

Mississippi (MS) (6 votes)

Capital: **Jackson**
 Area: **48,430 sq mi. / 125,443 sq km**
 Population: **2,963,914**
 Nickname: **"The Magnolia State"**
 State motto: **"By Valor and Arms"**
 Governor: **Tate Reeves (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 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?

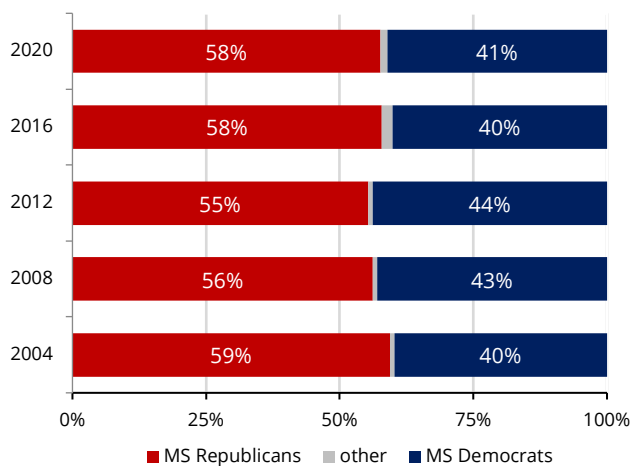


Voting history ^[2]

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 2020, Donald Trump easily won the state by 58% to Joe Biden’s 41%.

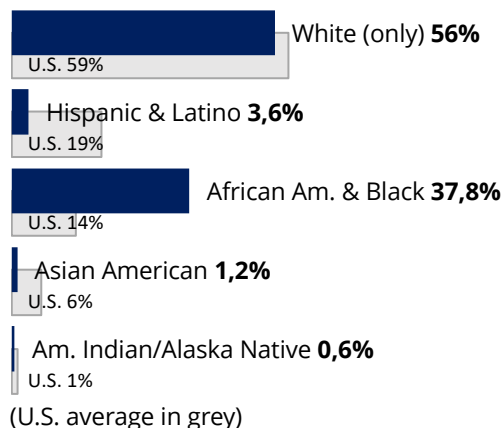
Election results in Mississippi (2004–2020): ^[2]



Voter turnout 2020:



Ethnicity ^[3]



Religion ^[4]

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



Economy ^[5]

19.1% (1st highest)
poverty rate

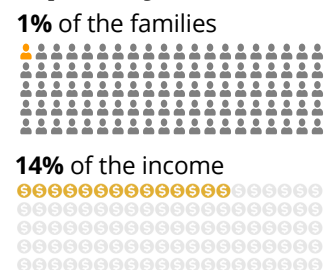
3.3% (22nd lowest)
unemployment rate



Income inequality ^[6]

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

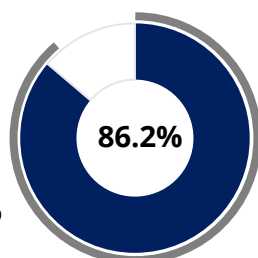
(U.S. average: 21%)



Education ^[3]

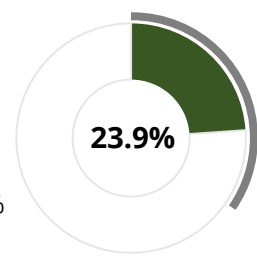
High school degree or higher
persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average (grey): 89.1%



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

U.S. average (grey): 34.3%





More information on Mississippi*



State information

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



Media



Mississippi Political News:

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



Mississippi Politics Podcasts:

https://podcasts.feedspot.com/mississippi_political_podcasts/



Democrats and Republicans in the state

Democratic Party



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



no official site



<https://twitter.com/msdemocrats>



<https://www.instagram.com/msdemocrats/>



no official site

Republican Party

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

www.youtube.com/@TheMSRepublicanParty

<https://twitter.com/MSGOP>

no official site

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](#)