

MARYLAND
Winner: Democrat

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In the analyses of national and state level elections held in Maryland, it is evident that this Mid-Atlantic state has been largely controlled by the Democratic Party all throughout history. The state's demographics, voting history, previous trends and polling data point toward a state vote that is in favor of a Democratic candidate in the 2008 Presidential Election. Despite the split between the Republican and Democratic parties with only a slight win in the majority of elections, previous data demonstrates the faithfulness of this state to the Democratic Party. It is anticipated that the trend will continue as this state votes for blue once again in the upcoming presidential election in November.

Maryland holds 10 Electoral College votes and has an estimated population of 5,615,727 according to Census data gathered in 2006. As of January 22, 2008, there were 3,135, 773 registered voters in the state of Maryland that were eligible to vote in the 2008 Primary Election. From this number, 55.3 percent of voters were registered under the Democratic Party and 28.4 percent Republican (Maryland Board, 2008). Demographic data of race shows that the state is primarily of white ethnicity, making up 63.6 percent of the population, but the percentage of African-American residents is also high and above the U.S. mean, consisting of 29.5 percent (U.S. Census, 2006). When looking at voting history, it is evident that a large portion of the Democratic voting base consists of ethnic minorities. The Democrats' positions on affirmative action, welfare for the lower class and unemployed, labor unions, and immigration have a strong appeal to many ethnic minorities, including African Americans. While Maryland holds high median household incomes overall averaging \$57,019 per household, there is still a significant number of citizens that are below the poverty level at 9.2 percent (U.S. Census, 2006). Maryland seems to be divided as far as rural and urban regions, consisting of state-designated rural and national-designated rural regions, but also demonstrating urbanization in its larger cities (Rural Maryland, 2007). This state also highly values education, with 83.8 percent having received a high school diploma and 31.4 percent attaining a bachelor's degree or higher (U.S. Census, 2006). Academics, intellectuals, and the highly educated overall constitute an important part of the Democratic voter base.

Past election results also suggest a Democratic candidate at state and national levels. For example, in the previous four presidential elections the Democratic presidential candidate has been victorious in winning Maryland's Electoral College votes (Leip, 2004, 2000, 1996, 1992 General Election). The Republican Party took a slight win in the 1988 election as George H.W. Bush swept away 51.1 percent of votes in this state (Leip, 1988 General Election). In addition to the presidency, other offices contribute to Maryland's support of the Democratic Party. For example, the Democratic candidate has won all six Senate races since 1992, with the lowest margin of victory displayed at 54.2 percent in 2006 (Cable News Network, 2006) and the highest at 71 percent in 1992 (Leip, 1992 Senatorial). The House of Representatives is divided into eight different districts, with Democrats making up the majority in the last three elections and leading with a six to two ratio (The Green

Papers, 2006, 2004). These races are slightly more competitive with Maryland evenly representing Democrat and Republican candidates from 1992 to 2000 (Maryland Board, 2000, 1998, 1994, 1992). However, the gubernatorial races clearly show the importance of a Democratic candidate with the only exception of a Republican representative in 2002 (Leip, 2002 Gubernatorial). At a state level, the Democratic party holds greater than a two to one seat margin in both the House and the Senate since 2000 (StateVote, 2006, 2004, 2002, 2000), demonstrating the loyalty to this party as a whole.

Data that has been gathered clearly points to the support of a Democratic candidate in the upcoming Presidential election. State polls conducted by Dave Leip's Atlas of the U.S. Presidency shows not only a confidence in a Democratic candidate, but also a slight favoritism toward Barak Obama averaging at 52 percent against John McCain standing at 39 percent (Leip, 2008 Presidential Election Polls: Obama-McCain). In comparison to Hillary Clinton, Maryland polls reveal a tossup averaging 46 percent for Hillary and 42 percent, McCain (Leip, 2008 Presidential Election Polls: Clinton-McCain). In conclusion of these numbers and previous trends, Maryland will be voting with a slight Democratic lead in the November election to offer 10 Electoral College votes toward the next president of the United States.

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