

Tennessee (TN) (11 votes)

Capital: **Nashville**
 Area: **42,143sq mi. / 109,247sq km**
 Population: **6,833,793**
 Nickname: **"Volunteer State"**
 State motto: **"Agriculture and Commerce"**
 Governor: **Bill Lee (R)**
 U.S. Senators: **Lamar Alexander (R),
 Marsha Blackburn (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 2016 election, most political pundits and polls before Election Day had Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton in the lead. Yet, while Clinton won the majority of the popular vote, the Republican candidate Donald J. Trump won the Electoral College votes of key swing states and thus the Presidency.

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?

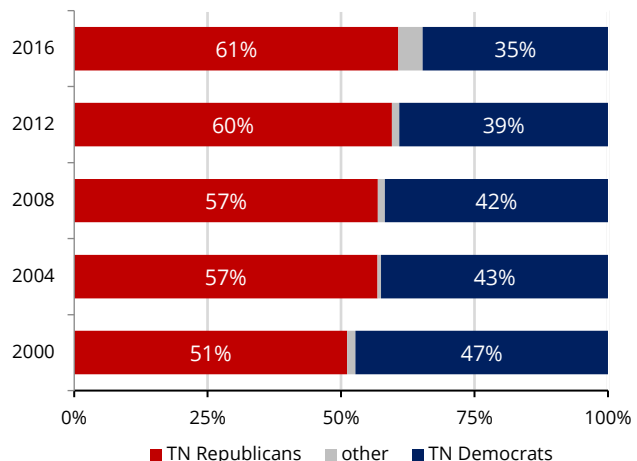


Voting history ^[2]

Tennessee joined the Union as the 16th state in June 1796; it would be the last state admitted during the 18th century.

Like many southern states, Tennessee voted almost exclusively Democratic from Reconstruction until after World War II. Since the 1950s, Republicans have usually won here, although there have been a few exceptions, most recently Bill Clinton (with home-state Senator Al Gore as vice president) in 1992 and 1996. Interestingly, Gore lost the state in 2000 when he headed the Democratic ticket. In 2016, Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton by a margin of 61% to 35%. Other than Barack Obama's two terms and in 1960, when they chose Richard Nixon over John F. Kennedy, the state's voters

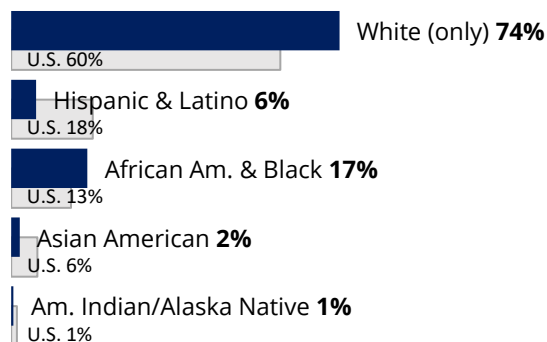
Election results in Tennessee (2000-2016) since 1928.



Voter turnout 2016:



Ethnicity ^[4]



(U.S. average in grey)



Religion ^[5]

TN is the 3rd most religious state overall

73% of adults in TN are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Tennessee

71% (3rd) say religion is very important in their lives

51% (2nd) say they attend worship at least weekly

70% (3rd) say they pray daily

78% (3rd) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty



Economy ^[4]

15.7% (9th highest) poverty rate

3.4% (19th lowest) unemployment rate



Income inequality ^[6]

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

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



18% of the income

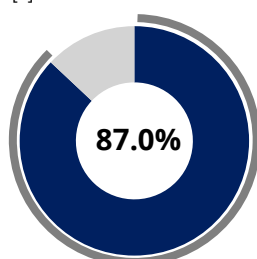


Education ^[4]

High school degree or higher

persons 25+ yrs. old

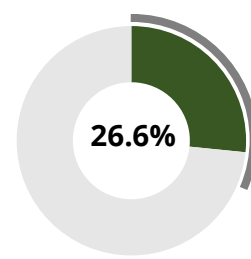
U.S. average: 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher

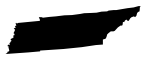
persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average: 31.5%





More information on Tennessee*



State information

Infoplease.com: <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

Official state website: www.tn.gov/



Government information

Governor: www.tn.gov/governor/

State and Local Government on The Net: <http://www.statelocalgov.net/>

U.S. Senators from the state: <http://www.senate.gov/senators/contact/>

U.S. Representatives from the state: <https://www.house.gov/representatives>



Election 2020

270towin.com: <http://www.270towin.com/states>

Rock the Vote – voting information: <https://www.rockthevote.org/voting-information/>

Vote.org – voter registration rules: <https://www.vote.org/voter-registration-rules/>



Statistics

Quick Facts from the US Census Bureau (select state): <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/>

Economic Policy Institute – The Unequal States of America: <https://epi.org/108519>



Media



Media Collection by the U.S. Embassy:

<http://usa.usembassy.de/media.htm>



50states.com – Local newspapers:

<http://www.50states.com/news>



OfficialUSA.com – Local TV stations:

<http://www.officialusa.com/statelocalgov/media/television/states.html>



Democrats and Republicans in the state

Democratic Party



<http://www.tndp.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/tndem>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/TennesseeDems>

<https://twitter.com/TennDem>

Republican Party

<http://tngop.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/TNGOP>

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

<http://twitter.com/TNGOP>

* For most web-resources, you will have to select your state from a list or type in your state name in a search field. 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. U.S. election history: [David Leip's Election Atlas](#); 4. Ethnicity, economy, and education data: [U.S. Census Bureau](#); 5. Religion data: [Pew poll: How religious is your state?](#); 6. Wealth and income inequality data: [Economic Policy Institute – The Unequal States of America](#).