

IOWA
Winner: Democrat

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Iowa is what is known as a swing state. When predicting which way the state will vote in the 2008 election it is difficult to say whether it will go democratic or republican. The States past history of elections, polls, and voting behavior show that it is a state that could go either way. This year Iowa is voting for the democrat.

Swing states are important states for candidates because they can easily go either way for one candidate or the other. At the beginning of a presidential race, polls can sometimes be misleading. The candidate's approval or disapproval tends to be higher after debates or party conventions (Baumgartner). Primary polls taken before the Iowa caucuses are usually a fair predictor and accurate as to how a candidate will do in the election. Al Gore was Iowa in 2000 by a very thin margin and Bush did the same thing four years later. The states highly influential caucuses make it a battleground for democrats and republicans.

Overall the candidates spend a significant amount of time in the Midwest. Most of the Midwestern states have been inclined to vote for the democrats, but the margin is so little that they could easily switch to the other side. The delegate selection of these two states is very important to those aspiring to become the president because it is the first time they actually get to see real results (Baumgartner). Candidates pay a mass amount of time to the Iowa caucuses, more money, time, and campaigning typically goes into this state more than any other. The media also plays an important role in this state. More stories are published and the news covers it more. If a candidate does poorly in this contest as well as the New Hampshire primary it is a usually a good indicator that they should end their campaign.

During the 2004 election, according to CNN.com 30.7 percent were registered republicans and 31 percent registered democrats in the state. Past elections show that this state is by far a swing state or battle ground state. It is hard to find particular trends with voting because this state is a swing state and it varies from election to election. It is hard to say what the state will do during that given election. For example from 1988 to 2000 the voted for a democrat in all presidential elections, but in 2004 they voted a 50 percent vote for the republican candidate. When looking at all other races as well such as senate races, house races, or governor races, Iowa has little trend. The margins are very close, and it could easily be one candidate over another. One thing that is interesting is that the governor was democrat from 1990 to 1998 but then in 2002 it went to republican. However, the presidential candidate is opposite. It's been a democrat nominee since 1988 but in 2004 the state voted republican (Leip, David. 2008. "Dave Leip's Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections." Available at <<http://www.uselectionatlas.org>>.)

When looking back on history it is said that whoever does well in Iowa and New Hampshire is the likely candidate for the election. This year Iowa is going democrat for the Electoral College votes in 2008.

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