

Rhode Island (RI) (4 votes)

Capital: **Providence**
 Area: **1,214 sq mi. / 3,144 sq km**
 Population: **1,095,962**
 Nickname: **"Little Rhody", "Ocean State"**
 State motto: **"Hope"**
 Governor: **Daniel McKee (D)**
 U.S. Senators: **Jack Reed (D),**
Sheldon Whitehouse (D)



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?



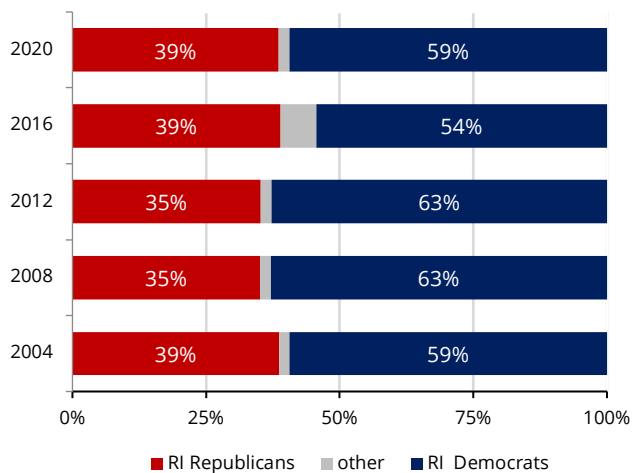
Voting history ^[2]

Rhode Island was the last of the 13 original colonies to ratify the Constitution, entering the Union in May 1790.

The state has been reliably Democratic since 1928, only voting Republican four times – twice for Eisenhower in 1952 and 1956, for Nixon in 1972, and for Reagan in 1984, when he won every state except Minnesota. In 2020, Joe Biden defeated Donald Trump by just over 20%.

The Ocean State has had four electoral votes since it first participated in 1792, except for the 1910s and 1920s when it had five. It has the most electoral votes proportional to size – one for every 303 square miles. Heading into the release of 2020 Census results, the state had been projected to lose an electoral vote. This did not occur.

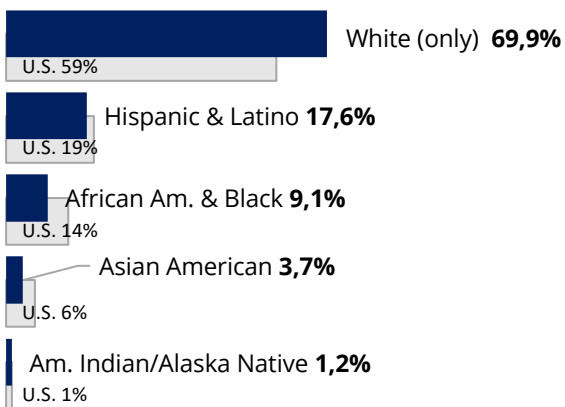
Election results in Rhode Island (2004–2020): ^[2]



Voter turnout 2020:



Ethnicity ^[3]



(U.S. average in grey)



Religion ^[4]

RI is tied for 35th most religious state overall

49% of adults in RI are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Rhode Island

48% (34th) say religion is very important in their lives

36% (21st) say they attend worship at least weekly

48% (40th) say they pray daily

60% (35th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty



Economy ^[5]

10.8% (36th highest)
poverty rate

3.2% (20th lowest)
unemployment rate



Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **16% of all the income in RI.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



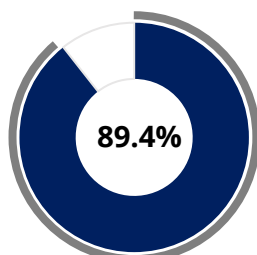
16% of the income



Education ^[3]

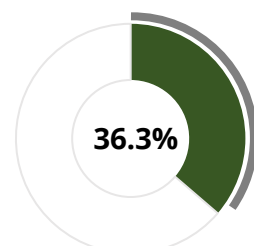
High school degree or higher
persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average (grey): 89.1%



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

U.S. average (grey): 34.3





More information on Rhode Island*



State information

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



Media



Rhode Island Political News:

<https://www.politico.com/news/rhode-island>



Rhode Island Politics Podcast

https://podcasts.feedspot.com/rhode_island_political_podcasts/



Democrats and Republicans in the state

Democratic Party



<http://www.ridemocrats.org>



no active site



<http://twitter.com/ridemparty>



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



no official site

Republican Party

<http://www.ri.gop/>

<https://www.youtube.com/@RIHOUSEGOP>

<http://twitter.com/RhodeIslandGOP>

https://www.instagram.com/rhodeisland_gop/

<https://www.tiktok.com/@rhodeislandrepublican>

* 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](#)