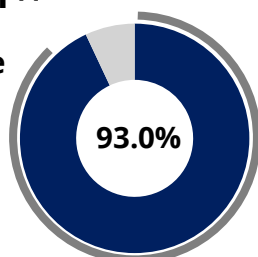


Education ^[4]

High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

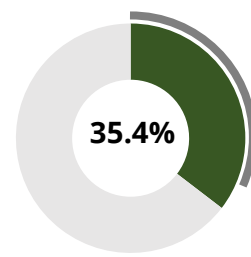
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 31.5%



More information on Minnesota



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <https://mn.gov/portal/>



Government information:

Governor: <https://mn.gov/governor/>

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



<https://www.dfl.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/MinnesotaDFL/>



<https://www.youtube.com/user/MinnesotaDFL>



<https://twitter.com/minnesotadfl>

Republican Party

<http://mngop.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/mngop/>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/mngop>

<https://twitter.com/mngop>

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Mississippi (MS) (6 votes)

Capital:	Jackson
Area:	48,430 sq mi. / 125,443 sq km
Population:	2,986,530
Nickname:	"The Magnolia State"
State motto:	"Valor and Arms"
Governor:	Phil Bryant (R)
U.S. Senators:	Cindy Hyde-Smith (R), Roger Wicker (R)



How will your state 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?

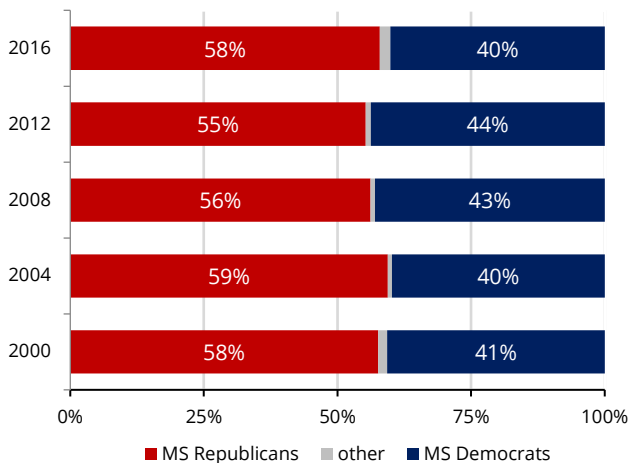


Voting history ^[2]

Like many southern states, Mississippi voted almost exclusively with the Democratic Party from Reconstruction through the early 1960s, when civil rights legislation and a Republican tactic called the “Southern Strategy” helped turn the state “red.”

Three times since World War II, Mississippi has voted all its electors for third-party candidates, more than any other state. Since 1972, the state has voted Republican, except for 1976 when it supported Jimmy Carter of Georgia. Unlike many other southern states, Mississippi has not experienced great population growth; the 2000 census led to the state being reduced from seven to six electoral votes, the lowest number since 1848. In 2016, Donald Trump easily won the state by 58% to Hillary Clinton’s 40%.

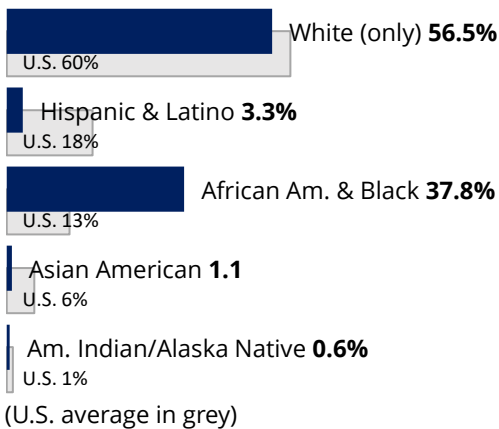
Election results in Mississippi (2000–2016):



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



Religion ^[5]

MS is tied for **1st** most religious state overall

77% of adults in MS are “highly religious,” based on an overall index

Religious profile of Mississippi

74% (2nd) say religion is very important in their lives

49% (4th) say they attend worship at least weekly

75% (1st) say they pray daily

82% (1st) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

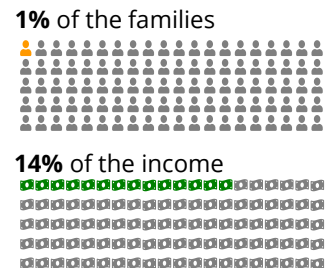
20.1% (1st highest) poverty rate

5.0% (49th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **14% of all the income in MS.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

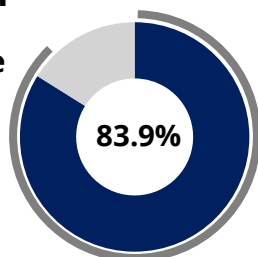


Education ^[4]

High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

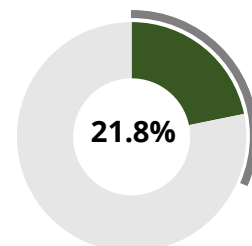
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor’s degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 31.5%



More information on Mississippi*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <https://www.ms.gov/State>



Government information:

Governor: <https://www.ms.gov/node/218>

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

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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



<http://www.mississippidemocrats.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/youngdemsmss/>

no current site

<https://twitter.com/msdemocrats>

Republican Party

<http://www.msgop.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/msgop/>

<http://bit.ly/msGOPyoutube>

<https://twitter.com/msgop>

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Missouri (MO) (10 votes)

Capital:	Jefferson City
Area:	69,715 sq mi. / 180,560 sq km
Population:	6,126,452
Nickname:	"The Show Me State"
State motto:	"The welfare of the people shall be the supreme law"
Governor:	Mike Parson (R)
U.S. Senators:	Josh Hawley (R), Roy Blunt (R)



How will your state 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?

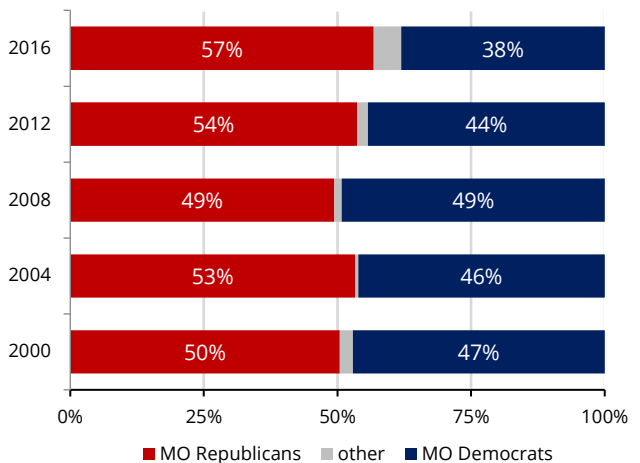


Voting history ^[2]

Missouri has, until recently, been a true battleground state with amazing historical accuracy at voting for the ultimate election winner.

From 1904 through 2004, Missourians got it wrong just once in 1956. In 2008, the streak ended when Obama lost to McCain by the slenderest of margins, 49.4% to 49.3%. Obama lost here again in 2012, this time by 9.5%. An even bigger margin was achieved by Trump in 2016, he won by nearly 19% over Clinton. As 2016 marked the fifth straight Republican win, it is becoming a fairly reliable state for the GOP in presidential elections. Population growth has been slower in recent decades than the country as a whole, resulting in declining electoral influence. From a peak of 18 electoral votes, Missouri has been reduced to 10 today.

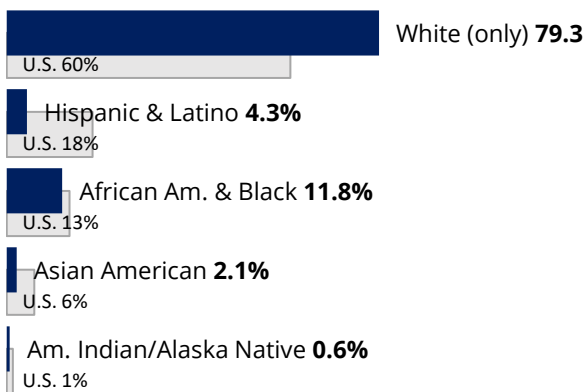
Election results in Missouri (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

MO is the **15th** most religious state overall

60% of adults in MO are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Missouri

56% (17th) say religion is very important in their lives

37% (18th) say they attend worship at least weekly

59% (15th) say they pray daily

70% (12th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

13.76% (22nd highest) poverty rate

3.3% (17th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **18% of all the income in MO.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



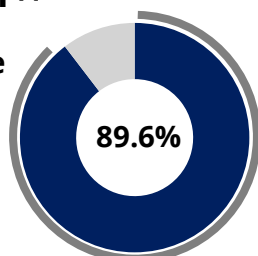
18% of the income



Education ^[4]

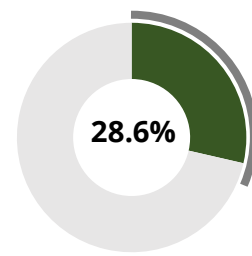
High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old
U.S. average: 31.5%





More information on Missouri*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <http://www.mo.gov/>



Government information:

Governor: <https://governor.mo.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



<http://missouridemocrats.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/modemparty/>



no official site



<https://twitter.com/modemparty>

Republican Party

<https://www.missouri.gop/>

<https://www.facebook.com/missourigop/>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/missourigop>

<https://twitter.com/missourigop>

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Montana (MT) (3 votes)

Capital:	Helena
Area:	147,040 sq mi. / 380,800 sq km
Population:	1,062,305
Nickname:	"The Treasure State"
State motto:	"Gold and Silver"
Governor:	Steve Bullock (D)
U.S. Senators:	Jon Tester (D), Steve Daines (R)



How will your state 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?

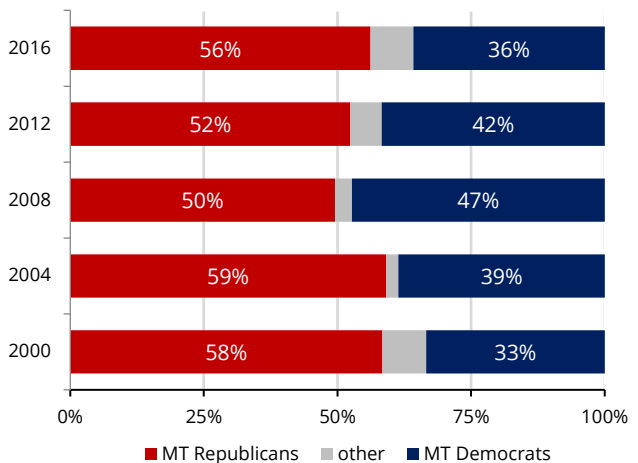


Voting history ^[2]

Montana gained statehood in November 1889, just six days after both Dakotas and three days before Washington, in the busiest period for new statehood in U.S. history.

Montana has been reliably Republican in recent presidential elections, having voted for only two Democrats since 1952. Interestingly, prior to 1952, the state had voted Democratic five times in a row – four times for Franklin Roosevelt and then for Harry Truman. Donald Trump beat Hillary Clinton by over 20 points here in 2016. Montana is one of seven states with the minimum three electoral votes.

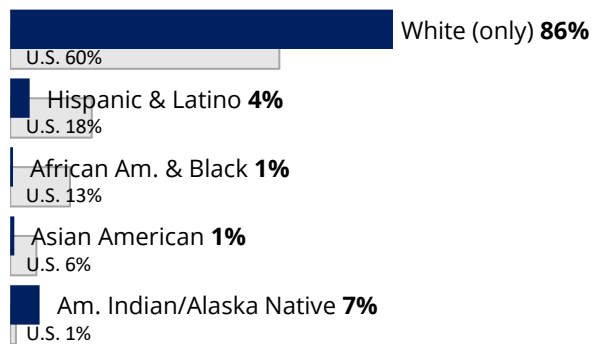
Election results in Montana (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

MT is tied for **39th** most religious state overall

48% of adults in MT are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Montana

44% (41st) say religion is very important in their lives

31% (35th) say they attend worship at least weekly

51% (29th) say they pray daily

64% (21st) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

13.4% (26th highest) poverty rate

3.5% (23rd lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **16% of all the income in MT.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



16% of the income

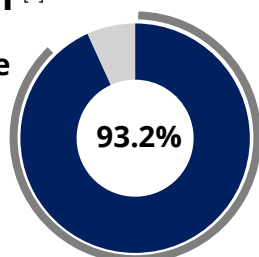


Education ^[4]

High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

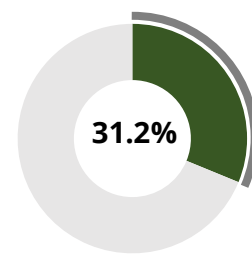
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 31.5%



More information on Montana*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <http://www.mt.gov/>



Government information:

Governor: <https://governor.mt.gov/>

State and Local Government on The Net: <http://www.statelocalgov.net/>

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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

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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



<http://www.montanademocrats.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/montanademocrats/>

<http://bit.ly/mtdemseyoutube>

<https://twitter.com/mtdems>

Republican Party

<http://mtgop.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MTGOP/>

<http://bit.ly/mtgopyoutube>

<https://twitter.com/mtgop>

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Nebraska (NE) (5 votes)

Capital:	Lincoln
Area:	77,358 sq mi. / 200,356 sq km
Population:	1,929,268
Nickname:	"Cornhusker State"
State motto:	"Equality before the law"
Governor:	Pete Ricketts (R)
U.S. Senators:	Deb Fischer (R), Ben Sasse (R)



How will your state vote?

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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?

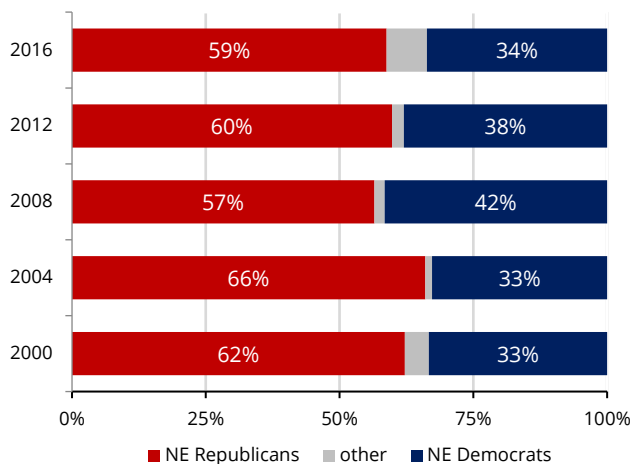


Voting history^[2]

Nebraska entered the Union in March 1867, 13 years after it became a territory under the Kansas-Nebraska Act, and the first state admitted after the end of the Civil War.

The state is strongly Republican in presidential elections – it last voted Democratic in 1964. However, it is one of only two states (Maine being the other) to not use the all-or-nothing approach to awarding electoral votes. The winner of the popular vote gets two electoral votes, while one is assigned to the winner of each of the state’s three congressional districts. Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton by 25 points statewide in 2016 while winning the 2nd district by about 2%. Nebraska’s primarily rural population has not grown as quickly as other parts of the country, leading to declining electoral influence.

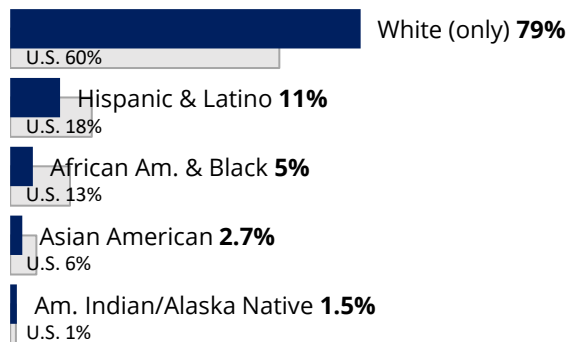
Election results in Nebraska (2000–2016):^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion^[5]

NE is tied for 22nd most religious state overall

54% of adults in NE are “highly religious,” based on an overall index

Religious profile of Nebraska

54% (19th) say religion is very important in their lives

39% (13th) say they attend worship at least weekly

52% (26th) say they pray daily

66% (17th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy^[4]

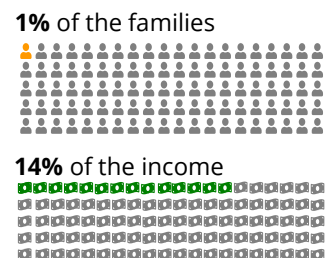
11.2% (37th highest) poverty rate

3.0% (11st lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality^[6]

The top 1% take home 14% of all the income in NE.

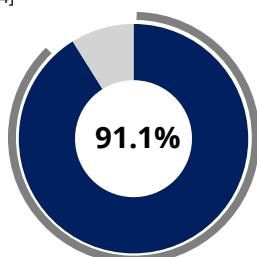
(U.S. average: 21%)



Education^[4]

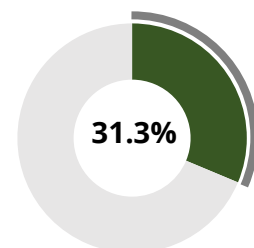
High school degree or higher persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 87.7%



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

U.S. average: 31.5%



More information on Nebraska*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <https://www.nebraska.gov/>



Government information:

Governor: <https://governor.nebraska.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

270twin.com: <http://www.270twin.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



<http://www.nebraskademocrats.org>

<http://facebook.com/NebraskaDemocraticParty>

no official site

<http://twitter.com/nebraskadems>

Republican Party

<http://www.negop.org/>

<http://facebook.com/nebraskagop>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/NebraskaGOP>

<http://twitter.com/NEGOP>

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Sources: 1. State map: [Wikimedia Commons](#); 2. Voting history text: adapted from [270twin.com](#); 3. U.S. election history: [David Leip's Election Atlas](#); 4. Ethnicity, economy, and education data: [U.S. Census Bureau](#); 5. Religion data: [Pew poll: How religious is your state?](#); 6. Wealth and income inequality data: [Economic Policy Institute – The Unequal States of America](#).



Nevada (NV) (6 votes)

Capital: **Carson City**
 Area: **110,577 sq mi. / 286,382 sq km**
 Population: **3,034,392**
 Nickname: **"The Silver State"**
 State motto: **"All for Our Country"**
 Governor: **Steve Sisolak (D)**
 U.S. Senators: **Catherine Cortez Masto (D),
 Jacky Rosen (D)**



How will your state 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?

