

**New Jersey**  
***Winner: Democrat***

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New Jersey should not be a difficult state to predict how its residents will vote in the upcoming Presidential election. There are a number of ways to predict the outcome of the general election. New Jersey is a diverse state. The urban centers tend to be more liberal and therefore usually more Democratic. New Jersey still has rather large areas that are rural in nature. In these areas Republicans are more popular.

When we look at the past data from Senatorial races we can see that Democrats are more populous through out the state. In the race for New Jersey's two Senate seat the more urban and more populous areas overrule the rural less populous Republican supporting areas. It has been almost two decades since there has been a Republican Senator. However, some of the elections have been rather close. For instance, in the 1990 race the Republican candidate, Christine Todd Whitman, and her Democratic candidate, Bill Bradley, Whitman only lost by about 59,000 votes. However, since then the Republicans appear to be losing ground in the Senate races of New Jersey. In 2006, there were over 200,000 votes that separated the Democrats from the Republicans. The Democrats have been strong performers in the New Jersey Senate races. The story is not the same in the House of Representative races(Leip, Dave).

Since the House of Representatives is based on much smaller districts than the entire state, like the Senate is, the results are quite different. New Jersey has a total of 13 Representatives that it sends to Washington DC to represent the state. Since 1998, the Democrats have held more seats then Republicans but it always remains very close. For the past decade there have been seven Democrats and six Republicans from the state. Again the Republicans are mainly from the less developed, more agricultural parts of the state. The Republicans did enjoy a majority over the Democrats, from 1994-1998, four of the years when President Bill Clinton was in office. Since then the Republicans have managed to keep up with the Democrats, staying only one Representative behind(Office of the Clerk)

The Presidential race New Jersey has been a solid Democratic supporter. New Jersey has followed behind many other northern states and will most likely continue to do so. New Jersey has not voted for a Republican president since 1988. And New Jersey would not continue its support for Republican incumbent George Bush in 1992. It would seem that President Bill Clinton was able to break New Jersey from its Republican votes and New Jersey has stayed a Democratic staple since 1992(The US National Archives and Records Administration).

Only time will be able to give us a definite answer on how New Jersey will vote. If we look to its past voting behavior and with a Republican president in office now, I feel it is safe to say that New Jersey will vote for the Democratic nominee. New Jersey has 15 electoral votes that will be up for grabs in the Presidential General Election, in November.

## **SOURCES**

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