

## Iowa (IA) (6 votes)

Capital: **Des Moines**  
 Area: **56,273 sq mi. / 145,746 sq km**  
 Population: **3,190,369**  
 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?

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?*

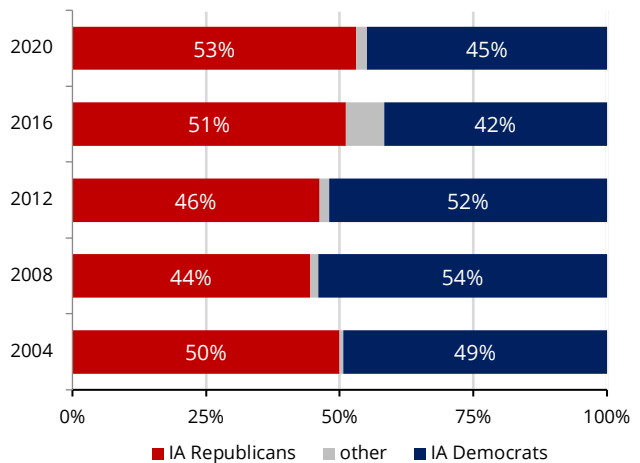


## Voting history <sup>[2]</sup>

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 over 9%, a 15-point swing from 2012 when Barack Obama won the state by 5.8%. In 2020, Trump won by 8% over Joe Biden. Iowa has gradually lost electoral clout as the state's population growth has been slow relative to the rest of the country. Despite this, the competitiveness (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 Hawkeye State outsized influence on who ultimately gets elected president.

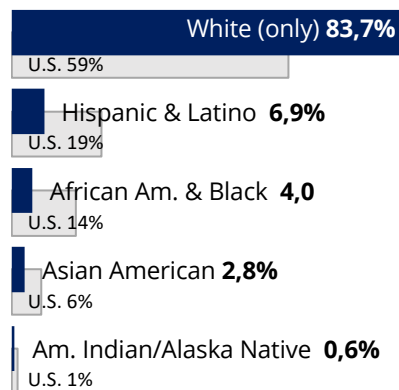
## Election results in Iowa (2004–2020): <sup>[2]</sup>



## Voter turnout 2020:



## Ethnicity <sup>[3]</sup>



(U.S. average in grey)



## Religion <sup>[4]</sup>

IA is tied for **19<sup>th</sup>** most religious state overall

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

## Religious profile of Iowa

**53%** (20<sup>th</sup>) say religion is very important in their lives

**36%** (21<sup>st</sup>) say they attend worship at least weekly

**50%** (35<sup>th</sup>) say they pray daily

**66%** (17<sup>th</sup>) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty



## Economy <sup>[5]</sup>

**11.0%** (34<sup>th</sup> highest) poverty rate

**3.2%** (16<sup>th</sup> lowest) unemployment rate



## Income inequality <sup>[6]</sup>

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

(U.S. average: 21%)

**1%** of the families



**13%** of the income

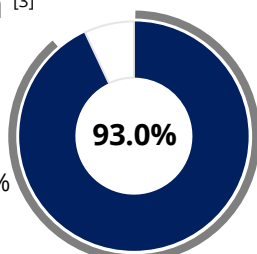


## Education <sup>[3]</sup>

**High school degree or higher**

persons 25+ yrs. old

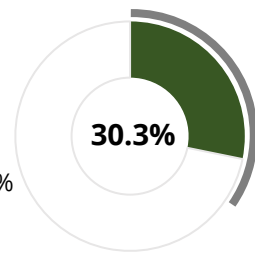
U.S. average (grey): 89.1%



**Bachelor's degree or higher**

persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average (grey) : 34.3%





## More information on Iowa\*



### State information

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



## Media



Iowa Political News:

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



Iowa Politics Podcasts:

[https://podcasts.feedspot.com/iowa\\_political\\_podcasts/](https://podcasts.feedspot.com/iowa_political_podcasts/)



## Democrats and Republicans in the state

### Democratic Party



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



no active site



<https://twitter.com/iowademocrats>



<www.instagram.com/iowademocrats/>



<www.tiktok.com/@iowademocrats>

### Republican Party

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

no active site

<https://twitter.com/IowaGOP>

[www.instagram.com/iowa\\_gop](www.instagram.com/iowa_gop)

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](http://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](#)