

KENTUCKY
Winner: Republican

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The first step in understanding how the people of Kentucky are most likely to vote in the 2008 presidential race entails examining the state's demographic make up. According to the 2006 US Census Bureau profile of Kentucky, the state's population is 4,206,074. Of this population total, 90.2 percent are Caucasian, 51 percent are female, 7.5 percent are African American, 0.2 percent are American Indian and Alaskan Native persons, and 1.0 percent are Asian. These population percentages indicate that Kentucky has a low level diversity and that the majority voting block is overwhelmingly made up of Caucasians voters.

In forecasting who the people of Kentucky might select one must also consider the state's overall voting habits. Past election results clearly indicate that Kentucky has historically voted in favor of Republicans as opposed to Democrats in both national and state wide elections. In 2004 President George (Rep.) Bush took 60% of the vote in Kentucky while Senator John Kerry (Dem.) took 40%. In 2000, Bush took 57% of the vote while Vice President Al Gore to 41%. Currently the state's governor (Earnie Fletcher) and two U.S. senators (Mitch McConnell, Jim Bunning) are Republicans. Most of the state's U.S. Representatives are Republicans as well (5 Rep.- 1 Dem). This data shows that it's highly probable that the state of Kentucky will vote for the Republican presidential nominee John McCain.

The race amongst the two remaining democratic hopefuls in the state of Kentucky is clearly favoring Senator Hillary Clinton at this point. A survey conducted by surveyusa.com gives Senator Clinton a 2 to 1 (58%, 29%) advantage over Senator Barack Obama. The website's polling data also indicates that Senator Clinton stands a better chance of challenging Senator McCain than Senator Obama would. A McCain, Clinton race in Kentucky would breakdown 53%-43% in favor of Senator McCain. A McCain, Obama race in Kentucky would breakdown 64%-28% in favor of Senator McCain.

I believe that Kentucky's demographic breakdown, voting history, and current political leanings, as indicated in polling data, clearly shows how the state will vote in the upcoming Democratic primary on May 20 and in the general election in the fall. I forecast that Senator Clinton will win the Kentucky Democratic primary over Senator Obama. I also forecast that Senator John McCain will take the state of Kentucky in the general election in the fall.

SOURCES

1. U.S Census Bureau-Kentucky_ People Quick Facts

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3. surveyusa.com_Kentucky election poll #13652,

<http://www.surveyusa.com/client/PollReport.aspx?g=45313abe-4220-409a-bc6c-5159d0751f46>

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