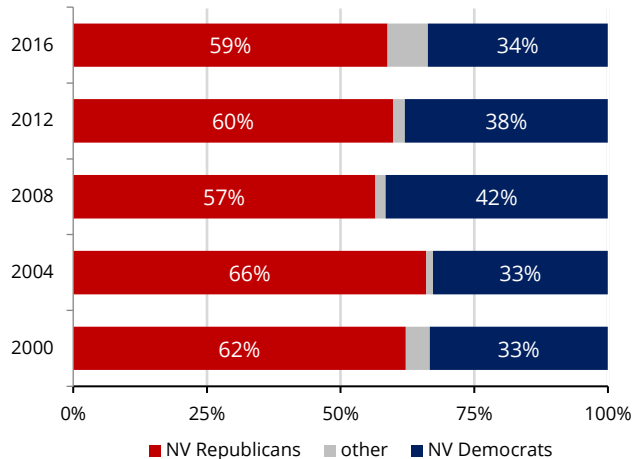


Voting history ^[2]

Called the Silver State because of its large silver mine industries, Nevada's most famous landmark is Las Vegas.

Nevada gained statehood in October 1864, one of two states to join the Union during the Civil War. The population of the Silver State has more than tripled since 1980, including 35% growth between 2000 and 2010, bringing its number of electoral votes to six. Although Republicans were dominant from the late 60s to late 80s, this influx of population has put Nevada squarely into the battleground state category. In 2016, Hillary Clinton beat Donald Trump by a margin of 48% to 46%. Nevada has been badly affected by the economic crisis, with unemployment soaring to 15% in 2010. As a result, Democrats saw

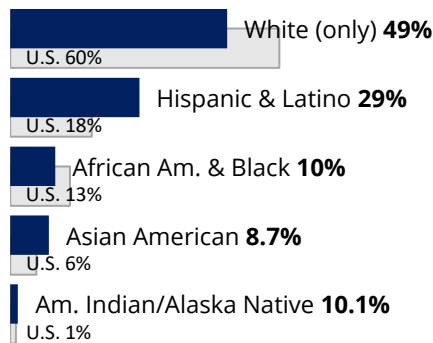
Election results in Nevada (2000-2016) ^[3]
in the 2010 midterm election.



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]

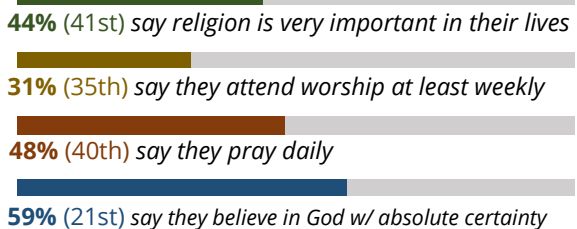


(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

NV is tied for 35th most religious state over-
49% of adults in NV are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Nevada



Economy ^[4]

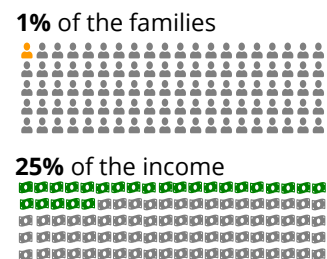
13.5% (25th highest)
poverty rate

4.0% (35th lowest)
unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **25% of all the income in NV.**

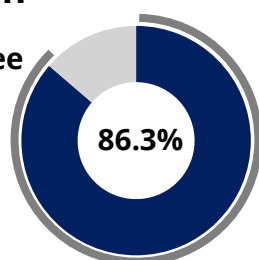
(U.S. average: 21%)



Education ^[4]

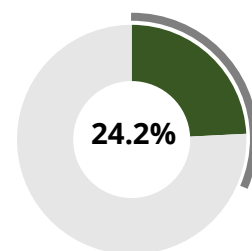
High school degree or higher
persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 87.7%



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

U.S. average: 31.5%



More information on Nevada*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: nv.gov

Government information:

Governor: gov.nv.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



<http://www.nvdems.com/>

<http://www.facebook.com/NevadaDems>

<http://www.youtube.com/nvdemocraticparty>

<https://twitter.com/nvdems>

Republican Party

<http://www.nevadagop.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/NevadaRepublicanParty>

No official site

No official site

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New Hampshire (NH) (4 votes)

Capital:	Concord
Area:	9,349sq mi. / 24,214sq km
Population:	1,356,458
Nickname:	"The Granite State"
State motto:	"Live Free or Die"
Governor:	Chris Sununu (R)
U.S. Senators:	Jeanne Shaheen (D), Maggie Hassan (D)



How will your state 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?

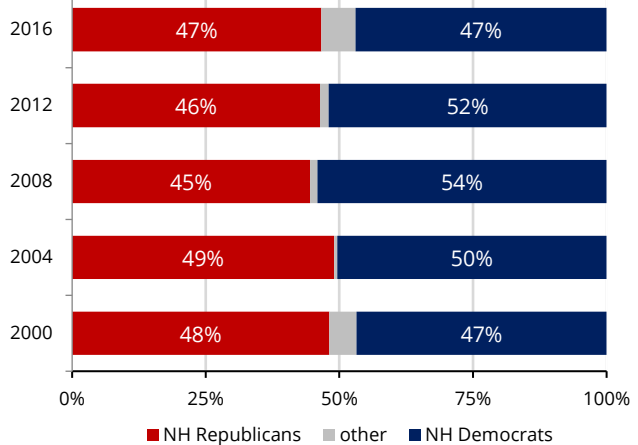


Voting history ^[2]

Nicknamed the Granite State for its many quarries, the famous Old Man of the Mountain rock formation is still considered the state symbol, despite having collapsed in 2003.

New Hampshire, one of the original 13 colonies, entered the Union in June 1788, and has participated in all 58 presidential elections through 2016. Although surrounded by “blue” states, the independent nature of New Hampshire voters leads it to be considered a battleground state in most election cycles. It has, however, ultimately voted Democratic in six of the last seven elections. In 2016, Hillary Clinton won by 0.4% over Donald Trump, the 2nd closest state (after Michigan) in percentage terms that year. New Hampshire has maintained its allocation of four electoral votes since 1884.

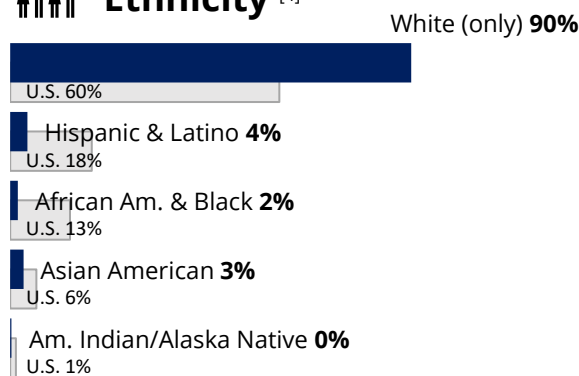
Election results in New Hampshire (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)



Religion ^[5]

NH is tied for 50th most religious state overall

33% of adults in NH are “highly religious,” based on an overall index

Religious profile of New Hampshire

33% (41st) say religion is very important in their lives

22% (35th) say they attend worship at least weekly

36% (29th) say they pray daily

43% (21st) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

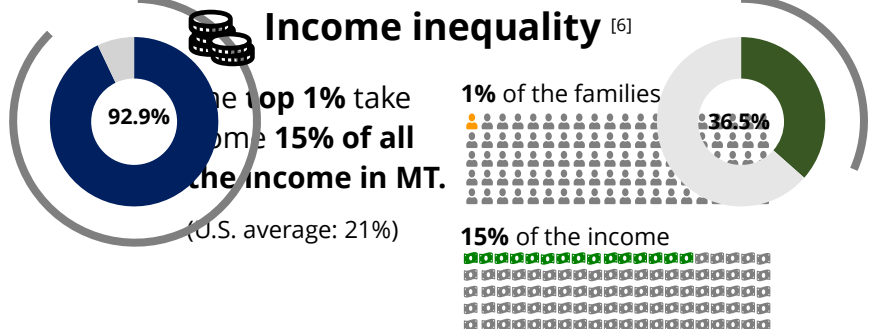


Economy ^[4]

7.6% (51th highest) poverty rate

2.5% (4th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

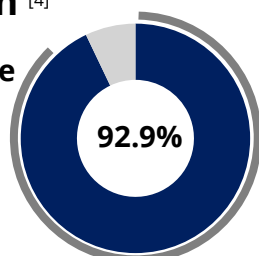


Education ^[4]

High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

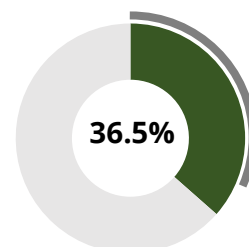
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 31.5%



More information on New Hampshire*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: www.nh.gov/



Government information:

Governor: <https://www.governor.nh.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



<http://www.nhdp.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/NHDems>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/NHDP>

<http://twitter.com/nhdems>

Republican Party

<http://www.nhgop.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/nhrepublicanparty>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/nhgop>

<http://twitter.com/nhgop>

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New Jersey (NJ) (14 votes)

Capital: **Trenton**
 Area: **8,723 sq mi. / 22,591sq km**
 Population: **8,908,520**
 Nickname: **"Garden State"**
 State motto: **"Liberty and Prosperity"**
 Governor: **Phil Murphy (D)**
 U.S. Senators: **Bob Menendez (D),**
Cory Booker (D)



How will your state 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?

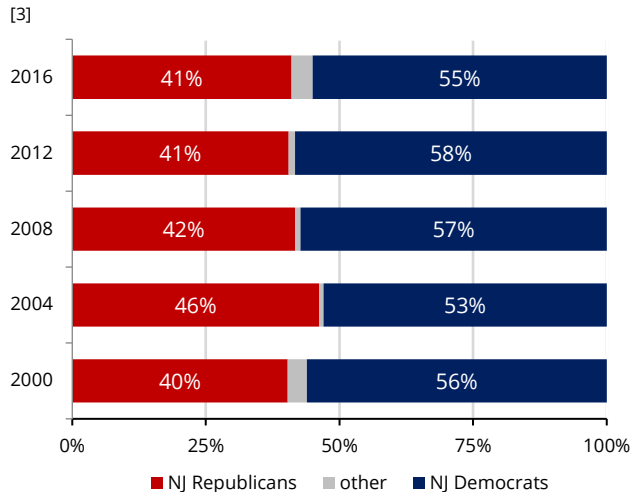


Voting history ^[2]

New Jersey, one of the 13 original colonies, joined the Union in December 1787 and has participated in all 58 presidential elections.

Thanks to the density of its population, New Jersey has more electoral votes per square mile than any state except Rhode Island. Its 14 electoral votes make it a rich prize. New Jersey has gone Democratic in the last seven elections, after voting Republican in the previous six. Hillary Clinton won the state over Donald Trump by a margin of 55% to 41% in 2016. votes.

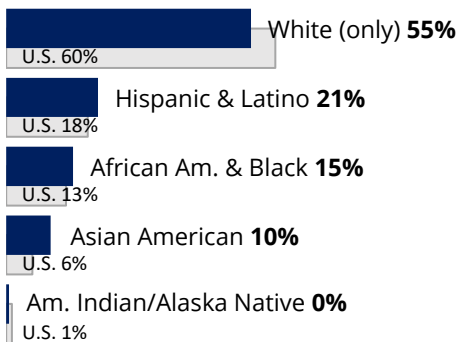
Election results in New Jersey (2000–2016):



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

NJ is tied for 19th most religious state overall

55% of adults in NJ are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of New Jersey

50% (27th) say religion is very important in their lives

35% (25th) say they attend worship at least weekly

53% (22th) say they pray daily

60% (35st) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

10.2% (45th highest) poverty rate

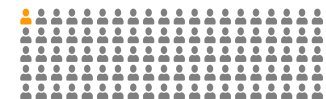
3.5% (23rd lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **20% of all the income in NJ.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



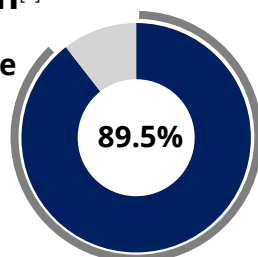
20% of the income



Education ^[4]

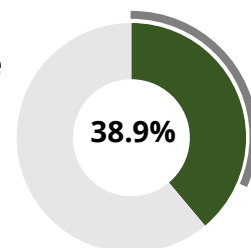
High school degree or higher
persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 87.7%



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

U.S. average: 31.5%





More information on New Jersey*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: www.nj.gov/



Government information:

Governor: www.nj.gov/governor/

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

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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:

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<http://www.officialusa.com/stateguides/media/television/states.html>



Democrats and Republicans in the state

Democratic Party



<http://www.njdems.org>

<http://facebook.com/njdems>

<http://www.youtube.com/njdems>

<http://twitter.com/njdsc>

Republican Party

<http://www.njgop.org/>

<http://facebook.com/NewJerseyGOP>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/NJGOP>

<http://twitter.com/NJGOP>

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New Mexico (NM) (5 votes)

Capital:	Santa Fe
Area:	121,700 sq mi. / 315,199 sq km
Population:	2,095,428
Nickname:	"Land of Enchantment"
State motto:	"It Grows as It Goes"
Governor:	Michelle Lujan Grisham (D)
U.S. Senators:	Tom Udall (D), Martin Heinrich(D)



How will your state vote?

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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?

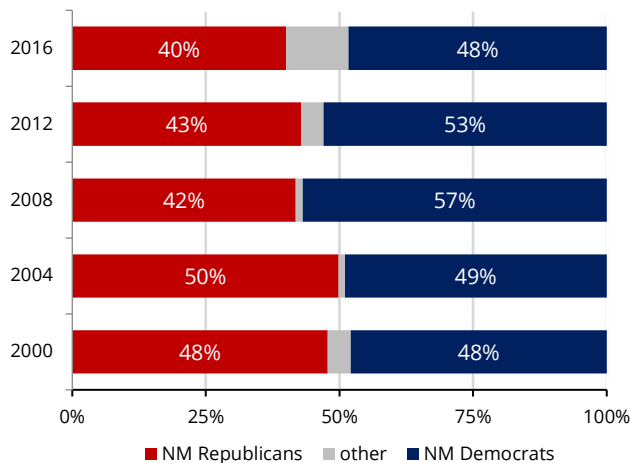


Voting history ^[2]

The Zia, a Native American symbol for the Sun, features on the state flag and the state has the second-highest percentage of Native American inhabitants in the US.

The state divides politically along geographical lines, with Democrats strong in the more urbanized north and Republicans dominant in the south-east, which borders Texas. New Mexico's large Latino population swung behind Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012, especially after he enacted legislation to protect the children of illegal immigrants. It has participated in 27 presidential elections through 2016, with the results split almost down the middle; 15 for Democrats, 12 for Republicans. However, Democrats have now won 6 of the last 7 elections. This shift is at least partially due to the increasing support of the Democratic party by Latinos in recent years.

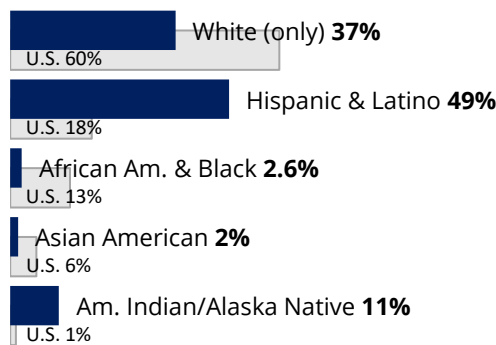
Election results in New Mexico (2000–2016):^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

NM is tied for 18th most religious state overall

57% of adults in NM are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of New Mexico

59% (14th) say religion is very important in their lives

36% (21st) say they attend worship at least weekly

55% (19th) say they pray daily

63% (25th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

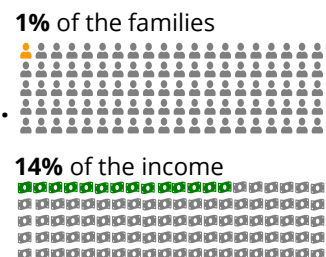
19.6% (2nd highest) poverty rate

4.9% (47th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The top 1% take home **14% of all the income in NM.**

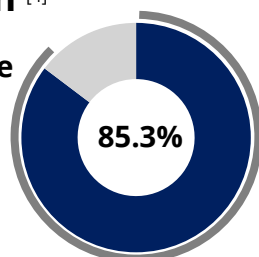
(U.S. average: 21%)



Education ^[4]

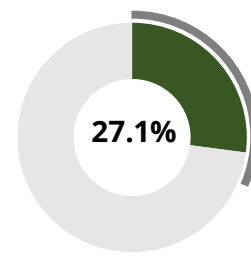
High school degree or higher
persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 87.7%



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

U.S. average: 31.5%



More information on New Mexico*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: www.newmexico.gov

Government information:



Governor: www.governor.state.nm.us

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



<http://www.nmdemocrats.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/NMDEMS>

no official site

<http://twitter.com/NMDEMS>

Republican Party

<https://newmexico.gop/>

<http://www.facebook.com/newmexicogop>

no official site

<http://twitter.com/newmexicogop>

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Sources: 1. State map: [Wikimedia Commons](#); 2. Voting history text: adapted from [270towin.com](#); 3. U.S. election history: [David Leip's Election Atlas](#); 4. Ethnicity, economy, and education data: [U.S. Census Bureau](#); 5. Religion data: [Pew poll: How religious is your state?](#); 6. Wealth and income inequality data: [Economic Policy Institute – The Unequal States of America](#).



New York (NY) (29 votes)

Capital: **Albany**
 Area: **54,555 sq mi. / 141,300 sq km**
 Population: **19,542,209**
 Nickname: **"Empire State"**
 State motto: **"Excelsior" ("Ever Upward")**
 Governor: **Andrew M. Cuomo (D)**
 U.S. Senators: **Chuck Schumer (D),
 Kirsten Gillibrand (D)**



How will your state 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?

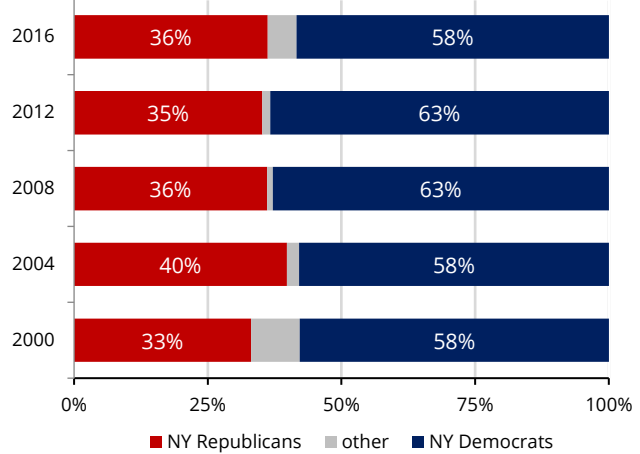


Voting history ^[2]

New York, one of the 13 original colonies, joined the Union in July 1788.

In the 1810 census, New York became the nation's most populous state, and had the most electoral votes from the 1812 election until the 1972 election, when it relinquished that distinction to California. Texas surpassed New York in those numbers in 2004. Like many other northeastern states, New York's electoral clout has diminished in recent years. New York has been primarily a "blue" state ever since the Great Depression. In 2016, Hillary Clinton easily defeated Donald Trump by 22% in the state.

