

North Carolina (NC) (16 votes)

Capital: **Raleigh**
 Area: **53,819 sq mi. / 139,390 sq km**
 Population: **10,835,491**
 Nickname: **"Old North State"**
 State motto: **"To be, rather than to seem"**
 Governor: **Roy Cooper (D)**
 U.S. Senators: **Ted Budd (R),**
Thom Tillis (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?

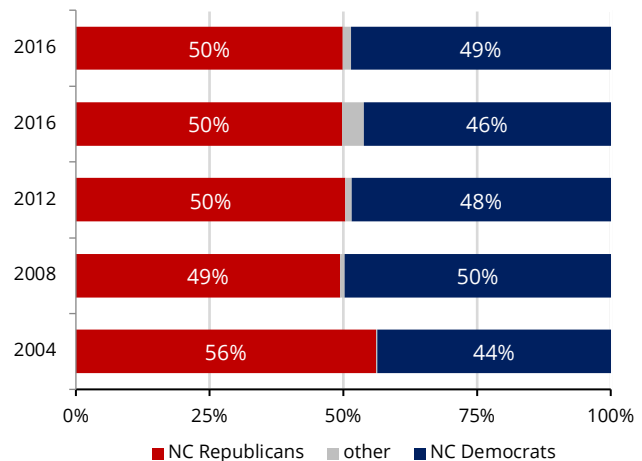


Voting history ^[2]

North Carolina was the location of the Wright Brothers' famous first powered flight, near Kitty Hawk in 1903.

Like many other southern states, North Carolina voted almost exclusively Democratic from 1876 through 1964 and almost exclusively Republican beginning in 1968. The initial shift was largely in response to white conservative voter uneasiness with the civil rights legislation passed in the mid-1960s, which was effectively exploited by the Republicans "southern strategy." In 2008, Barack Obama reversed the trend of Republican dominance here defeating John McCain by about 14,000 votes out of 4.3 million cast. In 2012, North Carolina was again the 2nd closest race as the state flipped Republican. Mitt Romney beat Obama by about 2%. Donald Trump won the state by 3.6% over Hillary Clinton in 2016 and by 1.3% over Joe Biden in 2020.

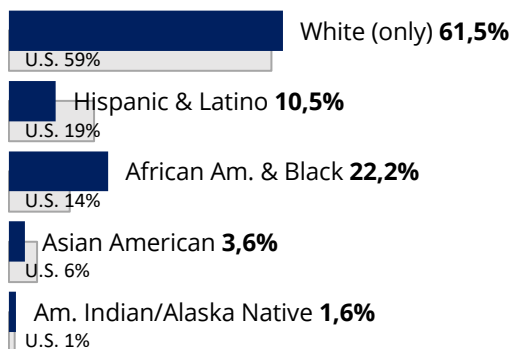
Election results in North Carolina (2004–2020): ^[2]



Voter turnout 2020:



Ethnicity ^[3]



(U.S. average in grey)



Religion ^[4]

NC is the 10th most religious state overall

65% of adults in NC are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of North Carolina



Economy ^[5]

12.8% (17th highest)
poverty rate

3.5% (29th lowest)
unemployment rate

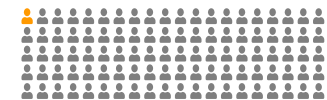


Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **17% of all the income in NC.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



17% of the income

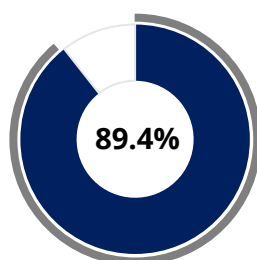


Education ^[3]

High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

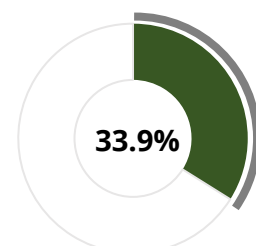
U.S. average (grey): 89.1%



Bachelor's degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average (grey): 34.3%



More information on North Carolina*



State information

Official state website: www.ncgov.com



Media



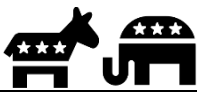
North Carolina Political News:

<https://www.politico.com/news/north-carolina>



North Carolina Politics Podcast:

https://podcasts.feedspot.com/north_carolina_political_podcasts/



Democrats and Republicans in the state

Democratic Party



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



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



<http://twitter.com/ncdemparty>



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



no official site

Republican Party

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

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

<http://twitter.com/ncgop>

https://www.instagram.com/nc_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](#)
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](#)