

IDAHO
Winner: Republican

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If any group of voters were to be described as creatures of habit, the voters of Idaho would be at the top of the list. Idaho is perhaps, one of the most republican states of the United States. Idaho is a true Midwestern, red state; if it were any more conservative, it would be bleeding. Based on previous presidential elections, voting behavior, and conservative citizens of the state, it is a safe bet that the Republicans will dominate Idaho for the 2008 presidential election.

Unlike most states, Idaho does not register citizens by a political party, but in November of 2000, 728,085 citizens of the state were registered to vote (Berg-Andersson, 2008). Since 1976, an estimated 69% of the state's registered voters have been participating in the general election. Of the 69%, a majority of these voters lean towards the right wing of politics. Mostly because along with the mainstream Democratic and Republican parties, Idaho currently houses an Independent party and four third party groups, including Libertarian and Right to Life, which tend to be more conservative. Other factors include the location of the state in the mid-west, and religious natures of the voters (such as Mormons); these features tend to make the state more conventional.

For the past 15 presidential elections, except for the one in 1964, the majority of Idahoans voted for the republican candidate and maintained at the least, a 13% majority over democrats (Leip, 2008). The one presidential election in the state where the democratic vote was higher than the republicans was the 1964 presidential race between Democrat Lyndon Johnson and Republican Barry Goldwater. Johnson won the election by a landslide (90% of the Electoral College), and in context, also won Idaho. The important thing to know about this race is that Johnson only won the state by 1.83%. Compared to the other 14 elections, where the Republicans won by at least a ten percent margin, the 1964 election results don't hold much weight. As far as the presidential elections go, Idaho is a palpable Republican state.

While the consistent winning streak for the state's presidential victories favor the Republican Party, this does not automatically make Idaho a red state. What makes Idaho a republican state are all of the elections held statewide for local offices. Since 1990, all of the Senate races were won with at least 50% by the Republican candidate, including the Senate race of 2002, where the Republican candidate won with 99.2% of the vote (Ysursa). In 1990, the Democratic candidate won the majority of the votes for the House seat (also 1992) and the gubernatorial election. Other than that, every race in recent years won by majority has been by a Republican candidate. This includes the offices of Secretary of State, Attorney General, and even public offices such as Superintendent of Public Instruction (Berg-Andersson, 2008).

The tremendous amount of Republican majority in election results and the traditional lifestyles of Idahoans all point to a Republican victory for the 2008 general election.

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