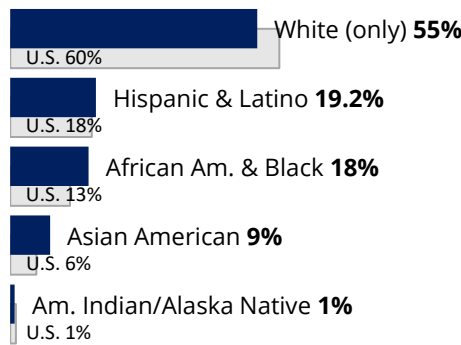
Election results in New York (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

NY is the 43rd most religious state overall

43% of adults in NY are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of New York

45% (39th) say religion is very important in their lives

29% (42nd) say they attend worship at least weekly

48% (40th) say they pray daily

56% (39th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

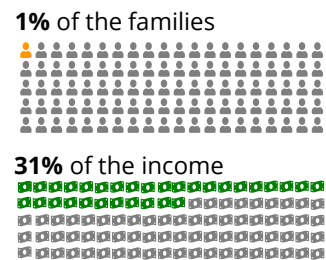
14.2% (18th highest) poverty rate

4.0% (35th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **31% of all the income in NY.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

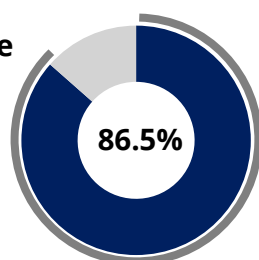


Education ^[4]

High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

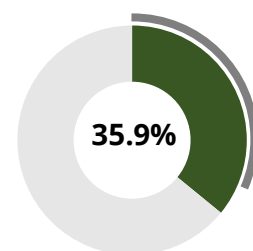
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 31.5%



More information on New York*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: www.ny.gov/

Government information:



Governor: www.governor.ny.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

270twin.com: <http://www.270twin.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



<http://www.nydems.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/nydems/>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/NYDemsMediaRoom>

<http://twitter.com/nydems>

Republican Party

<http://www.nygop.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/NewYorkGOP/>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/NewYorkGOP>

<http://twitter.com/newyorkgop>

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North Carolina (NC) (15 votes)

Capital: **Raleigh**
 Area: **53,819 sq mi. / 139,390 sq km**
 Population: **10,383,620**
 Nickname: **"Old North State"**
 State motto: **"To be, rather than to seem"**
 Governor: **Roy Cooper (D)**
 U.S. Senators: **Richard Burr (R),
 Thom Tillis (R)**



How will your state 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?

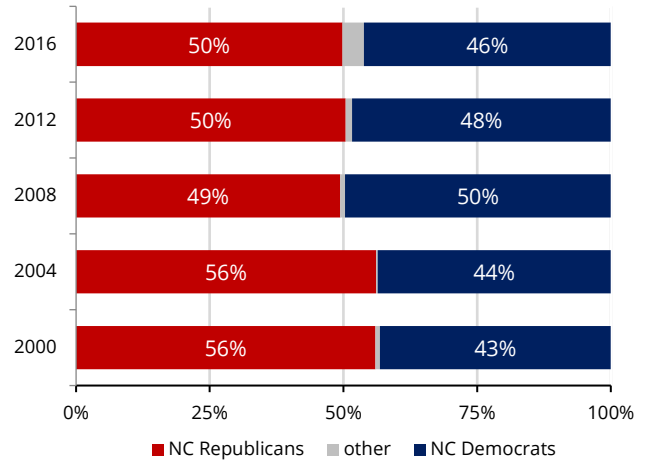


Voting history ^[2]

North Carolina was the location of the Wright Brothers' famous first powered flight, near Kitty Hawk in 1903.

The state did not participate in the 1864 election due to secession. Like many other southern states, North Carolina voted almost exclusively Democratic from 1876 through 1964 and almost exclusively Republican beginning in 1968. The initial shift was largely in response to white conservative voter uneasiness with the civil rights legislation passed in the mid-1960s, which was effectively exploited by the Republicans "southern strategy." Donald Trump won the state by 3.6% over Hillary Clinton in 2016. Based on population projections, the state may gain an additional electoral vote after the 2020 presidential election votes.

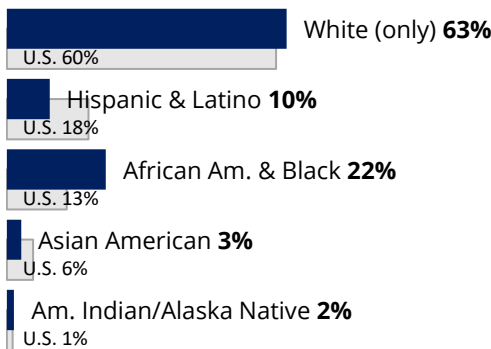
Election results in North Carolina (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

NC is the 10th most religious state overall

65% of adults in NC are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of North Carolina

62% (12th) say religion is very important in their lives

39% (13th) say they attend worship at least weekly

66% (6th) say they pray daily

73% (10th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

15% (15th highest) poverty rate

4.1% (38th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **17% of all the income in NC.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



17% of the income

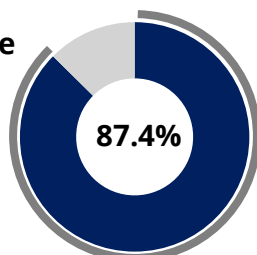


Education ^[4]

High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

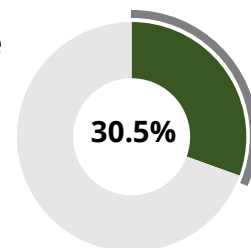
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 31.5%





More information on North Carolina*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: www.ncgov.com



Government information:

Governor: <http://www.governor.state.nc.us/>

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



<http://www.ncdp.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/NCDemParty>

<http://www.youtube.com/NCDemParty>

<http://twitter.com/ncdemparty>

Republican Party

<http://www.ncgop.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/ncgop>

<http://www.youtube.com/NorthCarolinaGOP>

<http://twitter.com/ncgop>

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North Dakota (ND) (3 votes)

Capital: **Bismarck**
 Area: **70,761 sq mi. / 183,843 sq km**
 Population: **760,077**
 Nickname: **"Peace Garden State",
 "Flickertail State", "Sioux State"**
 State motto: **"Liberty and Union", "Now and
 Forever", "One and Inseparable"**
 Governor: **Doug Burgum (R)**
 U.S. Senators: **John Hoeven (R),
 Kevin Cramer (R)**



How will your state 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?

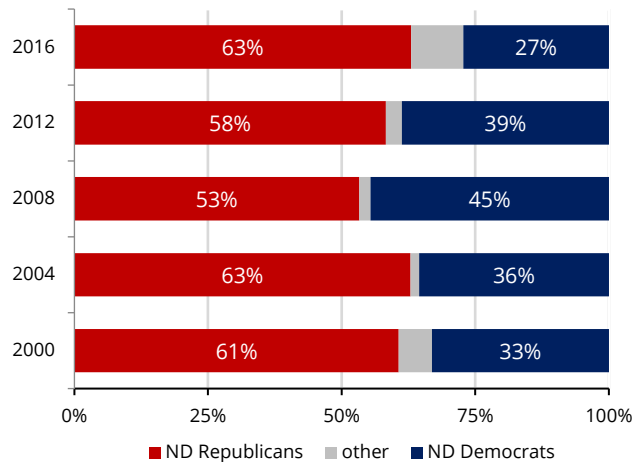


Voting history ^[2]

North Dakota has participated in 32 presidential elections, voting Republican in 26 of them.

Of the five times it went “blue,” only 1916 (Woodrow Wilson’s second-term victory) was not a landslide for the Democratic candidate. (North Dakota’s first election as a state was won by a 3rd party candidate). Today, North Dakota is a very safe state for the Republicans in presidential elections. In 2016, Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton by a 63% to 27% margin. The state’s population of about 673,000 is little changed from what it was in 1920. As a result, North Dakota is one of seven states with the minimum three electoral votes.

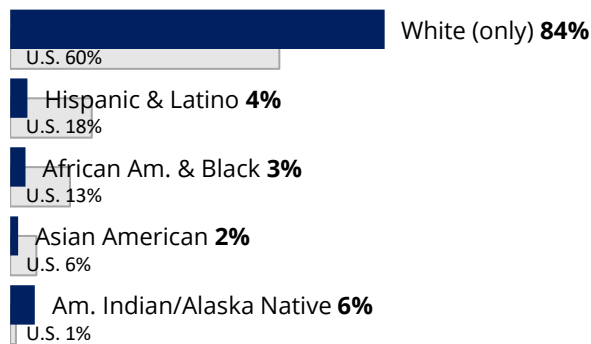
Election results in North Dakota (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

ND is tied for 27th most religious state overall

53% of adults in ND are “highly religious,” based on an overall index

Religious profile of North Dakota

53% (20th) say religion is very important in their lives

33% (33th) say they attend worship at least weekly

51% (29th) say they pray daily

64% (21st) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

10.5% (43th highest) poverty rate

2.4% (4rd lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The top 1% take home 14% of all the income in ND.

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



14% of the income

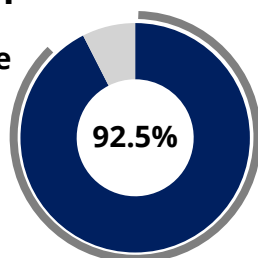


Education ^[4]

High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

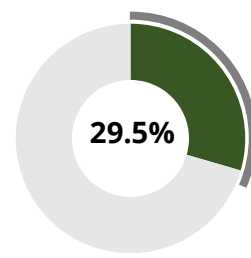
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor’s degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 31.5%





More information on North Dakota*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: www.nd.gov



Government information:

Governor: <https://www.governor.nd.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

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Rock the Vote – voting information: <https://www.rockthevote.org/voting-information/>

Vote.org – voter registration rules: <https://www.vote.org/voter-registration-rules/>



Statistics

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Economic Policy Institute – The Unequal States of America: <https://epi.org/108519>



Media



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Democrats and Republicans in the state

Democratic Party



<http://www.demnp.org>



<http://www.facebook.com/demnp>



no official site



<http://twitter.com/nddemnp>

Republican Party

<http://www.ndgop.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/northdakotagop>

no official site

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Ohio (OH) (18 votes)

Capital: **Columbus**
 Area: **44,825 sq mi. / 116,096 sq km**
 Population: **11,689,442**
 Nickname: **"The Buckeye State"**
 State motto: **"With God, all things are possible"**
 Governor: **Mike DeWine (R)**
 U.S. Senators: **Sherrod Brown (D),
 Rob Portman (R)**



How will your state 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.

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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?

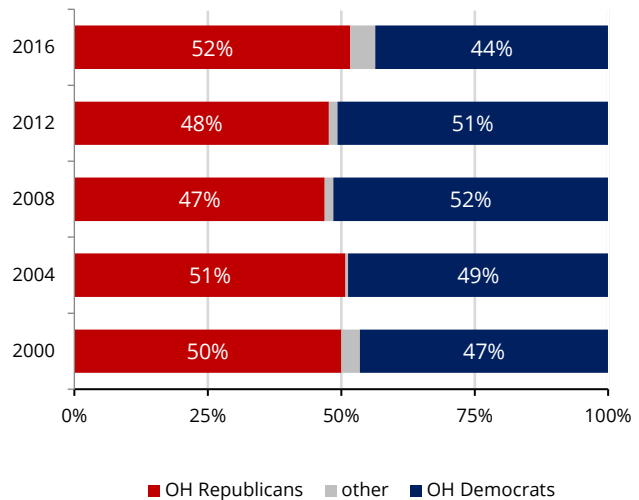


Voting history ^[2]

The home to seven former presidents, Ohio is sometimes known as the Modern Mother of Presidents.

Ohio has been a major battleground in recent elections due to the closeness of the vote and its wealth of electoral votes. 2016 saw Donald Trump defeat Hillary Clinton by over 8 points, the largest margin there since 1988. In recent elections, the Buckeye State has proved itself to be a remarkably good predictor of the election winner. Since 1944, Ohioans have sided with the losing candidate only once – opting for Nixon over Kennedy in 1960. Ohio has been losing population (relative to the country as a whole) and it has lost about 1/3 of its electoral vote clout since the 1960s. It lost two electoral votes after the 2010 Census and is on track to lose one more after the 2020 presidential election.

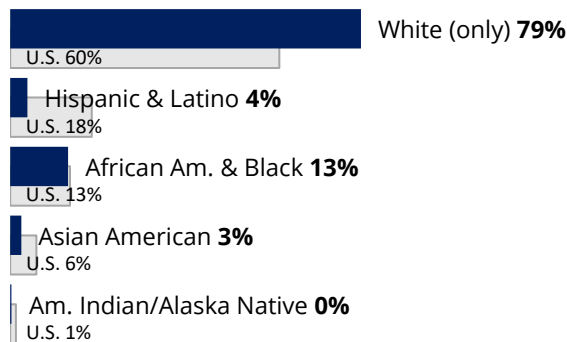
Election results in Ohio (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

OH is the 17th most religious state overall

48% of adults in OH are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Ohio

56% (17th) say religion is very important in their lives

38% (16th) say they attend worship at least weekly

57% (16th) say they pray daily

67% (15th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

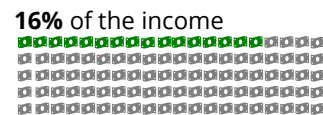
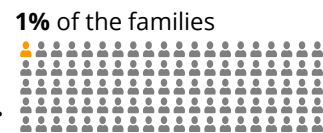
14.1% (19th highest) poverty rate

4.2% (41th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **16% of all the income in OH.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

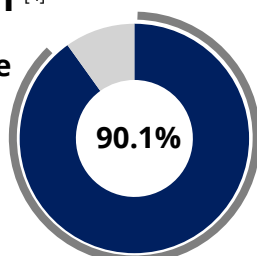


Education ^[4]

High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

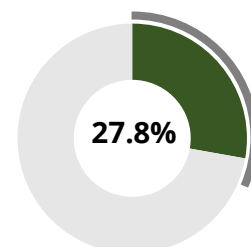
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 31.5%





More information on Ohio*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <https://ohio.gov/>



Government information:

Governor: governor.ohio.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



<http://ohiodems.org/>



<http://www.facebook.com/OHDems>



<http://www.youtube.com/OhioDems>



<https://twitter.com/OHDems>

Republican Party

<http://www.ohiogop.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/OhioRepublicans>

<http://www.youtube.com/GOPOhio>

<https://twitter.com/ohiogop>

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Sources: 1. State map: [Wikimedia Commons](#); 2. Voting history text: adapted from [270towin.com](#); 3. U.S. election history: [David Leip's Election Atlas](#); 4. Ethnicity, economy, and education data: [U.S. Census Bureau](#); 5. Religion data: [Pew poll: How religious is your state?](#); 6. Wealth and income inequality data: [Economic Policy Institute – The Unequal States of America](#).



Oklahoma (OK) (7 votes)

Capital:	Oklahoma City
Area:	69,420 sq mi. / 181,040 sq km
Population:	3,943,079
Nickname:	"Sooner State"
State motto:	"Labor Omnia Vincit" ("Labor Conquers All Things")
Governor:	Kevin Stitt (R)
U.S. Senators:	Jim Inhofe (R), James Lankford (R)



How will your state 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?

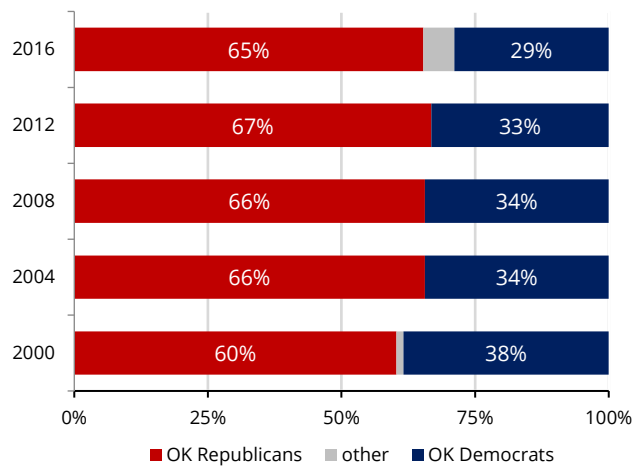


Voting history ^[2]

Oklahoma gained statehood in November 1907.

The state voted Democratic in all but two elections through 1948, but has not gone Democratic since, except in the landslide win for Lyndon Johnson in 1964. Already fairly populous when admitted to the Union, the state had seven electoral votes in the 1908 election, the first in which it participated. No state outside the original 13 colonies, except Maine, started with more. In 2016, Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton by 65% to 29%, the fourth consecutive election that the Republican has won by over 30%.

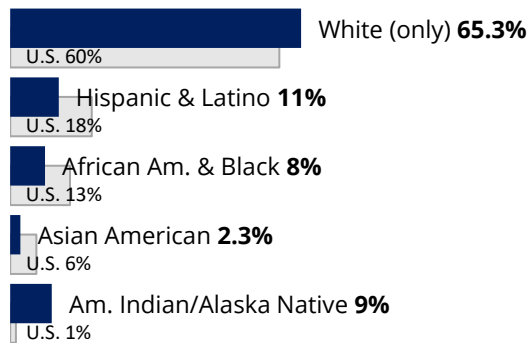
Election results in Oklahoma (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)



Religion ^[5]

OK is tied for 8th most religious state overall

66% of adults in OK are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Oklahoma

64% (7th) say religion is very important in their lives

43% (9th) say they attend worship at least weekly

65% (8th) say they pray daily

71% (11th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty



Economy ^[4]

15.5% (13th highest) poverty rate

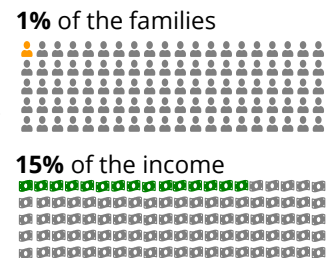
3.4% (23rd lowest) unemployment rate



Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **15% of all the income in OK.**

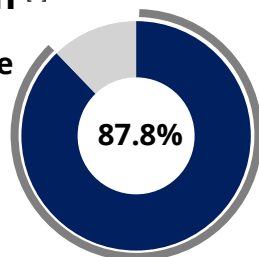
(U.S. average: 21%)



Education ^[4]

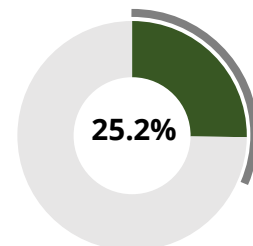
High school degree or higher
persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 87.7%



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

U.S. average: 31.5%





More information on Oklahoma*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: www.ok.gov/



Government information:

Governor: www.ok.gov/governor/

State and Local Government on The Net: <http://www.statelocalgov.net/>

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Election 2020

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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



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<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



<http://www.okdemocrats.org>



<http://www.facebook.com/okdemocrats/>



no official site



<http://twitter.com/okdemocrats>

Republican Party

<https://www.okgop.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/OKGOP>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/OKGOP>

<http://twitter.com/officialOKGOP>

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Oregon (OR) (7 votes)

Capital: **Salem**
 Area: **98,381 sq mi. / 254,806 sq km**
 Population: **4,190,713**
 Nickname: **"Beaver State"**
 State motto: **"She Flies with Her Own Wings"**
 Governor: **Katherine (Kate) Brown (D)**
 U.S. Senators: **Ron Wyden (D),
 Jeff Merkley (D)**



How will your state 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

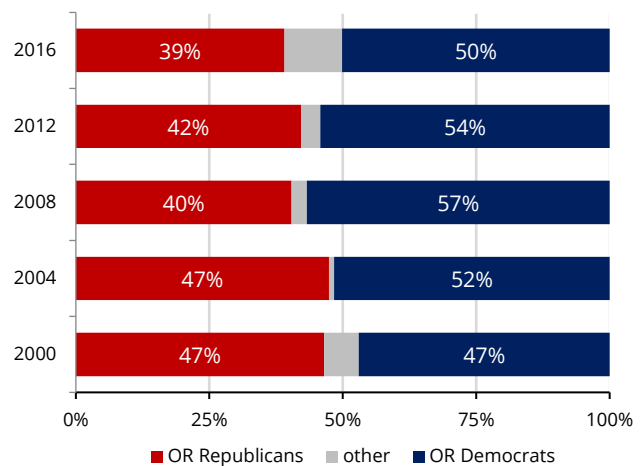
How many people graduate from high school in your state? How many have a college degree?

