

**OKLAHOMA**  
**Winner: Republican**

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In the 2008 Presidential Election, the state of Oklahoma will vote Republican. The demographics of registered voters, past voting behaviors, and even the location of the state itself contribute to the outcome of the election. Even a finite Democratic nominee cannot change the voting behavior of Oklahoma.

Oklahoma is in a part of the country known as the Bible Belt. For the most part, the states in the Bible Belt vote Republican as a whole as the Republican Party has somehow become synonymous with Christianity and Evangelicalism. For many voters in the South-Eastern part of the US, the candidates religion is often as important, if not more important, than the issues in the election. In Oklahoma, ten to twenty percent of the population is Baptist, with certain areas having the Baptist religion dominate more than half of the population (Baptists). This tilts Oklahoma to the Republican Party.

Of the registered voters, only thirty-nine percent of the population is registered Republican (Oklahoma). In fact, more than half of the population is registered Democrat, however, only nineteen percent of the registered voters are under the age of thirty. Also, over seventy-five percent of the population is Caucasian (O'Shea, Jennifer). As a rule, the older a person accrues the more conservative their political views tend to be. Also, the Republican Party tends to be the "white man's party," and with more than three-quarters of the voters being white, they are more likely to lean Republican.

Finally, the past votes of the state itself assume that Oklahoma will vote Republican in the 2008 election. In every Presidential election through 1988, the state has voted a Republican majority (Leip, David). Also, most of the Congressional Representatives are Republican. Democrats may still have sway in the state arena (Oklahoma), but since 1990, Republicans have edged Democrats out of National Elections, and 2008 will be no different.

**SOURCES**

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