

ALABAMA
Winner: Republican

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When analyzing voting habits and election results in Alabama, we can predict, with confidence, a Republican victory in November. Looking at socio-economical factors in Alabama, the region of the U.S. in which Alabama is located and past election results, we can make this prediction. Although the candidates on the democrat side are quite qualified to contend for the state, historical and social factors predict a Republican win.

Although many factors can influence how Alabama votes, key factors in the November election will be racial divide, income per family in Alabama and education of voters in Alabama. The population of Alabama is 70 percent white, 26 percent blacks and Hispanic and Asian population making up less than 5 percent each. (US Census, 2006) Voting trends show that southern white voters more often identify with conservative religious groups that follow the Republican platform more closely.() This white majority also controls more of the income in Alabama, where the median income per home is \$37,000, eight thousand less than national average. (US Census, 2006) Although minorities that are in or near the poverty zone vote Democrat, both higher income whites and poverty stricken whites have traditionally voted Republican.() The percentage of those living in poverty in Alabama is 16 percent; 4 percent higher than the national average.(US Census, 2006) Along with both of these factors, we must also factor in the education level of those living in Alabama. According the Alabama census, only 75 percent of those above 25 years of age have a high school diploma and only 19 percent of those over 25 years of age in Alabama have a bachelor's degree. (US Census,2006) These numbers are both 6 percent below the national average, resulting in more uneducated voters and lower voter turnout, which traditionally favors the Republican party.(Valelly, 2004) Democrats rely heavily on minority voting, and with Alabama having both a higher uneducated and a small black minority population, the state will go Republican.

If we also look at the region of the United States that Alabama is located, we can also say with confidence that Alabama will vote Republican. The rural, southern United States has traditionally voted for the Republican ticket. Evangelical Christians have a stronger hold within the southern United States and this result in a Republican ticket winning the states of the southern US.(Younge, 2004) Based on the past three presidential elections, the majority of states within the south, excluding Florida, have voted Republican consistently. (Leip, 2008) This region of the US also averages less income per household than the North or the West and this leads to a Republican ticket winning the election in Alabama and surrounding states.

Lastly, after analyzing past election results in Alabama, the Republican ticket has historically won the favor of voters in the state for both national and state elections. Dating back to 1980, Alabama has voted Republican in the presidential election six out of seven times. (Leip, 2008) In each election dating back to 1992, the Republican ticket has gotten over 50 percent of the vote in Alabama, with George W. Bush receiving a strong 62 percent of the vote in the 2004 election. (Leip,2008) In gubernatorial races, Alabama has voted for the Republican tickets four of five elections since 1990. (Leip, 2008) Alabama has also consistently voted the

Republican ticket into senate seats the past four election terms. Each senate race has been won convincingly by the Republican ticket, consistently earning 60 percent or more of the vote in the election. (Leip, 2008)

Alabama's seven house seats have also been lead by a majority Republican ticket since 1996, never having less than 5 Republican seats in the house. (Leip, 2008) Past election results strongly suggest that Alabama is a red state.

As long as Alabama voters vote consistently as they have for the past twenty years or more, the Republican ticket can count on Alabama going red. Unless the rhetoric of the Democrat is overwhelming and powerful, Alabama's nine Electoral College votes will go to a Republican in 2008.

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