Voting history ^[2]

Oregon joined the union in February 1859 after being carved out of the Oregon Territory.

The state voted almost exclusively Republican from its founding until 1984, except 1868, 1912 and 1964 and the four elections won by Franklin Roosevelt during the Great Depression and World War II. Starting in 1988, the state went Democratic and has done so to this day. In 2016, Hillary Clinton defeated Donald Trump by 11%. Oregon's population has grown steadily over the years, enough so that it has periodically gained electoral votes. The last such increase was in 1984 when it went from six to seven as a result of the 1980 census. Current projections have it gaining an 8th electoral vote for the 2024 presidential election.

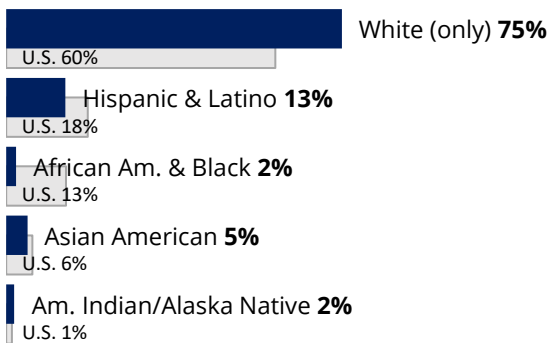
Election results in Oregon (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

OR is tied for 39th most religious state overall

48% of adults in OR are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Oregon

45% (39th) say religion is very important in their lives

29% (42nd) say they attend worship at least weekly

45% (47th) say they pray daily

57% (38th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

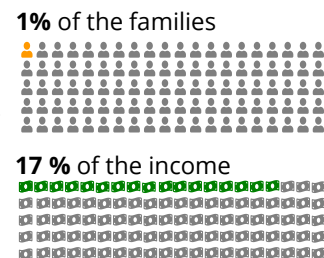
13.8% (21th highest) poverty rate

3.7% (31th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **17% of all the income in OR.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

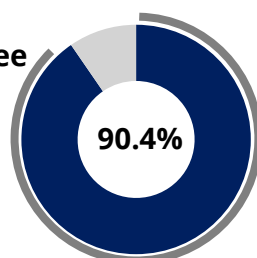


Education ^[4]

High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

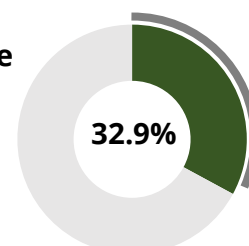
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 31.5%



More information on Oregon*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: www.oregon.gov/



Government information:

Governor: www.oregon.gov/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



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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



<http://www.dpo.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/ordems>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/oregondemocrats>

<http://twitter.com/ORDems>

Republican Party

<http://www.oregonrepublicanparty.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/oregonrepublicanparty>

<http://www.youtube.com/OregonRepublicans>

<http://twitter.com/OregonGOP>

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Pennsylvania (PA) (20 votes)

Capital:	Harrisburg
Area:	46,055 sq mi. / 119,283 sq km
Population:	12,807,060
Nickname:	"The Keystone State"
State motto:	"Virtue, Liberty and Independence"
Governor:	Tom Wolf (D)
U.S. Senators:	Bob Casey Jr. (D), Pat Toomey (R)



How will your state 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?

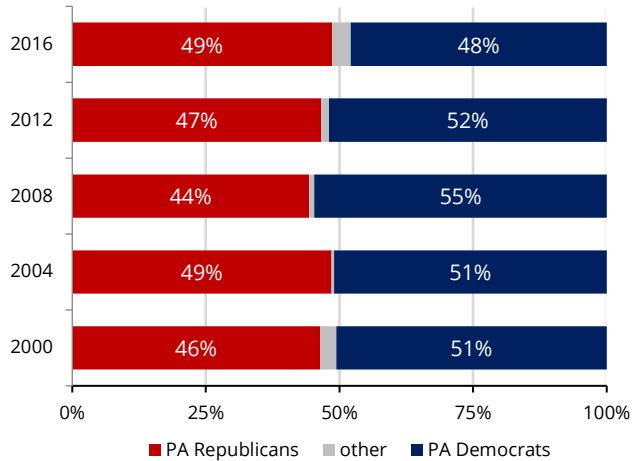


Voting history ^[2]

Site of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and home to the Liberty Bell, Pennsylvania is known as the Keystone State.

Pennsylvania is generally considered a battleground state, although it voted Democratic in the six elections prior to 2016. That election saw Donald Trump win the state by 0.7%, one of three 'blue wall' states (Michigan & Wisconsin the others) he won on his way to winning the presidential election. While still an important prize, with 20 electoral votes, Pennsylvania, like many industrial northern states, has seen population migrate away in recent decades. Peaking at 38 electoral votes in the 1910s and 1920s (second only to New York), the state has lost 45 percent of its electoral clout in 80 years. It is currently expected to lose another

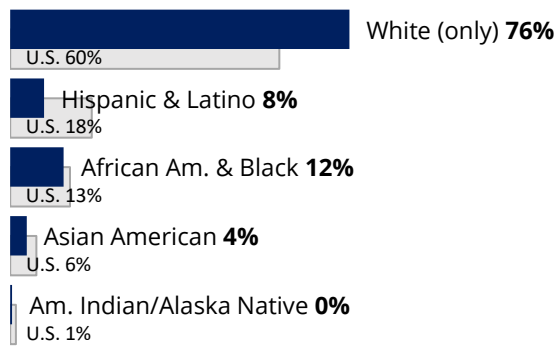
Election results in Pennsylvania (2000-2016):^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



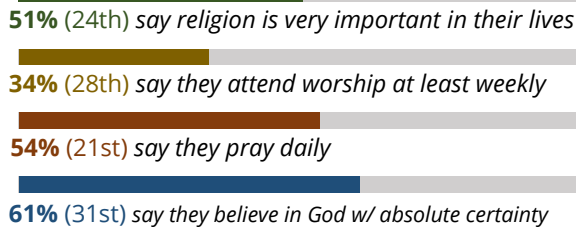
(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

PA is tied for 27th most religious state overall

53% of adults in PA are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Pennsylvania



Economy ^[4]

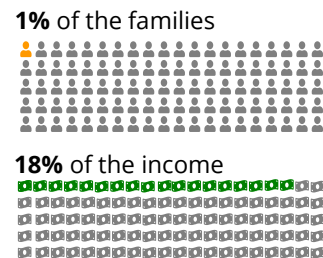
12.3% (30th highest) poverty rate

4.5% (44th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The top 1% take home 18% of all the income in PA.

(U.S. average: 21%)

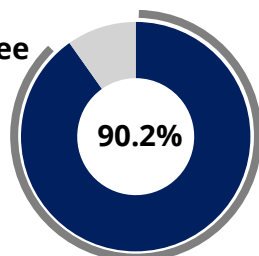


Education ^[4]

High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

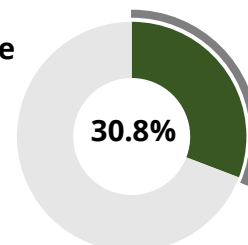
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 31.5%





More information on Pennsylvania*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: www.pa.gov



Government information:

Governor: <https://www.governor.pa.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

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Vote.org – voter registration rules: <https://www.vote.org/voter-registration-rules/>



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Democrats and Republicans in the state

Democratic Party



<http://www.padems.com/>



<https://www.facebook.com/padems>



<http://www.youtube.com/PADemocrats>



<http://twitter.com/padems>

Republican Party

<http://www.pagop.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/PennsylvaniaGOP>

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Rhode Island (RI) (4 votes)

Capital: **Providence**
 Area: **1,214 sq mi. / 3,144 sq km**
 Population: **1,057,315**
 Nickname: **"Little Rhody", "Ocean State"**
 State motto: **"Hope"**
 Governor: **Gina Raimondo (D)**
 U.S. Senators: **Jack Reed (D),
 Sheldon Whitehouse (D)**



How will your state 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?

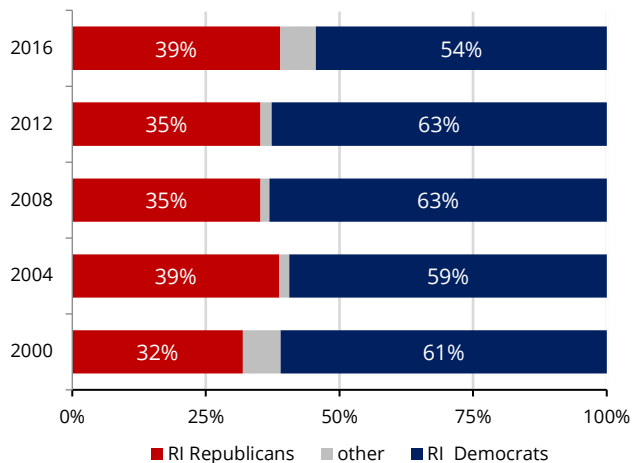


Voting history ^[2]

Rhode Island has been reliably Democratic since 1928.

In 2016, Hillary Clinton defeated Donald Trump by about 15.5%. While the state was by no means competitive, this was the closest Democratic margin here since 1988. The Ocean State has had four electoral votes since it first participated in 1792. That makes it the 2nd most over-represented state in the electoral college, with one vote per 263,142 residents. It also has the most electoral votes proportional to size. Population trends indicate the state could lose one of its electoral votes after the next presidential election. This would leave the state with a single congressional district for the first time ever, thus making it the 8th state with the minimum three electoral votes.

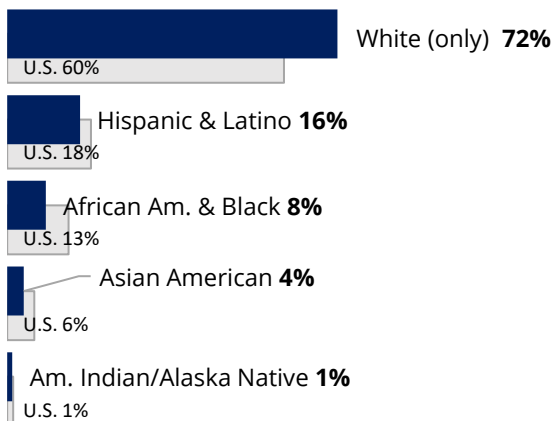
Election results in Rhode Island (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

RI is tied for 37th most religious state overall

49% of adults in RI are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Rhode Island

48% (34th) say religion is very important in their lives

36% (21st) say they attend worship at least weekly

48% (40th) say they pray daily

60% (35th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

12.6% (29th highest) poverty rate

3.6% (30th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **16% of all the income in RI.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



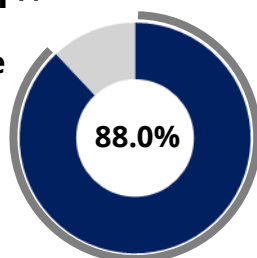
16% of the income



Education ^[4]

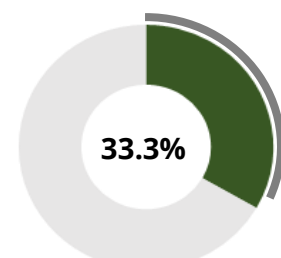
High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old
U.S. average: 31.5%





More information on Rhode Island*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <https://www.ri.gov>



Government information:

Governor: <http://www.governor.ri.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



<http://www.ridemocrats.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/ridemocrats>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSXyG2VIVxxAEMOQZmUhmA>

<http://twitter.com/ridemparty>

Republican Party

<http://www.ri.gop/>

<https://www.facebook.com/RhodeIslandGOP/>

<https://goo.gl/EW57xg>

<http://twitter.com/RhodeIslandGOP>

* 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.

Sources: 1. State map: [Wikimedia Commons](#); 2. Voting history text: adapted from [270towin.com](#); 3. U.S. election history: [David Leip's Election Atlas](#); 4. Ethnicity, economy, and education data: [U.S. Census Bureau](#); 5. Religion data: [Pew poll: How religious is your state?](#); 6. Wealth and income inequality data: [Economic Policy Institute – The Unequal States of America](#).



South Carolina (SC) (9 votes)

Capital:	Columbia
Area:	32,030sq mi. / 82,931 sq km
Population:	5,084,127
Nickname:	"Palmetto State"
State motto:	"Animus Opibusque Parati" ("Prepared in Mind and Resources")
Governor:	Henry McMaster (R)
U.S. Senators:	Lindsey Graham (R), Tim Scott (R)



How will your state 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?

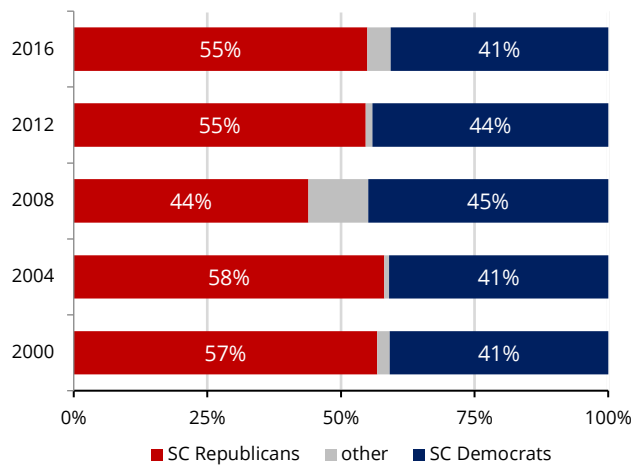


Voting history ^[2]

South Carolina, one of the original 13 colonies, attained statehood in May 1788 and has participated in every presidential election except 1864, when it had seceded from the Union.

Like many other southern states, South Carolina voted almost exclusively Democratic from the time of Reconstruction through the early 1960s, before turning Republican largely in response to civil rights legislation. South Carolina was one of only six states to vote for Barry Goldwater in 1964 and has voted Republican since, except in 1976 when it voted for fellow southerner Jimmy Carter. In 2016, Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton by 55% to 41%.

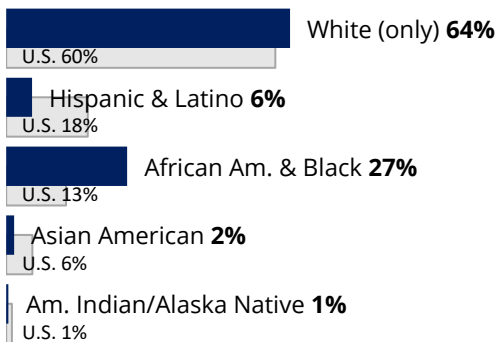
Election results in South Carolina (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



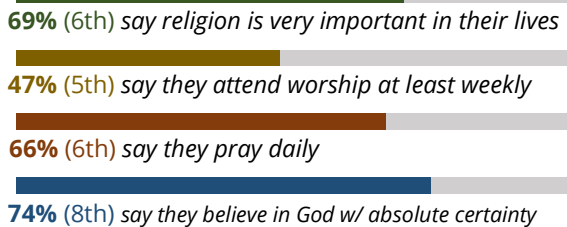
(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

SC is tied for 5th most religious state overall

70% of adults in SC are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of South Carolina



Economy ^[4]

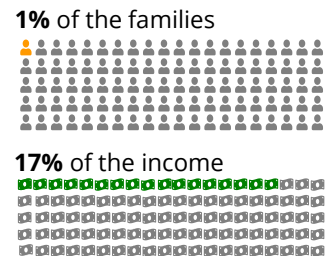
15.5% (12th highest) poverty rate

3.5% (23rd lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The top 1% take home 17% of all the income in SC.

(U.S. average: 21%)

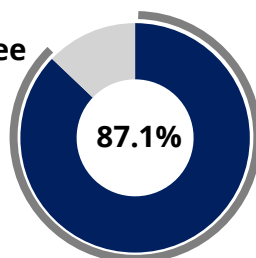


Education ^[4]

High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

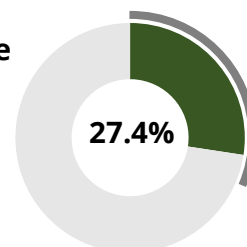
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 31.5%





More information on South Carolina*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: no official site



Government information:

Governor: governor.sc.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



<http://www.scdp.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/southcarolinadems>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/SCDemParty>

<http://twitter.com/scdp>

Republican Party

<https://www.sc.gop>

<http://www.facebook.com/screpublikanparty>

<http://www.youtube.com/thescgop>

<http://twitter.com/scgop>

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South Dakota (SD) (3 votes)

Capital: **Pierre**
 Area: **77,116sq mi. / 199,729sq km**
 Population: **882,235**
 Nickname: **"The Mount Rushmore State"**
 State motto: **"Under God the People Rule"**
 Governor: **Kristi Noem (R)**
 U.S. Senators: **John Thune (R),
 Mike Rounds (R)**



How will your state 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?

