

Pennsylvania (PA) (19 votes)

Capital: **Harrisburg**
 Area: **46,055 sq mi. / 119,283 sq km**
 Population: **12,961,683**
 Nickname: **"The Keystone State"**
 State motto: **"Virtue, Liberty and Independence"**
 Governor: **Josh Shapiro (D)**
 U.S. Senators: **Bob Casey Jr. (D), John Fetterman (D)**



Wikimedia Commons

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?

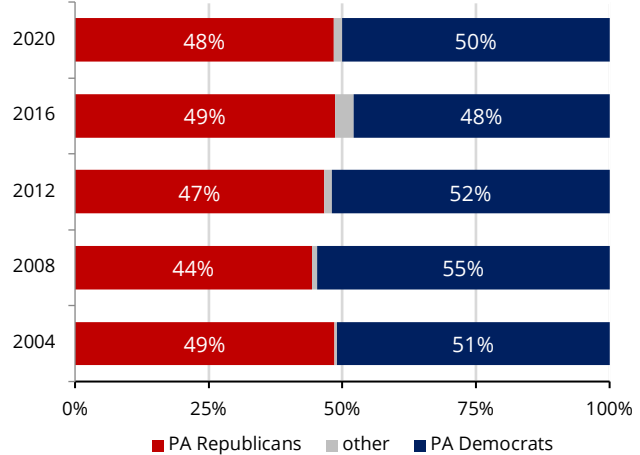


Voting history ^[2]

Pennsylvania, where the U.S. Constitution was written, was the second state admitted to the Union, officially becoming a state in December 1787.

The Keystone State has participated in all 59 presidential elections through 2020. 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. Again competitive in 2020, Joe Biden won by 1.2%. While still an important prize, with 19 electoral votes, Pennsylvania, like many industrial northern states, has seen population migrate away in recent decades. The state now has just half the 38 electoral votes it had a century ago.

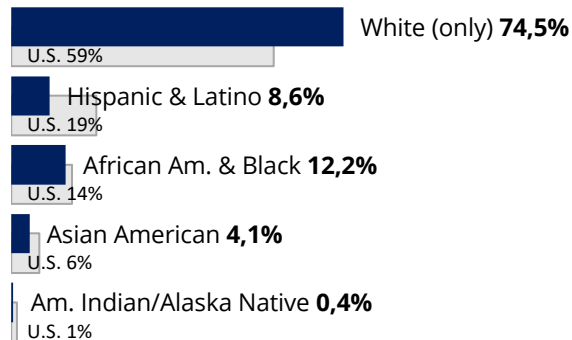
Election results in Pennsylvania (2004–2020):^[2]



Voter turnout 2020:



Ethnicity ^[3]



(U.S. average in grey)



Religion ^[4]

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

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

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

54% (21st) say they pray daily

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



Economy ^[5]

11.8% (29th highest) poverty rate

3.5% (30th lowest) unemployment rate



Income inequality ^[6]

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

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



18% of the income

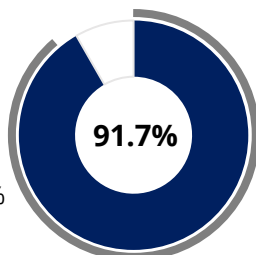


Education ^[3]

High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

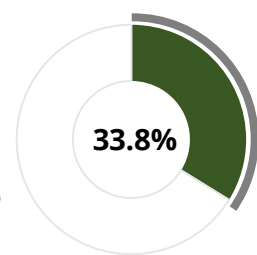
U.S. average (grey): 89.1%



Bachelor's degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average (grey): 34.3%





More information on Pennsylvania*



State information

Official state website: www.pa.gov



Media



Pennsylvania Political News:

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



Pennsylvania Politics Podcast:

https://podcasts.feedspot.com/pennsylvania_politics_podcasts/



Democrats and Republicans in the state

Democratic Party



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



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



<http://twitter.com/padems>



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



no official site

Republican Party

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

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

<http://twitter.com/pagop>

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

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](#)