

NEBRASKA
Winner: Republican

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Nebraska is a red state; it has voted Republican for almost every level of government in its state. Nebraska is a rural state which tends to vote Republican (Baumgartner, 2006). The state is almost 89% white, so a Democrat would have a hard time winning without a lot of help from minorities (Nebraska Census Data, 2006). As of 2006 about 50% of registered Nebraskans were Republicans. About 33% of registered Nebraskans were Democrats and about 16% were Independents (Nebraska Secretary of State, 2006).

In the presidential elections, the Republican candidate has won the state every time since 1940, with the exception of 1964. The margins between the two candidates have always been large. The current President, George W. Bush beat his challenger in the state by 62.3% in 2000 and by 65.9% of the vote in 2004. In 1992, George H.W. Bush won the state with 46.6% of the vote (Leip, 2008). On the presidential level this state votes straight Republican.

In the U.S. Senate races both Democrat and Republican candidates have won the seats. In 2006 Nebraska reelected its Democratic Senator Ben Nelson with 63.9% of the vote (Miller, 2006). In 2002 it reelected its Republican Senator Chuck Hagel with 82.8% of the vote (Tradahl, 2002). In the past nine U.S. House of Representatives elections the Republicans have controlled the most seats. Nebraska only has three congressional seats and the Republicans have been in control of them since 1994. In 1990 and 1992 they only had control of two seats while the Democrats had control of one (Anderson, 1990, 1992; Carle, 1994, 1996; Tradahl, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004; Miller, 2006).

The Republicans have also won the past three gubernatorial races, with significant margins. In 2006 Governor Dave Heineman won with 74% of the vote (AllPolitics, 1998; Cable News Network, 2002, 2006). Nebraska does not have a bicameral state legislature; it is the only one in our nation that has a unicameral legislature. Also all of its elected officials are elected nonpartisan; therefore we can not say which party has held control of this legislative body (StateVote, 2006). Overall Nebraska has voted straight Republican on most levels of government, with the exception of the U.S. Senate. The Republican candidate will have no obstacle winning this state in November.

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