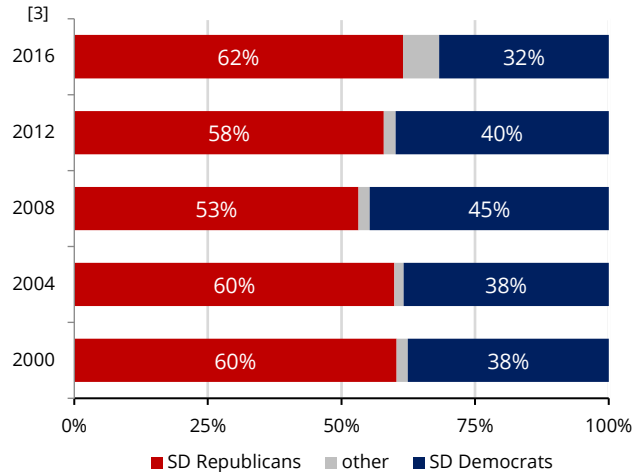


Voting history ^[2]

South Dakota entered the Union in November 1889, one of four states admitted in the first part of that month, the busiest period of new-statehood creation in U.S. history.

South Dakota is reliably Republican in presidential elections – only voting Democratic four times, most recently in 1964 when Lyndon Johnson won a landslide victory over Barry Goldwater. South Dakota is one of seven states with the minimum three electoral votes. In 2016, Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton by a margin of 30 points.

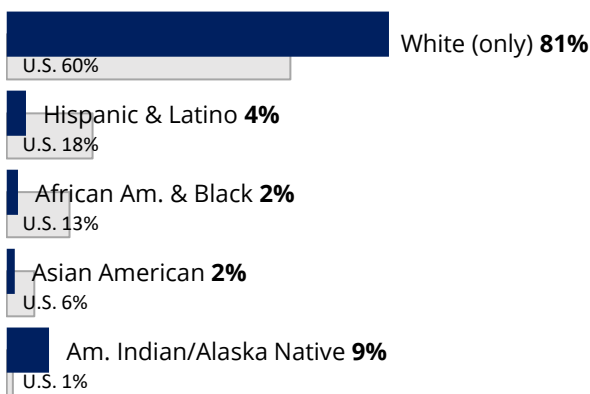
Election results in South Dakota (2000–2016):



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

SD is the 16th most religious state overall

59% of adults in SD are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of South Dakota

57% (16th) say religion is very important in their lives

36% (21st) say they attend worship at least weekly

73% (17th) say they pray daily

82% (13th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

13.9% (27th highest) poverty rate

2.9% (8th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **17% of all the income in SD.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



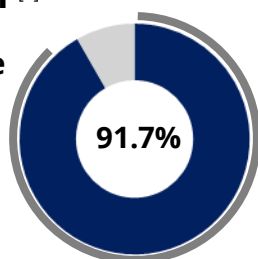
17% of the income



Education ^[4]

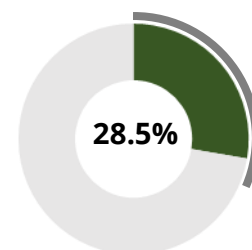
High school degree or higher
persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 87.7%



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

U.S. average: 31.5%





More information on South Dakota*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <https://sd.gov/>



Government information:

Governor: www.sd.gov/governor/

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

270twin.com: <http://www.270twin.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

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Economic Policy Institute – The Unequal States of America: <https://epi.org/108519>



Media



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<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



<http://www.sddp.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/SoDakDems>

<https://www.youtube.com/SoDakDems>

<http://twitter.com/SoDakDems>

Republican Party

<http://southdakotagop.com/>

<http://www.facebook.com/SDGOP>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCccGtLZ0G89ta68qyAFw0uw>

<http://twitter.com/sdgop>

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Tennessee (TN) (11 votes)

Capital: **Nashville**
 Area: **42,143sq mi. / 109,247sq km**
 Population: **6,833,793**
 Nickname: **"Volunteer State"**
 State motto: **"Agriculture and Commerce"**
 Governor: **Bill Lee (R)**
 U.S. Senators: **Lamar Alexander (R),
 Marsha Blackburn (R)**



How will your state vote?

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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?

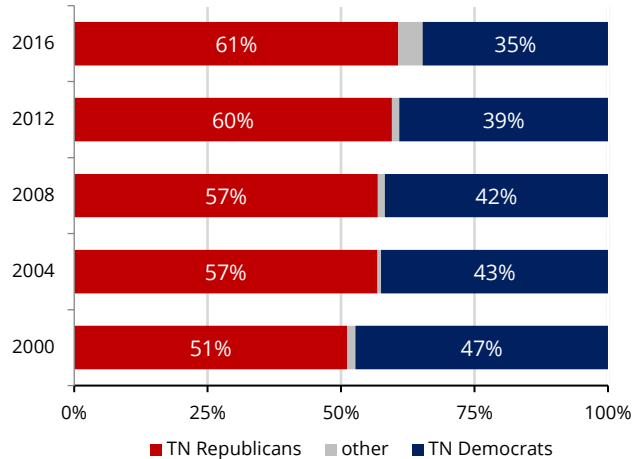


Voting history ^[2]

Tennessee joined the Union as the 16th state in June 1796; it would be the last state admitted during the 18th century.

Like many southern states, Tennessee voted almost exclusively Democratic from Reconstruction until after World War II. Since the 1950s, Republicans have usually won here, although there have been a few exceptions, most recently Bill Clinton (with home-state Senator Al Gore as vice president) in 1992 and 1996. Interestingly, Gore lost the state in 2000 when he headed the Democratic ticket. In 2016, Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton by a margin of 61% to 35%. Other than Barack Obama's two terms and in 1960, when they chose Richard Nixon over John F. Kennedy, the state's voters

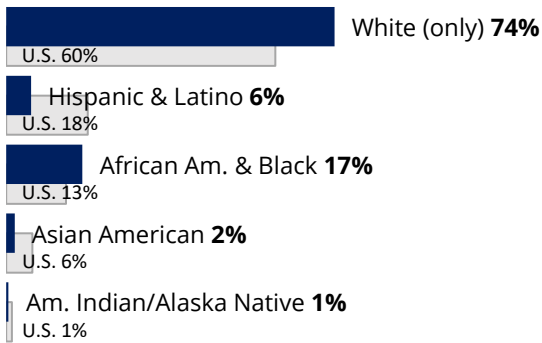
Election results in Tennessee (2000-2016) since 1928.



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

TN is the 3rd most religious state overall

73% of adults in TN are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Tennessee

71% (3rd) say religion is very important in their lives

51% (2nd) say they attend worship at least weekly

70% (3rd) say they pray daily

78% (3rd) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

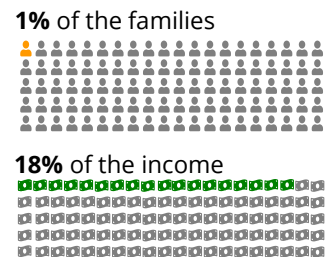
15.7% (9th highest) poverty rate

3.4% (19th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The top 1% take home 18% of all the income in TN.

(U.S. average: 21%)

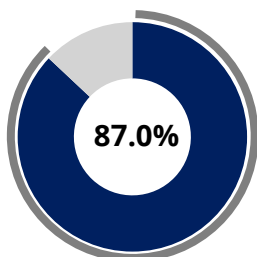


Education ^[4]

High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

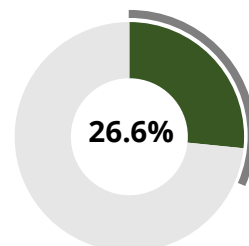
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 31.5%





More information on Tennessee*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: www.tn.gov/



Government information

Governor: www.tn.gov/governor/

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

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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



<http://www.tndp.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/tndem>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/TennesseeDems>

<https://twitter.com/TennDem>

Republican Party

<http://tngop.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/TNGOP>

<http://www.youtube.com/tennesseegop>

<http://twitter.com/TNGOP>

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Sources: 1. State map: [Wikimedia Commons](#); 2. Voting history text: adapted from [270towin.com](#); 3. U.S. election history: [David Leip's Election Atlas](#); 4. Ethnicity, economy, and education data: [U.S. Census Bureau](#); 5. Religion data: [Pew poll: How religious is your state?](#); 6. Wealth and income inequality data: [Economic Policy Institute – The Unequal States of America](#).



Texas (TX) (38 votes)

Capital:	Austin
Area:	268,581 sq mi. / 696,241 sq km
Population:	28,701,845
Nickname:	"Lone Star State"
State motto:	"Friendship"
Governor:	Greg Abbott (R)
U.S. Senators:	John Cornyn (R), Ted Cruz (R)



How will your state 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?

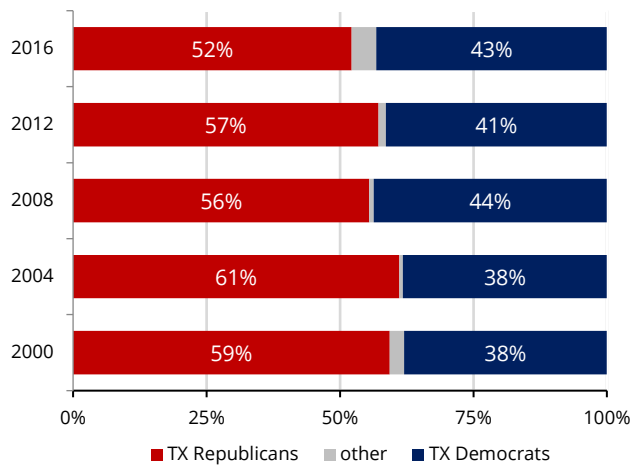


Voting history ^[2]

Texas became a state in December 1845, participating in its first presidential election in 1848.

From 1872 through 1976, Texas went Democratic in the vast majority of elections. However, that changed in 1980, and Texas has sided with the Republicans ever since. In 2016, Donald Trump won the state by a margin of 52 percent to 43 percent over Hillary Clinton. Two of the state's Electors were faithless that year, one each voting for Ron Paul and John Kasich. Texas' population has grown rapidly in recent decades, and its 38 electoral votes are second only to California's 55. If demographic trends (e.g., continued rapid growth of Latino population) make the state even remotely competitive, Texas will be one of the major battlegrounds of the next decade.

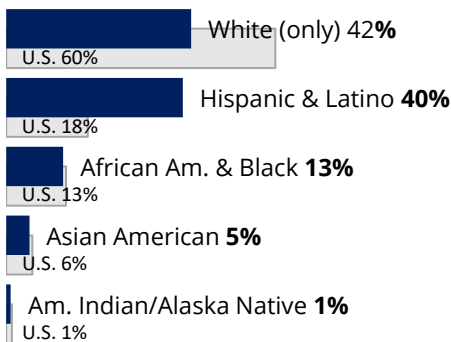
Election results in Texas (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

TX is tied for **11th** most religious state overall

64% of adults in TX are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Texas

63% (10th) say religion is very important in their lives

42% (10th) say they attend worship at least weekly

63% (11th) say they pray daily

69% (13st) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

15.1% (14th highest) poverty rate

3.4% (19th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **20 % of all the income in TX.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



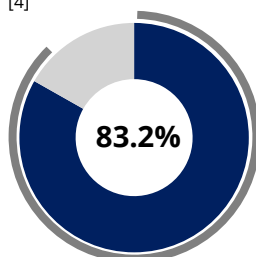
20% of the income



Education ^[4]

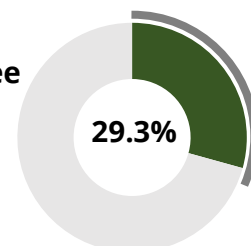
High school degree or higher
persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 87.7%



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

U.S. average: 31.5%





More information on Texas *



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: www.texas.gov/



Government information:

Governor: <https://gov.texas.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

270twin.com: <http://www.270twin.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



<http://www.txdemocrats.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/TexasDemocraticParty>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/TXDemocrats>

<https://twitter.com/texasdemocrats>

Republican Party

<http://www.texasgop.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/RepublicanPartyofTexas>

<https://bit.ly/2VXhng2>

<http://twitter.com/#!/texasgop>

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Utah (UT) (6 votes)

Capital: **Salt Lake City**
 Area: **84,899 sq mi. / 219,887 sq km**
 Population: **3,161,105**
 Nickname: **"Beehive State"**
 State motto: **"Industry"**
 Governor: **Gary R. Herbert (R)**
 U.S. Senators: **Mitt Romney (R),
 Mike Lee (R)**



How will your state 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?

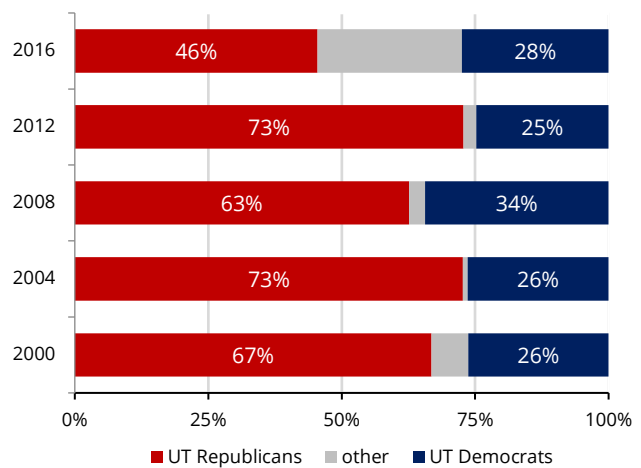


Voting history ^[2]

Utahans voted for Democrat Franklin Roosevelt four times (1932 through 1944) and for his successor Harry S. Truman in 1948.

Aside from that period, the state has only voted for Democrats twice, the last time being in 1964 when Lyndon Johnson won a landslide victory over Barry Goldwater. In 2012, Mitt Romney defeated Barack Obama, by 72.8% to 24.8%. While Donald Trump won in 2016, he failed to receive a majority of votes, winning 45.5% to 27.5% over Hillary Clinton. Trump enjoyed less support than prior Republicans with the state's large Mormon population. Mormon conservative Evan McMullin provided these voters with an alternative. McMullin received over 21.5% of the vote, the best '3rd party' performance in any single state since Ross Perot in 1992.

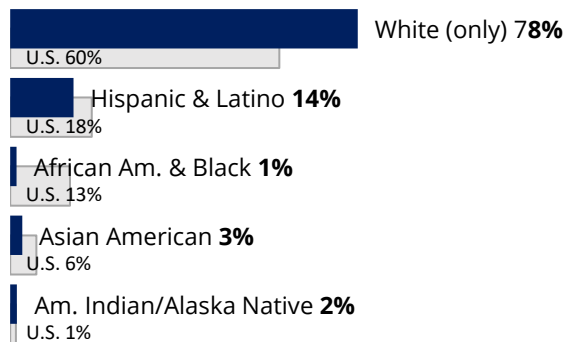
Election results in Utah (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



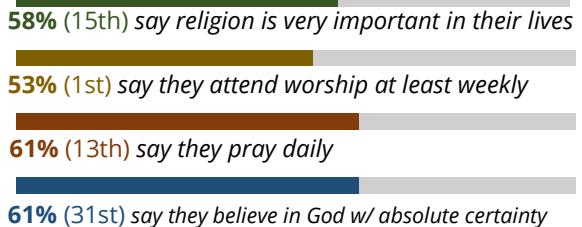
(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

UT is tied for 11th most religious state overall

64% of adults in UT are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Utah



Economy ^[4]

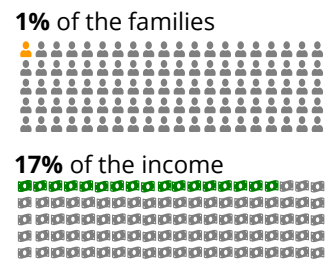
10.1% (46th highest) poverty rate

2.8% (5th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **17% of all the income in UT.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

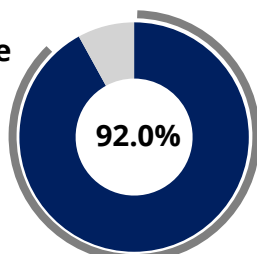


Education ^[4]

High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

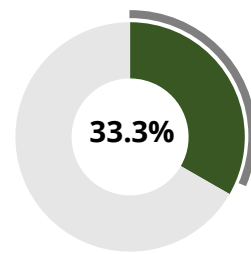
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 31.5%



More information on Utah*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: www.utah.gov/



Government information:

Governor: <https://governor.utah.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

270twin.com: <http://www.270twin.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



<http://www.utahdemocrats.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/utahdemocrats>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/utahdemocrats>

<http://twitter.com/utahdemocrats>

Republican Party

<http://utgop.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/UTGOP>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/utahgop>

<http://twitter.com/utahgop>

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Vermont (VT) (3 votes)

Capital: **Montpelier**
 Area: **9,616sq mi. / 24,923 sq km**
 Population: **626,299**
 Nickname: **"Green Mountain State"**
 State motto: **"Freedom and Unity"**
 Governor: **Phil Scott (R)**
 U.S. Senators: **Patrick Leahy (D),
 Bernie Sanders (Independent)**



How will your state 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?

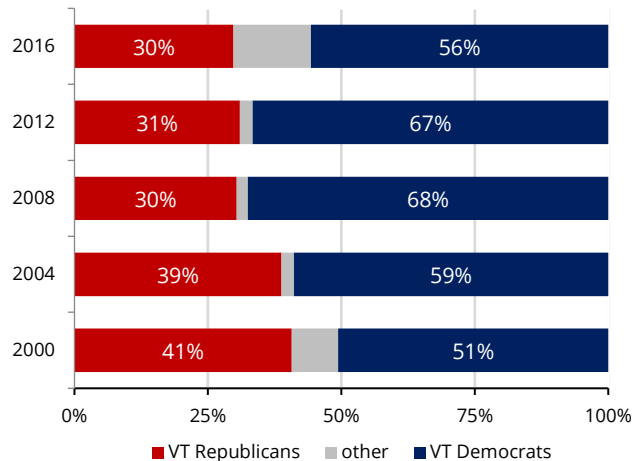


Voting history ^[2]

Vermont, the first state admitted after the original 13 colonies, joined the Union in March 1791, and has participated in every election since 1792.

While current-day Vermont is reliably Democratic in national elections, it is interesting to note that from the founding of the modern Republican Party in 1854 through the election of 1988, Vermont went Republican in every election except 1964, when it voted for Lyndon Johnson over Barry Goldwater. In 1992, Vermont broke this tradition, voting for Bill Clinton over George Bush, and has been “blue” ever since. In 2016, Hillary Clinton beat Donald Trump by a margin of 56% to 30%, easily winning the state’s three electoral votes.

