

Illinois (IL) (19 votes)

Capital: **Springfield**
 Area: **57,915 sq mi. / 149,997 sq km**
 Population: **12,812,508**
 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 2020 election, most political pundits and polls before Election Day accurately estimated that Democratic candidate Joe Biden would receive more votes than the Republican candidate and former President Donald J. Trump. However, Biden's victory in the Electoral College was narrower than predicted because the polls overstated Biden's support relative to Trump.

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?



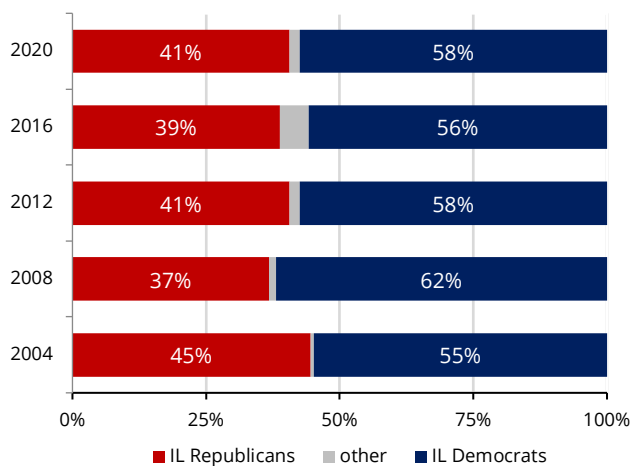
Voting history ^[2]

Illinois became a state in December 1818.

The state voted Republican for eight out of 10 elections from 1952 through 1988. However, Illinois has voted Democratic in the last eight elections. In 2020, Joe Biden beat Donald Trump by 17%.

With 19 electoral votes as of 2024, the state is the largest electoral prize in the Midwest, although nearby Ohio, with 17, gets considerably more visibility in the general election as it has – until recently – been a presidential bellwether. Like many other northern industrial states, Illinois has lost electoral influence as its population has not grown with the rest of the country. The 2020 Census marked the fifth consecutive Census where the state has lost at least one electoral vote.

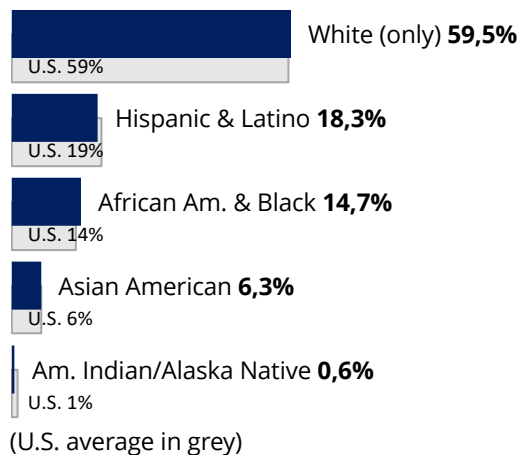
Election results in Illinois (2004–2020): ^[2]



Voter turnout 2020:



Ethnicity ^[3]



Religion ^[4]

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

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

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

51% (29th) say they pray daily

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



Economy ^[5]

11.9% (28th highest)
poverty rate

4.8% (47th lowest)
unemployment rate



Income inequality ^[6]

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

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



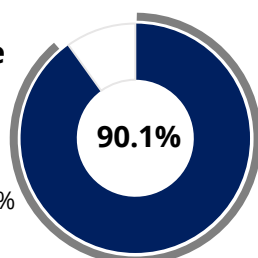
22% of the income



Education ^[3]

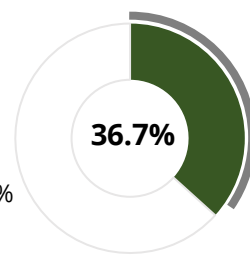
High school degree or higher
persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average (grey): 89.1%



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

U.S. average (grey): 34.3%





More information on Illinois*



State Information

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



Media



Illinois Political News:

<https://www.politico.com/news/illinois>



Chicago, Illinois Politics Podcasts:

https://podcasts.feedspot.com/chicago_politics_podcasts/



Democrats and Republicans in the state

Democratic Party



<http://ildems.com/>



no official site



<https://twitter.com/illinoisdems>



<www.instagram.com/illinoisdems/>



<www.tiktok.com/@illinoisdems>

Republican Party

<https://illinois.gop>

<www.youtube.com/@ILGOP>

<https://twitter.com/ILGOP>

<www.instagram.com/ilgop/>

no official site

* 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. Ethnicity, economy, and education data: [U.S. Census Bureau](#)
4. Religion data: [Pew poll: How religious is your state?](#)
5. Poverty and unemployment rate: [Poverty Rates by State & Unemployment Statistics Map](#)
6. Wealth and income inequality data: [Economic Policy Institute – The Unequal States of America](#)