

Maine (ME) (4 votes)

Capital: **Augusta**
 Area: **35,385 sq mi. / 91,646 sq km**
 Population: **1,362,359**
 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?

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?

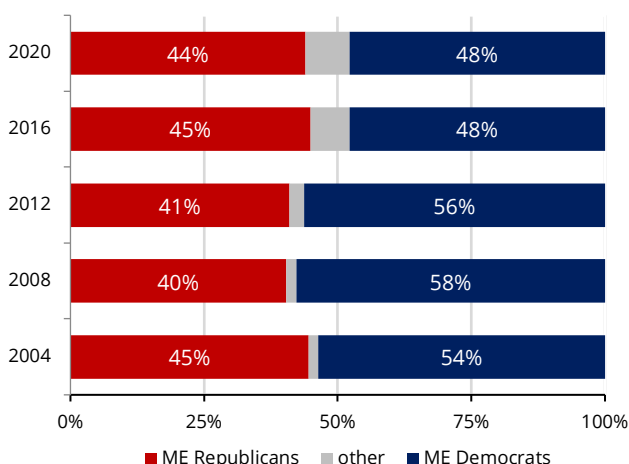


Voting history ^[2]

Maine has voted Democratic in the last eight elections.

In 2016 Hillary Clinton won the state by just 2.9% over Donald Trump. Joe Biden's 2020 margin of victory was 9%. Maine has been a tale of two states in the last two elections, with the Democratic candidate winning the 1st congressional district and Trump winning the more rural 2nd district. This is significant in that Maine is one of only two states –along with Nebraska– that do not use a winner-take-all electoral vote allocation. Here, the winner of the statewide 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 both times he was on the ballot.

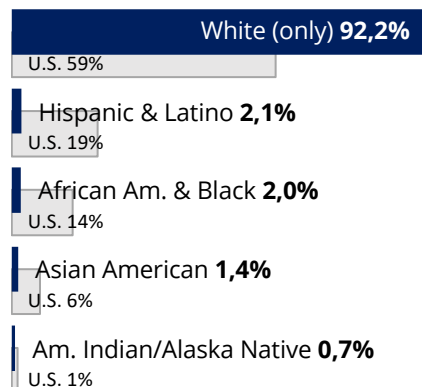
Election results in Maine (2004–2020): ^[2]



Voter turnout 2020:



Ethnicity ^[3]



(U.S. average in grey)



Religion ^[4]

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 ^[5]

10.8% (35th highest) poverty rate

3.2% (17th 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



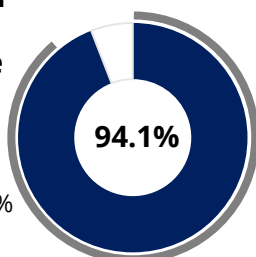
14% of the income



Education ^[3]

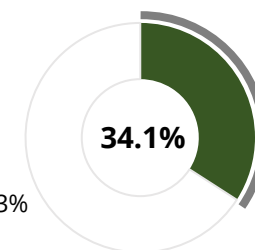
High school degree or higher
persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average (grey): 89.1%



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

U.S. average (grey): 34.3%





More information on Maine*



State information

Official state website: www.maine.gov/



Media



Maine Political News:

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



Maine Politics Blogs:

https://politics.feedspot.com/maine_politics_blogs/



Democrats and Republicans in the state

Democratic Party



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



www.youtube.com/@MaineDems



<https://twitter.com/MaineDems>



www.instagram.com/mainedems



no official site

Republican Party

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

www.youtube.com/@mainegop

<https://twitter.com/mainegop>

www.instagram.com/mainegop

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](#)