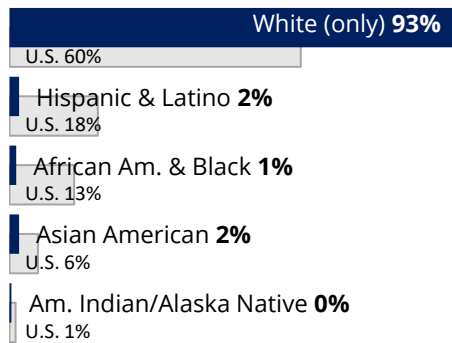
Election results in Vermont (2000–2016):^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

VT is tied for **48th** most religious state overall

34% of adults in VT are “highly religious,” based on an overall index

Religious profile of Vermont

32% (51st) say religion is very important in their lives

21% (51st) say they attend worship at least weekly

33% (51st) say they pray daily

41% (50th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

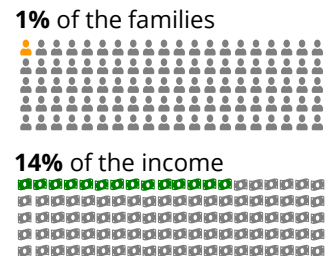
10.7% (39th highest) poverty rate

2.1% (1st lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **14% of all the income in VT.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

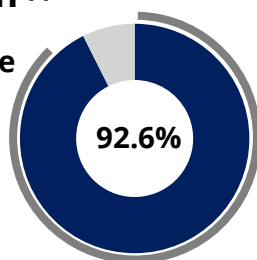


Education ^[4]

High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

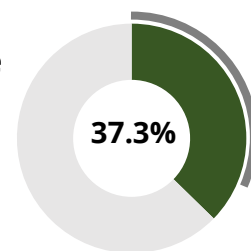
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor’s degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 31.5%



More information on Vermont *



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <https://www.vermont.gov>



Government information:

Governor: <https://governor.vermont.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

270twin.com: <http://www.270twin.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:

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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



<http://www.vtdemocrats.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/vtdems>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/VTDemocrats>

<http://twitter.com/VT Dems>

Republican Party

<http://vtgop.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/vtgop>

no official site

<http://twitter.com/vtgop>

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Virginia (VA) (13 votes)

Capital:	Richmond
Area:	42,774 sq mi. / 110,785 sq km
Population:	8,517,685
Nickname:	"Old Dominion"
State motto:	"Thus Always to Tyrants"
Governor:	Ralph Northam (D)
U.S. Senators:	Mark Warner (D), Tim Kaine (D)



How will your state vote?

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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?

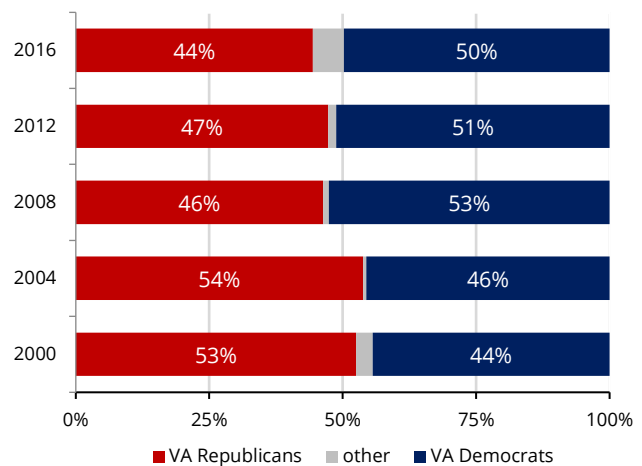


Voting history ^[2]

From the post-Civil War Reconstruction period through 1948, Virginians almost always sided with the Democratic Party in elections.

However, from 1952 through 2004, Virginia was reliably Republican. What changed? In the early 1950s, Virginia politics was controlled by Democratic Senator Harry F. Byrd, Sr., and his political machine. For the 1952 cycle, Byrd announced he would not be endorsing a candidate, saying "Silence is Golden." People knew this meant that it would be okay to vote for the Republican Dwight Eisenhower. Shifting demographics, including more rapid population growth around Washington D.C., have made the state a battleground in recent elections, perhaps one that now leans Democratic again. Barack Obama won here twice and Hillary Clinton made it three in a row for Democrats.

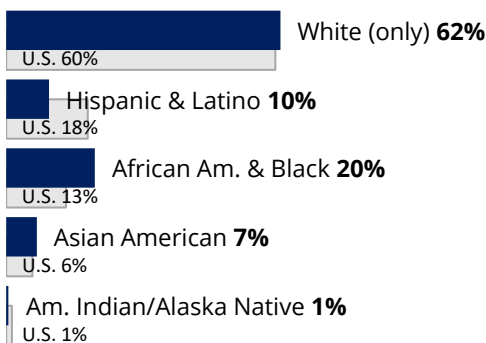
Election results in Virginia (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

VA is the 14th most religious state overall

61% of adults in VA are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Virginia

- 60% (13th) say religion is very important in their lives
- 44% (8th) say they attend worship at least weekly
- 60% (14th) say they pray daily
- 67% (15th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

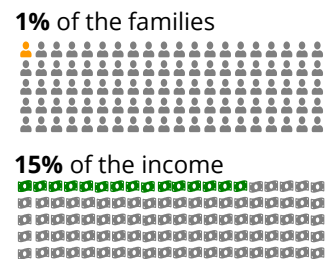
10.6% (41th highest) poverty rate

2.9% (8th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **15% of all the income in VA.**

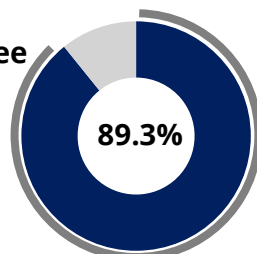
(U.S. average: 21%)



Education ^[4]

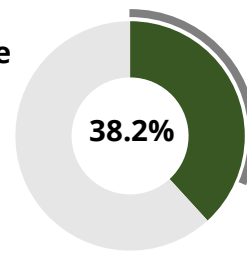
High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old
U.S. average: 31.5%



More information on Virginia *



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <https://www.virginia.gov/>



Government information:

Governor: <https://www.governor.virginia.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

270twin.com: <http://www.270twin.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



<http://www.vademocrats.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/vademocrats>

<http://www.youtube.com/vademocrats>

<http://twitter.com/vademocrats>

Republican Party

<http://www.rpv.org/>

no official site

<http://www.youtube.com/VAGOPTV>

http://twitter.com/va_gop

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Sources: 1. State map: [Wikimedia Commons](#); 2. Voting history text: adapted from [270twin.com](#); 3. U.S. election history: [David Leip's Election Atlas](#); 4. Ethnicity, economy, and education data: [U.S. Census Bureau](#); 5. Religion data: [Pew poll: How religious is your state?](#); 6. Wealth and income inequality data: [Economic Policy Institute – The Unequal States of America](#).



Washington (WA) (12 votes)

Capital: **Olympia**
 Area: **71,362 sq mi. / 184,827 sq km**
 Population: **7,535,591**
 Nickname: **"Evergreen State"**
 State motto: **"Al-ki" ("Bye and Bye")**
 Governor: **Jay Inslee (D)**
 U.S. Senators: **Patty Murray (D),
 Maria Cantwell (D)**



How will your state 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?

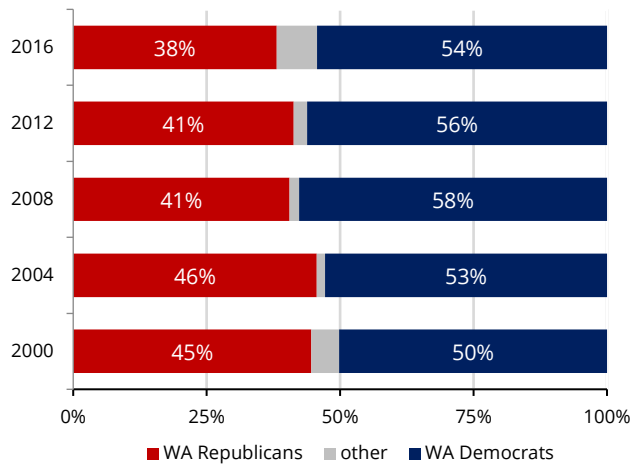


Voting history ^[2]

The state has gone through periods during which it voted primarily Democratic and other periods where Republicans usually won.

Democrats have been the victors in the last eight elections, making it one of the more reliably blue states at this point in its history. In 2016, Hillary Clinton defeated Donald Trump by a 54% to 38% margin. The state's electoral influence has grown in recent decades; in the western half of the country only Texas and California have more than Washington's 12 electoral votes. In the 2016 election, four of those electors were faithless, with three voting for Colin Powell and one for Faith Spotted Eagle.

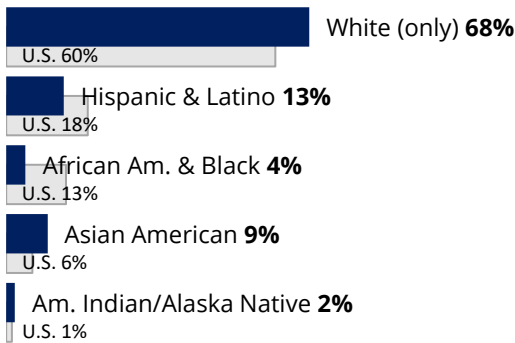
Election results in Washington (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

WA is tied for **44th** most religious state overall

45% of adults in WA are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Washington

44% (41st) say religion is very important in their lives

30% (39th) say they attend worship at least weekly

46% (45th) say they pray daily

55% (42nd) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

11.2% (36th highest) poverty rate

4.3% (42nd lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **20% of all the income in WA.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



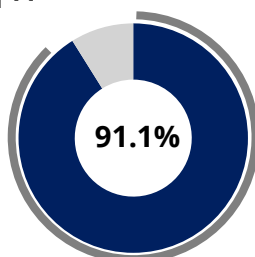
20% of the income



Education ^[4]

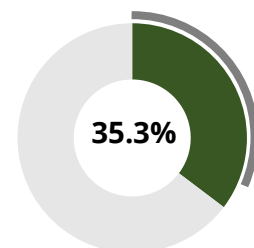
High school degree or higher
persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 87.7%



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

U.S. average: 31.5%





More information on Washington *



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <https://access.wa.gov>



Government information:

Governor: www.governor.wa.gov/

State and Local Government on The Net: <http://www.statelocalgov.net/>

U.S. Senators from the state: <http://www.senate.gov/senators/contact/>

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Election 2020

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Rock the Vote – voting information: <https://www.rockthevote.org/voting-information/>

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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>



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OfficialUSA.com – Local TV stations:

<http://www.officialusa.com/stateguides/media/television/states.html>



Democrats and Republicans in the state

Democratic Party



<http://www.wa-democrats.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/washdems>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/Washdems>

<http://twitter.com/washdems>

Republican Party

<http://wsrp.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/WAGOP>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/WAGOP>

<http://twitter.com/wagop>

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West Virginia (WV) (5 votes)

Capital:	Charleston
Area:	24,230 sq mi. / 62,755 sq km
Population:	1,805,832
Nickname:	"Mountain State"
State motto:	"Montani Semper Liberi" ("Mountaineers Are Always Free")
Governor:	Jim Justice (R)
U.S. Senators:	Shelley Moore Capito (R), Joseph Manchin (D)



How will your state 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?

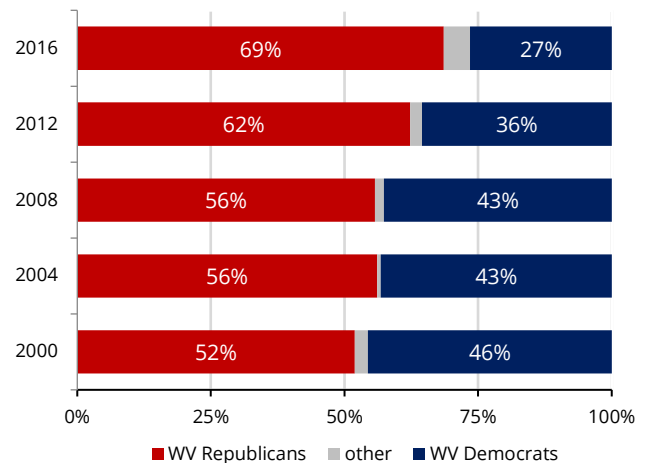


Voting history ^[2]

West Virginia shifted several times between supporting the Democratic or Republican party in its history, with each shift tending to last a generation or more.

Primarily Republican from 1900 until the Great Depression, the state was then reliably Democratic, with few exceptions through Bill Clinton's 2nd election in 1996. Since then, the state has become solidly Republican, with that party winning by an increasing margin in each election from 2000 through 2016. In the most recent election, Donald Trump's populist message deeply resonated with voters in a state that is struggling economically. The state has been growing more slowly than the country for more than 50 years; its electoral vote total has dropped from 8 in 1960 to 5 today.

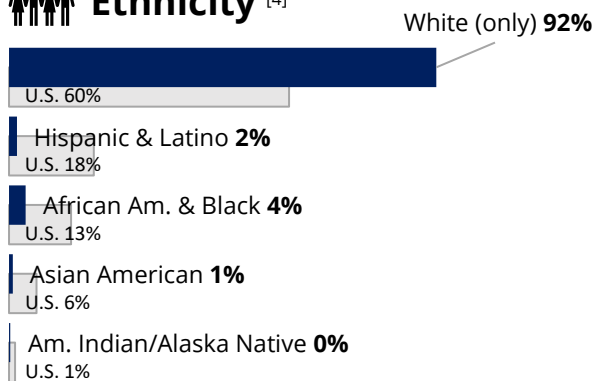
Election results in West Virginia (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

WV is the 7th most religious state overall

69% of adults in WV are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of West Virginia

64% (7th) say religion is very important in their lives

46% (6th) say they attend worship at least weekly

68% (4th) say they pray daily

77% (4th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

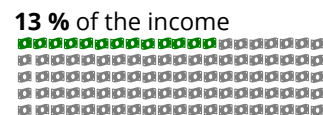
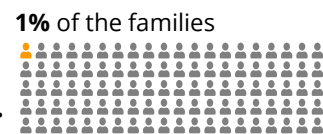
17.2% (5th highest) poverty rate

5.0% (48th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The top 1% take home 13% of all the income in WV.

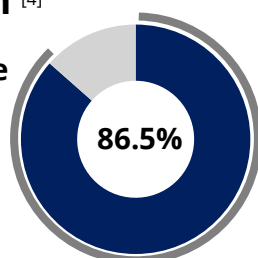
(U.S. average: 21%)



Education ^[4]

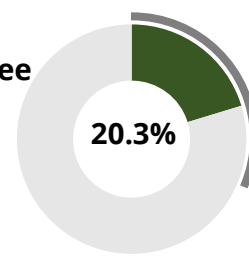
High school degree or higher persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 87.7%



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

U.S. average: 31.5%





More information on West Virginia*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <http://www.wv.gov>



Government information:

Governor: www.wvgov.org/

State and Local Government on The Net: <http://www.statelocalgov.net/>

U.S. Senators from the state: <http://www.senate.gov/senators/contact/>

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Election 2020

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Media



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<http://www.officialusa.com/stateguides/media/television/states.html>



Democrats and Republicans in the state

Democratic Party



<http://www.wvdems.org/>



<http://www.facebook.com/wvdemocrats>



no official site



<http://twitter.com/wvdemocrats>

Republican Party

<http://www.wvgop.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/WVGOP>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/TheWVGOP>

<http://twitter.com/wvgop>

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Wisconsin (WI) (10 votes)

Capital:	Madison
Area:	65,498sq mi. / 169,639 sq km
Population:	5,771,337
Nickname:	"The Badger State"
State motto:	"Forward"
Governor:	Tony Evers (D)
U.S. Senators:	Ron Johnson (R), Tammy Baldwin (D)



How will your state 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?

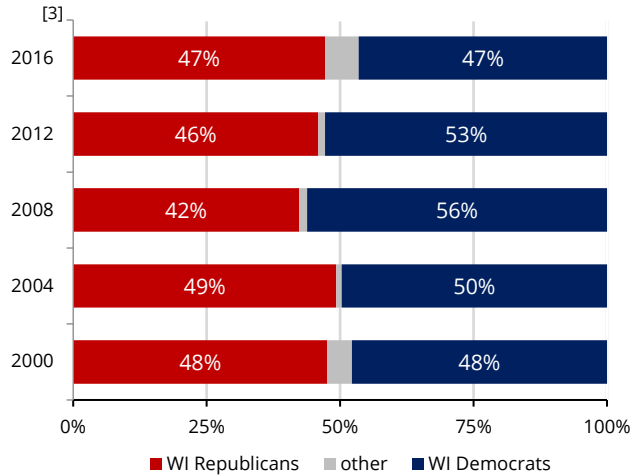


Voting history ^[2]

With a badger found on the state coat of arms, its seal, its flag and even in the official state song "On, Wisconsin!", Wisconsin is known as the Badger State.

Wisconsin gained statehood in May 1848. Primarily Republican through 1928, the state (like most) turned Democratic during the Great Depression and World War II. From the mid-1940s through 1984, the state vote Republican more often than not. Democrats won the seven elections from 1988 through 2012, although the 2000 and 2004 races were extremely close. This streak was broken in 2016 when Donald Trump won the state by 0.7% over Hillary Clinton. The victory came despite the fact that of the dozens of polls tracked in the months leading up to the election, not a single one had him winning the state.

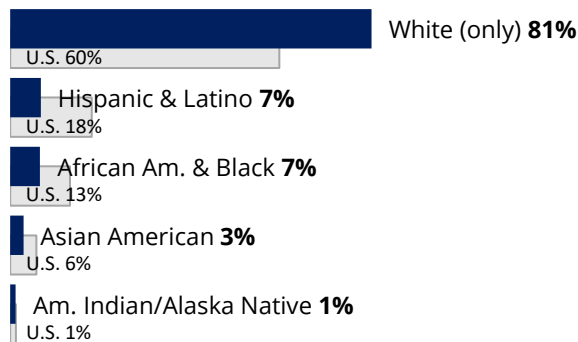
Election results in Wisconsin (2000–2016):



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

WI is tied for **44th** most religious state overall

45% of adults in WI are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Wisconsin

44% (41st) say religion is very important in their lives

27% (47th) say they attend worship at least weekly

46% (45th) say they pray daily

56% (39th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

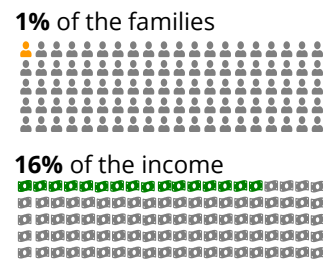
11.5% (33th highest) poverty rate

3.4% (23rd lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **16% of all the income in WI.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

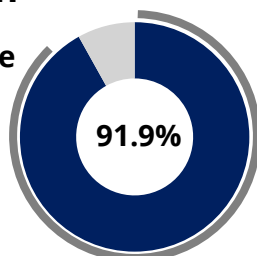


Education ^[4]

High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

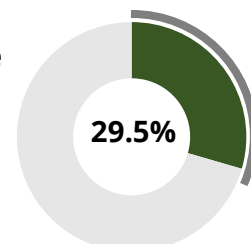
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 31.5%



More information on Wisconsin*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: www.wisconsin.gov



Government information:

Governor: www.wisgov.state.wi.us

State and Local Government on The Net: <http://www.statelocalgov.net/>

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Election 2020

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Democrats and Republicans in the state

Democratic Party



<http://www.wisdems.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/WisDems>

<http://www.youtube.com/wisdems09>

<http://twitter.com/wisdems>

Republican Party

<http://www.wisgop.org/>

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Wyoming (WY) (3 votes)

Capital: **Cheyenne**
 Area: **97,914 sq mi. / 253,600 sq km**
 Population: **577,737**
 Nickname: **"Equality State"**
 State motto: **"Equal Rights"**
 Governor: **Mark Gordon (R)**
 U.S. Senators: **Mike Enzi (R),
 John Barrasso (R)**



How will your state 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?

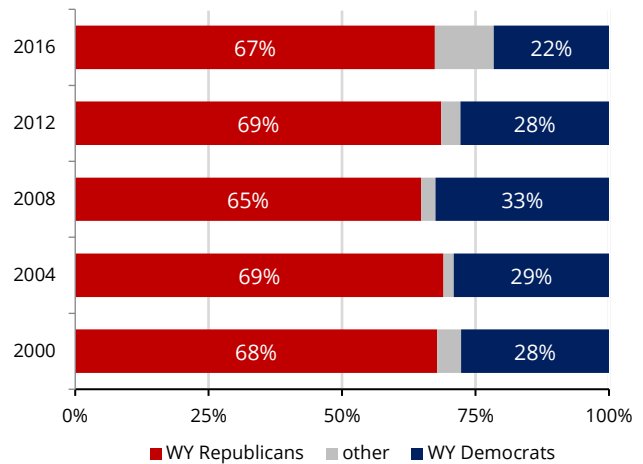


Voting history ^[2]

Wyoming became a state in July 1890, just one week after neighboring Idaho.

The two states have shared a similar history in presidential elections as well. In fact, since 1904, they both have voted identically, except in 1944 when the state's residents preferred Republican Thomas Dewey over FDR. Like most other states of the Mountain West, Wyoming is currently a Republican stronghold in presidential elections, having voted Democratic just once since 1952 – the 1964 landslide victory of Lyndon Johnson over Barry Goldwater. In 2016, Donald Trump beat Hillary Clinton by 46%; it was Trump's widest margin of victory in any state. Wyoming has the smallest population of any state in the Union, and is the most over-represented state in the electoral college.

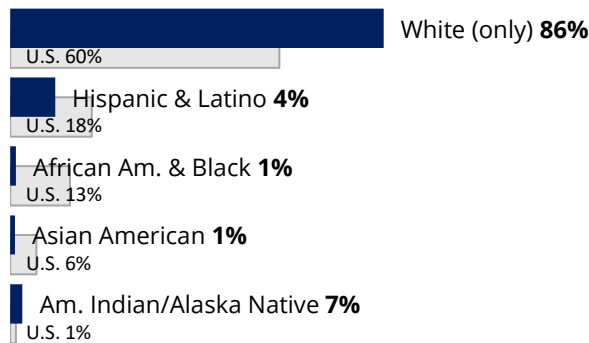
Election results in Wyoming (2000–2016): ^[3]



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)

Religion ^[5]

WY is tied for 22nd most religious state overall

54% of adults in WY are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Wyoming

49% (33rd) say religion is very important in their lives

38% (16th) say they attend worship at least weekly

53% (22nd) say they pray daily

66% (17th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty

Economy ^[4]

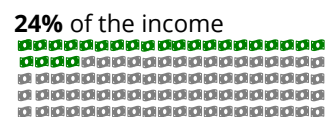
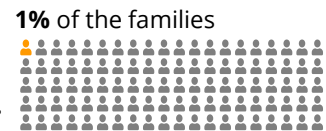
10.8% (38th highest) poverty rate

3.7% (31th lowest) unemployment rate

Income inequality ^[6]

The top 1% take home 24% of all the income in WY.

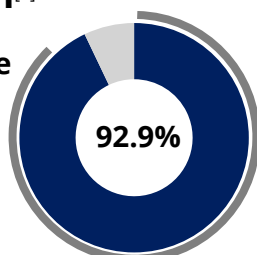
(U.S. average: 21%)



Education ^[4]

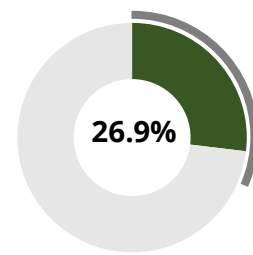
High school degree or higher persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 87.7%



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

U.S. average: 31.5%



More information on Wyoming*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: <http://www.wyo.gov>



Government information:

Governor: <https://governor.wyo.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



<http://www.wyodems.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/WyoDems>

<http://twitter.com/WyoDems>

<https://twitter.com/WyoDems>

Republican Party

<http://www.wygop.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/WYGOP>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/WYGOPTV>

no official site

* 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.

Sources: 1. State map: [Wikimedia Commons](#); 2. Voting history text: adapted from [270towin.com](http://www.270towin.com); 3. U.S. election history: [David Leip's Election Atlas](#); 4. Ethnicity, economy, and education data: [U.S. Census Bureau](#); 5. Religion data: [Pew poll: How religious is your state?](#); 6. Wealth and income inequality data: [Economic Policy Institute – The Unequal States of America](#).

How to facilitate your online exchange...

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A telecollaboration project can seem overwhelming at first – for you as a teacher and your colleague who jointly plan, organize, and implement the online exchange, but as well for your students who may not be used to this mode of working and who may initially look at such an exchange only in terms of higher workload. There are a number of best practices that may help you engage in such an exchange effectively:

Best practices

Project preparation (teachers):

- ✓ Joint planning of activities by the teachers.
- ✓ Joint schedule for all partners, teachers and pupils, visible on the LMS.
- ✓ Continuous communication among the teachers to meet deadlines and adjust the schedule if necessary.
- ✓ Collaboration tools used to plan the project and stay in touch throughout the project.

Collaboration among pupils:

- ✓ Joint analysis of research data.
- ✓ Brainstorming and collaborative choice of interview questions.
- ✓ Finalization of the project in the form of a collaborative product (website, magazine, video, blog, etc.) to showcase the learner texts by all the partner classes.

Dissemination:

- ✓ All partners participate in the competition and apply for labels/certificates (if possible).
- ✓ Publication of key products online to share the process and outcomes of the project.

Adapted from: eTwinning (2017). [How to develop the European and international dimension of your school.](#)

This handout outlines basic practices and tasks that help you to get your telecollaborative project participation for the **U.S. Embassy Election Project** started. Some activities are adapted from the project curriculum, others are taken from the following published telecollaboration manuals and task databases:

Key resources to get you started:

UNICollaboration (online virtual exchange in Higher Ed., <https://www.unicollaboration.org/>)

Task database: <https://www.unicollaboration.org/index.php/tasks-databank/>

TILA (Telecollaboration for Intercultural Language Acquisition, www.tilaproject.eu/)

Task database (<http://www.tilaproject.eu/moodle/course/view.php?id=85>)

Best Practice Report (<http://www.tilaproject.eu/moodle/mod/page/view.php?id=1429>)

Planning checklist (<http://www.tilaproject.eu/moodle/course/view.php?id=81>)

EVALUATE (Evaluating & Upscaling Telecollaborative Teacher Ed., <http://www.evaluateproject.eu/>)

Telecollaboration training manual EN: <http://bit.ly/EVALUATE-en>

Telecollaboration training manual DE: <http://bit.ly/EVALUATE-de>

More resources are provided at the end of the document.

I. Launching your telecollaborative exchange

The following two questionnaires will help you prepare your exchange with a transatlantic colleague. Remember that a telecollaborative project is first and foremost an exercise in intercultural communication and collaboration – not just for your students, but for you and your colleague, too. It is vital that you communicate as much as possible about your cultural and institutional contexts early on before the actual planning of the joint project participation. It has been recommended that a trustful and effective teacher collaboration requires regular communication, for example a weekly email update or Skype conversation.

Getting to know your partner teacher

Complete the second column of this chart with your own information. Then, interview your partner teacher and find out his/her answers. What cultural or institutional or personal differences do you notice?

	You	Your partner teacher
<i>Describe your cultural experiences – where have you lived, worked and travelled to during your life?</i>		
<i>Describe your educational background: What did you study?</i>		
<i>What courses or subjects do you teach at your institution?</i>		
<i>What other professional responsibilities do you have apart from teaching?</i>		
<i>What are your teaching interests?</i>		
<i>When are your teaching hours? When do you arrive at and leave your school? What lunch break do you have?</i>		
<i>How comfortable are you communicating online for professional purposes? How often do you check your email on a normal working day?</i>		
<i>What other online communication tools do you use – e.g. Skype? WhatsApp? (Share your contacts in the tools you use, e.g. your Skype name.) When is the best time to write or call you about the exchange?</i>		
<i>What languages do you speak? What level would you say you have in each one?</i>		

Getting to know your partner teacher's institutional culture

Complete the second column of this chart with your own information. Then, interview your partner teacher and find out his/her answers. What cultural or institutional or personal differences do you notice? Could any of these differences cause problems or misunderstandings during the exchange?

	You	Your partner teacher
<i>How big is the institution where your class is studying? And what about the faculty/ department where you work?</i>		
<i>Approximately how many students do you usually have in your classes?</i>		
<i>Are your classrooms equipped with a computer? Do students have Wi-Fi? Do you encourage students to use their laptops or mobiles in your classes?</i>		
<i>When does your semester begin and end? When do exams take place?</i>		
<i>Are there any holiday breaks during the semester of your exchange?</i>		
<i>How often will you meet the class which is participating in the telecollaborative exchange? Do you already have an idea of the timetable? If so, what is it?</i>		
<i>What do you usually do in this course? What are the main course objectives and content areas? What languages are used in the course?</i>		
<i>Describe the students that usually participate in the course: How old are they? What is their level in foreign languages? Do they have any experience in doing projects like this one? How would you describe their level of digital literacy?</i>		
<i>Having compared your institutional cultures, do you foresee any problems or misunderstandings that could arise due to the differences?</i>		

Adapted from: EVALUATE training manual. (<http://bit.ly/EVALUATE-en>)

Establishing a sense of trust between both teachers (and their classes) is part and parcel of a successful telecollaborative exchange. One possible method of achieving this is to draw up a memorandum of understanding between both teachers. Whether you and your colleague will adopt this approach and level of formality and what aspects you will cover in such a document is up to you and not set in stone. A handy template like the one below may be useful to launch your cooperation and achieve clarity over your expectations, goals, and planned procedures for each other as well for other involved stakeholders (students, parents, school administration).

A telecollaborative memorandum of understanding

TEACHER GER (SCHOOL GER) and **TEACHER U.S. (SCHOOL U.S.)** agree to carry out a virtual exchange in the context of the **U.S. Embassy Election Project** involving the following classes: **CLASS DETAILS GER (SUBJECT, GRADE)** and **CLASS DETAILS U.S. (SUBJECT, GRADE)**.

Both colleagues agree on the following:

- The exchange will last from until
- Students will do the following tasks:
ADD PROPOSED TASKS HERE
...
- And use the following communication tools during the exchange:
PROPOSED COMMUNICATION TOOLS and the **Teach About U.S. Moodle platform**.
- The exchange project will / will not be compulsory
- Students at **SCHOOL GER** will spend ... hours per week on project and the project will/will not be assessed.
- Students at **SCHOOL U.S.** will spend ... hours per week on project and the project will/will not be assessed.

We plan / envision the following results and outcomes to arise from this joint project participation:

ADD DESIRED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

TEACHER GER and **TEACHER U.S.** agree to communicate any changes in the program and commitments to the exchange to one another as soon as they arise. We also agree to commit to the project for its full duration. We commit to provide each other with regular updates on the project implementation and emerging issues and challenges.

Signatures / Date:

(To sign, scan and email to one another)

Adapted from: UNICollaboration.org

Regular communication between you and your tandem colleague is key to facilitate an effective project collaboration and an enjoyable and equitable work relationship between both sides. Make it a habit to update each other weekly on the progress of the project, your students' behavior and experiences, and any emerging issues.

Checklist for the weekly check-in:

- ✓ Are your students on time with their current task?
- ✓ Have any students mentioned to you any potential problems or issues in their online interactions?
- ✓ Have any students mentioned that their partners aren't participating? If so, what international working group are they in?
- ✓ Do you have any upcoming holidays or exams which might mean that students do not participate in their forums? When do you expect them to be 'back online'?
- ✓ Have you used the exchange for any classwork this week? If so, tell your partner teacher briefly what you did and what the outcomes were.

Adapted from: EVALUATE training manual. (<http://bit.ly/EVALUATE-en>)

II. Sample tasks and task sequences

Progressive Exchange Model for telecollaborative tasks

Multiple task taxonomies for telecollaborative exchanges have been put forth in the pedagogic and research literature. The most widely accepted model is the so-called Progressive Exchange Model by Robert O'Dowd and Paige Ware (2009). It consists of three overall categories that learners in both countries are expected to progressively traverse: (1) information exchange, (2) comparing and analyzing cultural practices, and (3) collaborating on a joint product. This prototypical sequence can be easily applied to the joint project work for the **U.S. Embassy Election Project**. The three task categories are defined as follows by the authors:

"The first category, *information exchange tasks*, involves learners providing their telecollaborative partners with information about their personal biographies, local schools or towns or aspects of their home cultures. These tasks can function as an introductory activity for two groups of learners who are not yet familiar with each other, but they can also form part of a more in-depth ethnographical study that learners are carrying out about an aspect of the target culture. Tasks in this category may generally be seen as 'monologic' as there is usually little negotiation of meaning (neither cultural nor linguistic) between the interlocutors; however, when these tasks take the form of ethnographic interviews a great deal of cultural sensitivity and the intercultural skills of discovery and interaction [...] are required.

The second task type, *comparison and analysis tasks*, can be more demanding since it requires learners not only to exchange information, but also to go a step further and carry out comparisons or critical analyses of cultural products from both cultures (e.g. books, surveys, films, newspaper articles). These analyses or comparisons can have a cultural focus [...] and/or a linguistic focus [...]. These tasks generally require learners to provide their partners with explanations of the linguistic meaning or cultural significance of certain cultural products or practices and then to engage in dialogue in order to establish similarities or differences between the two cultures.

The final task type, *collaborative tasks*, requires learners not only to exchange and compare information but also to work together to produce a joint product or conclusion. This may come in the form of an essay or presentation, or it may involve co-producing a linguistic translation or cultural adaptation of a text from the [first to the second language or culture]. These types of activities usually involve a great deal of coordination and planning but they also bring about substantial amounts of negotiation of meaning both on linguistic and cultural levels as learners strive to reach agreement on their final product."

O'Dowd, Robert; Ware, Paige (2009): Critical Issues in Telecollaborative Task Design. In: Computer Assisted Language Learning 22 (2), S. 173-188. DOI: 10.1080/09588220902778369.

1. Information exchange

Getting to know your partners

Please introduce yourself to the project participants. Let us know about yourself, your family, where you live, your favorite things to do and hobbies, music you listen to, or anything else you would like to share. Consider including photos, links, etc. Feel free to respond to each other's posts if you read something interesting or want to learn more. Be polite and open-minded.

Tech note: This task can be done in the [Course Forum](#) without further preparations. Alternatively, you can create a [Padlet](https://padlet.com/) (<https://padlet.com/>) for this task, where all student posts are collected on a single page and which allows them to add photos or links to their introduction.

More icebreakers...

Create your Moodle profile: Ask students to complete their Moodle profile to the extent they themselves want. Discuss that their profile is how their American peers will get into contact with them. They can add photos, text, short videos, information about their hobbies and interests, etc. Completing the online profile enhanced the participants' social presence in the Moodle course and social cohesion in the course tandem.

True or false? Ask students to create a short profile of themselves, e.g. as a post to their personal blog in Moodle or in a Padlet. This may include photos and other multimedia content. Each student should include three true and three false facts about themselves. Then, have them post a link to their profile to a shared forum. Students interview each other and note down which facts they believe are true and which are false.

Tell me about your home:

Recording a soundscape or sound postcard: Ask students to record a certain location or setting in their hometown (e.g. using the Audacity software or any sound recording app for smartphones). They can share the soundscape with their U.S. peers and have them guess the location/surroundings. Or they can write a short paragraph (up to 150 words), add a photo and exchange this object as a sound postcard (e.g. using MS PowerPoint).

The means of transport in my town: Ask students to research the available means of transport in their community

All the rage: Ask students to create a questionnaire on social and cultural highlights in their community, e.g. on hit songs, top fashions, coolest gadgets, fun things to do locally or top places to go with friends, funny lingo etc. Have them exchange their questionnaires and answer them. Students should then analyze for commonalities and differences.

More such activities for different language proficiency levels and topics can be found online in the UNICollaboration and TILA task databases (see resources).

Impressions at school, home, and in the community

Let's now take a closer look at our everyday lives on both sides of the Atlantic. To do this, you will document and share some impressions in your hometowns.

You will look at three different contexts: at school, at home, and in the community. Pick one of the aspects from each category and document a typical or interesting example that you came across – consider writing a short comment, taking a photo, recording a short video or GIF, etc. This may look something like a Facebook or Instagram post, a Snapchat story or short YouTube video. Feel free to add your own ideas if they are not listed below.

Make a short post to the Padlet wall. Feel free to comment on each other's posts. What differences or similarities do you notice? What surprises you?

At home (pick one)

- Rules of the home
- Traditions
- Celebrations
- Allowance/Housekeeping
- Dinner table discussions
- Religion
- Neighborhood
- Sustainability
- ...

At school (pick one)

- Dress code
- Detention
- Graduation
- Courses
- Education system
- Low-income alternatives
- ...

In the community (pick one)

- Getting around town
- Local newspaper
- Sports
- Monuments
- Recycling
- Church, mosque, religious temple ...
- Role of local officials
- ...

Tech note: In Moodle, this could be done using the glossary module where students enter their topic as the **Concept** and their post as the **Definition** of the glossary entry; the three contexts can be defined as **Categories** which the students have to select for their post. A much easier solution and one that allows for seamless integration of multimodal content is to simply create a Padlet wall, allow visitors to post content, and forward the link to your students. (www.padlet.com)

Developing team spirit: A joint Skype session

*You will be working with your new partner class on the **U.S. Embassy Election** project in the next few lessons. Your common goal is to create an action plan that promotes justice in both your communities. But first, you need to become a team!*

Prepare a joint skype interview with your partner class:

- First, agree on a date and time – mind the time difference.
- Make sure you have the necessary technical equipment available and ready: a webcam, microphone, and stable internet connection; maybe also a big screen or projector.
- Prepare an interesting opening question that you would like to ask the other class (this can be based on your previous forum discussion). This will set the mood for the session.
- Prepare questions about the partner class's school and town.
- Do a test run before the Skype session and check that everything is working.
- Move chairs and tables, if necessary.
- Determine how you will begin the Skype session – will there be a class speaker? How will you greet each other?
- Take turns with the other class asking questions. Speakers should introduce themselves.
- Find a team name for your class tandem. This can be creative, funny, a mix of both languages – you decide. Maybe also determine a group motto and a logo.
- Summarize the main points discussed and decided upon in the Skype interview.

Tech note: As mentioned in the checklist, this task requires a **video conferencing software** (e.g., Skype), **technical equipment** (projector, webcam, microphone – a tablet or laptop might be sufficient, but maybe an external microphone is necessary), and a **stable internet/Wi-Fi connection**. Check with your tech administrator if there are any obstacles to this in your school setting.

This first phase of the exchange is a good opportunity to monitor your students' telecollaborative dialogs and identify any technical, linguistic, or especially intercultural challenges and issues, in order to make adjustments to the project implementation early on.

What bothers me most

Let's pause and reflect for a moment after the first exchange(s) with your partner class. Online collaboration is not without effort and can be a quite challenging task. Problems may arise – this is normal – but in order to make this cooperation run smoothly, such issues must be addressed.

1. Are there any issues that bother you in terms of online collaboration? Something that didn't quite work out but can be changed going forward?
2. Post any such issues anonymously to the glossary. / Write any such issues on a slip of paper and give them to your course's appointed writer (a volunteer) who will type them into the glossary. Be honest, but polite!
3. Review the issues posted by your fellow students and provide constructive feedback or suggest a solution in the comments section for 2 to 3 issues.

Tech note: In Moodle, this requires a glossary. When creating the glossary, in the section **Appearance** set the **display mode** to **Full without author** so that students' posts remain anonymous. In the section **Entries**, set **Allow comments on entries** to **Yes** so students can post their suggestions.

Adapted from: Kurek, Malgorzata; Müller-Hartmann, Andreas (2019): The Formative Role of Teaching Presence in Blended Virtual Exchange. In: Language Learning & Technology 23 (3), p. 52–73 (p. 60).

Determining rules for online conduct

In this project, you communicate with your peers in another country online. As you probably know from social media, online forums, email communication, and texting, this can be tricky at times, especially when you communicate with people you have not yet met in person and who come from different countries and cultures. What are the rules we should apply in this context?

Go back to the “What bothers me most” task and review the problems and issues posted there. Formulate rules that can be derived from these cases in order to facilitate a telecollaborative exchange. Discuss them with a partner or small group.

Review some netiquette lists (e.g., see below) and collect rules that could be adapted to facilitate your participation in the **U.S. Embassy Election Project**. Choose the five rules that are most important to you. Compare with a partner or small group. Can you produce a top 5 list that all of you are satisfied with?

Online netiquette rules:

- eTwinning | Code of Conduct: <https://www.etwinning.net/en/pub/code-of-conduct.htm>
- Studienkreis | Netiquette – Regeln und Tipps für mehr Höflichkeit im Internet: <https://www.studienkreis.de/infothek/journal/netiquette/> (in German)
- Online Study Australia | 14 Great Tips for Student Netiquette: <https://onlinestudyaustralia.com/netiquette-rules-guidelines-students/>

Tech note: *There are numerous such lists available online. The goal is to adapt those rules to your specific project and to keep this list manageable and comprehensible for all participants. Once the rules or “Dos and Dont’s” are determined, they can be posted to the top of your course as a constant reminder and reference going forward.*

2. Comparing and analyzing cultural practices

Exchanging videos and questionnaires

For this task, you will form a mixed group with three students from each course, i.e. six students overall per group.

1. Introducing yourselves in a video

Together with your local group members, record a one-minute video in which you introduce yourselves to your transatlantic partners. Tell them a bit about yourselves: your names and age, where you live, what you do for fun, any sports or hobbies you like.

- Think about where to record the video: in your classroom, the school yard, at home, ...
- Include one interesting or funny fact about each of you
- Include a question you'd like to ask your transatlantic partners

Post your video to your group forum.

Comment on your transatlantic partners' video – do you have anything in common? Is there any surprising fact about them? Did they ask you a question?

2. Exchanging questionnaires

Preparation: Prepare a short questionnaire of up to ten questions about politics for your transatlantic partners. For example, you can include questions about at what age it is legal to drive, drink, or sign up for the military. You can also ask them about something you have heard about Americans/Germans. Be creative, but polite. You may share your questionnaire with another group in your class first to get feedback on your language and the questions.

Exchange: Exchange your questionnaires with your transatlantic partners and answer their questionnaires. You can post your answers to the group forum. If you like, you can post additional photos, links, or anything else if it illustrates your answers.

Analysis: Together with your transatlantic partners, take a look at all the answers. Can you find three things that students from both sides have in common? And what are the three biggest differences?

Report: Report your findings back to class: With your local group partners, prepare a two-minute presentation in which you introduce your transatlantic partners and tell your classmates about the questionnaire results.

Fake news challenge

Now that you have learned about the challenge of recognizing fake news, take a look at **your own community**. Imagine you are an investigative journalist, blogger or an engaged citizen:

1. Plan it! Your guiding question should be: **What are challenges that your community (family, friends, school, town/city) faces concerning the module topic?** Or are there any best practices that you could share? You may brainstorm some issues and then decide on one to research in more detail.

2. Do it! Plan your investigation carefully, and carry it out. It may help to make a **research plan** before you begin (see below). These are some possible approaches and methods you can apply:

- Conduct a **questionnaire survey** among your classmates, your sports team, your school, your community.
- Do a **(self-) experiment**, for example avoid using a specific product or change your habits for a period of time.
- Do an **interview**, for example with experts (e.g. journalists, local politicians, etc.).
- Think of **other creative ways** to identify and visualize the impact of a sustainability challenge in your community.

3. Document and share it! Document your approach and findings well, e.g. in a short Ppt. presentation, a poster, a news report text, or a photo diary. **Upload it into the course Project Journal** and comment on other groups' uploads.

4. Present it! Present your work in class (roughly 10 minutes) and compare your findings.

Need some help? Here are some suggestions for further things to research:

- Ask customers at a local store or other people in the street about their general habits concerning reading the news and researching the facts. Write a newspaper article or a post for your school's blog, etc.
- Count the number of articles/statements on a social media platform that include fake news. Then interview some users about their social media habits and their resources for learning about current events. Produce a post for your school's blog, a poster, or a presentation.
- Create a checklist with all of the information readers should know in order to prevent spreading fake news.
- Interview locals (school administration, police officers, news reporters, etc.) about the effects of fake news in their/your community.

This task cycle can be done in a tandem format with students in both countries carrying out the same research steps in their respective communities and finally comparing their findings.

Exchanging local news stories about elections

In this task, you will share and discuss a news story about elections with your transatlantic team members. They will also share one from their hometown or region with you.

Research: Together with your local partners, find an interesting news story that has to do with elections from your hometown or region. Think of something in regard to politics or the elections that may have happened recently – new legislation, a protest, newly elected officials, upcoming referendums, or important issues in your town. Find a newspaper article or news video about this story. (Alternatively, you may go online to the homepages of your local newspapers or TV stations and check for relevant stories.)

Analysis and mediation: Try to summarize the story for your partners, especially if it is written in a language they do not understand. Your summary should not exceed 200 words. Remember that you should not translate word for word, but rather focus on the most important aspects. Some words or concepts will have to be explained and cannot simply be translated (e.g. words referring to German culture, brand names).

Discussion and reflection: Discuss the story in the forum. Are there any particular differences or similarities between your regions? What can both sides (you and your transatlantic partners) learn from each other?

Tech note: *You may have to prepare a list of suggested local news media as a starting point for your students. This task can be done in a group forum in Moodle. Alternatively, students may use a Padlet or Glogster for the presentation of their news story and add multimodal content.*

From the U.S. Embassy Election Project curriculum.

3. Collaboration on a joint product

Election project

Design, plan, conduct, and document your course's election project and upload it into the DATABASE: Ballot box & competition in the Virtual Town Hall to take part in the competition.

For your prediction, consider the competition criteria. Your product should:

1. be in English or bilingual (German and English);
2. Focus on your state (for example, its culture, socioeconomic factors, demographics, local media, etc.) or ideally apply the unique perspective of the citizens in your state;
3. Reference your research findings;
4. Be submitted on behalf of your whole course (multiple entries per course are not possible)
5. Be submitted on time via Moodle (see DATABASE: Ballot box & competition in the Virtual Town Hall).

Tech note: *As an introduction, students can brainstorm possible ideas for their product in their mixed telecollaboration group forum or in class. The class project should be relevant to and feasible for both collaboration partners. Agree on a shared presentation format and medium and what each collaboration partner is going to contribute. Use the available communication and collaboration tools in the Moodle platform, e.g. forum and chat, and any other tools available online.*

From the U.S. Embassy Election Project curriculum.

III. Assessment and reflection

Online exchange portfolio

What is a portfolio?

A portfolio is a collection of your work that represents your development as a writer, language user, and intercultural communicator over time. The aim of a portfolio is to show how you have developed and how you have reflected on this process. You should not necessarily place your best work in your portfolio, but the work that most clearly represents your development.

What should your exchange portfolio contain?

Your portfolio should show proof that you have developed as a foreign language and culture learner during your online exchange and that you have also reflected on the learning process. To do that, you should include some of the following things:

1. An example of a post you wrote to your partner where you tried out new vocabulary and/or grammatical structures or ones which you do not usually use. Explain which are the new structures and vocabulary and how you felt about trying out new language.
2. A dialogue which shows a post you wrote which has some mistakes you made in English and then the answer from your partner where he or she corrects you. Explain whether you think your partner corrected you in a useful way or not. What did you learn from the corrections?
3. An example of a message from your partner where you learned new vocabulary or where you noticed how a certain grammatical structure works.
4. An extract which demonstrates something you learned about the foreign culture or where you realize something new about your own culture.
5. An extract from your exchange where you and your partner had a misunderstanding or disagreement. Discuss what you learned from this breakdown of communication and how you resolved the situation.
6. Your reflections on what you learned about communicating and working in an online environment.

Source: O'Dowd, Robert (2010): Issues in the Assessment of Online Interaction and Exchange. In: Sarah Guth und Francesca Helm (Hg.): Telecollaboration 2.0. Language, Literacies and Intercultural Learning in the 21st Century. Workshop of the Eurocall Special Interest Group in Computer-Mediated Communication. Bern: Peter Lang (Telecollaboration in education, 1), p. 337–358.

Integrating the intercultural online exchange in your classes

It goes without saying that students want to see the effort they put into an exchange with their transatlantic partners matters in class and that it is not more work to be done 'on top' of their regular class work. Integrating these exchanges can ensure that the student remain motivated and that your course benefits from this real-life component.

1. **Include the telecollaborative exchange in your syllabus** and state how it relates to the course objectives.
2. **Make time in your class for students to discuss or work on aspects of their exchange and receive guidance and feedback from you or their peers.** Set aside time for these tasks to be completed and use learner products (mini-presentations, videos, posts) as launchpads for discussions.
3. **Observe the online discussions carefully and discuss interesting or sensitive conversations in class.** Of course, talk to the students involved first, seek their permission to share an insight or discussion extract in class, explain that conclusions drawn from their case can help all students in class facilitate their online exchanges. If necessary, anonymize the extract before sharing it. Make paper copies of relevant discussion extracts or vignettes, or project them to the classroom wall.
4. Alternatively, **ask your students to identify themselves critical or significant events from their discussions or messages** that they would like to report to the rest of the class.
5. If possible, **allow students to engage in the online exchanges during their actual class time.** However, in light of the time difference between Germany and the U.S. this may be difficult to facilitate.
6. Make the online exchange part of **assessment**, for instance using a portfolio approach as outlined below.

Adapted from: EVALUATE training manual. (<http://bit.ly/EVALUATE-en>)

Telecollaboration checklist

STEP 1: Finding a partner

- Contact the Teach About U.S. (Joannis Kaliampos, joannis.kaliampos@leuphana.de or Sarah Taylor for Baden-Württemberg, Sarah.Taylor@dai-tuebingen.de) to look for a potential partner; if you are a teacher in the U.S., contact the Transatlantic Outreach Program (top@goethe.de).
- Make sure that age and proficiency level of both groups match
- If you plan to use synchronous telecollaboration, you need a partner class with matching class hours or you need to be able to arrange online session outside regular class hours

STEP 2: Establishing common ground

- Meet with your partner teacher (e.g. in Moodle, Skype, or email) and discuss your pedagogic objectives and approach, your expectations and time frames (use the questionnaires in the manual)
- Compare syllabi and decide on topics that fit and are suitable for authentic intercultural communication
- Agree on the telecollaboration tools you would like to use, check access and reliability. Synchronous oral/video communication from the computer lab may not be possible for all pupils

simultaneously - clarify alternative scenarios, e.g. a multi-modal combination of oral (e.g. Skype) and written (chat or forum) as well as working from home

STEP 3: Developing tasks

- ✓ Specify linguistic, communicative and intercultural learning objectives
- ✓ Develop the main task together with your partner teacher and decide which telecollaboration tools you want to use (for the **U.S. Embassy Election Project**, this is going to be the final task to develop a prediction of your state's electoral votes in the upcoming election)
- ✓ If your pupils are meeting the partner class for the first time, start with an ice-breaker activity to enable them to get to know each other (see suggested tasks)
- ✓ Specify preparatory tasks: each teacher has to decide how he/she wants to prepare his/her pupils for the main telecollaboration session
- ✓ Specify the main telecollaboration tasks (i.e. those tasks in which both learner groups will directly interact with each other)
- ✓ Specify follow-up activities for securing learning outcomes, e.g. presentation and discussion in class, collaborative report and assessment (wiki), individual portfolio

STEP 4: Before the telecollaborative exchange

- ✓ Establish a netiquette for the telecollaboration exchanges paying attention to different netiquette requirements for videoconference, chat and forum
- ✓ To get ready for the telecollaboration task, help your pupils to explore the topic and to acquire useful words and phrases
- ✓ Help your pupils to become aware of the value of openness and empathy for successful intercultural communication
- ✓ Prepare them for helping each other and learning from each other
- ✓ Make sure your pupils are sufficiently familiar with the telecollaboration tool
- ✓ Find out whether some pupils in your class are already well acquainted with the tools and can help their classmates
- ✓ Give pupils precise instructions for the telecollaboration exchange (e.g. prepare worksheets)
- ✓ When using Moodle or Skype, check access and functions again before your online session
- ✓ Agree with your partner teacher on a plan B in case the technology fails

STEP 5: During the telecollaborative exchange

- ✓ When telecollaborating in the computer lab, support your pupils during the exchange in particular with regard to linguistic-communicative and/or technical problems
- ✓ When using a tool for synchronous oral communication, have a plan B ready in case there are technical problems, e.g. be prepared to switch to a written chat or forum

STEP 6: After the telecollaborative exchange

- ✓ If necessary, secure learning results in a follow-up activity (in particular after a synchronous telecollaboration task)
- ✓ Use reflective sessions on the exchange and learning diaries to get and give feedback on linguistic-communicative, intercultural or technical problems or achievements
- ✓ Use a portfolio approach for assessment and feedback

Adapted from: TILA Best Practice Report. (<http://www.tilaproject.eu/moodle/mod/page/view.php?id=1429>)

IV. Further links and resources:

Introductory research literature

Dooly Owenby, M., & O'Dowd, R. (Eds.) (2018). *Telecollaboration in education: vol. 6. In This Together: Teachers' Experiences with Transnational, Telecollaborative Language Learning Projects*. Bern: Peter Lang. Retrieved from <https://www.peterlang.com/view/title/67965>
<https://doi.org/10.3726/b14311> (open access)

Guth, S., & Helm, F. (Eds.) (2010). *Telecollaboration 2.0: Language, Literacies and Intercultural Learning in the 21st Century*. Workshop of the EuroCALL Special Interest Group in Computer-Mediated Communication. Bern: Peter Lang.

Jager, S., Kurek, M., & O'Rourke, B. (Eds.) (2016). *New Directions in Telecollaborative Research and Practice: Selected Papers from the Second Conference on Telecollaboration in Higher Education* (Vol. 28). Dublin: Research-publishing.net. <https://doi.org/10.14705/rpnet.2016.telecol-lab2016.9781908416414> (open access)

Kurek, M., & Müller-Hartmann, A. (2017). Task Design for Telecollaborative Exchanges: In Search of New Criteria. *System*, 64, 7–20. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.system.2016.12.004>

O'Dowd, R. (2018). From telecollaboration to virtual exchange: state-of-the-art and the role of UNICollaboration in moving forward. *Journal of Virtual Exchange*, 1, 1–23.
<https://doi.org/10.14705/rpnet.2018.jve.1> (open access)

O'Dowd, R., & Ware, P. (2009). Critical Issues in Telecollaborative Task Design. *Computer Assisted Language Learning*, 22(2), 173–188. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09588220902778369>

Teaching Guides, manuals, best practices (all are open access):

Hofstaedter, P., & Kohn, K. (2015). Telecollaboration for Intercultural Communication and Foreign Language Learning: Best Practice Report. Retrieved from http://www.tilaproject.eu/moodle/pluginfile.php/2607/mod_page/content/31/TILA%20Best%20Practice%20report.pdf

Kammermöns, E., & Zeidler, B. (2010). *eTwinning-Praxishandbuch für Lehrkräfte* (6th edition). Bonn: Schulen ans Netz e.V. Nationale Koordinierungsstelle eTwinning. Retrieved from https://bildung-rp.de/fileadmin/user_upload/bildung-rp.de/medienbildung/etwinning/Handbuecher/Praxis-handbuch_6Auflage.pdf

Müller-Hartmann, A., & O'Dowd, R. (2017). A Training Manual on Telecollaboration for Teacher Trainers. Retrieved from https://www.evaluateproject.eu/evlt-data/uploads/2017/09/Training-Manual_EVALUATE.pdf

UNICollaboration. UNICollaboration Task Database. Retrieved from <https://www.unicollaboration.org/index.php/tasks-databank/>

Websites (selection):

eTwinning: <https://www.etwinning.net/>

Intercultural learning – Methodenbox: <http://intercultural-learning.eu/de/methodenbox/>

Internet safety: <https://www.betterinternetforkids.eu/>

Netiquette: <https://www.netplanet.org/netiquette/>