

**PENNSYLVANIA**  
**Winner: Democratic**

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**Date: April 1, 2008**

The state of Pennsylvania has a large majority of elected officials from both the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. However, even though at the state level the state may seem like a 'purple' state, because of its presidential selection from the past, this upcoming November Pennsylvania will give its 21 electoral votes to the Democratic candidate.

An analysis of recent election data for state and national offices would suggest that Pennsylvania is a state with a mixed party loyalty. Four of the past five US Senate elections for this state have favored the Republican Party (The Green Papers, 2007, 2005; US Election Atlas 2005). However, the most recent US Senate election, held in 2006, had the Democratic candidate, Senator Casey, winning with 58.64% of the electorate (versus the 52% lead held by the Republican candidate in both 2004 and 2000) (The Green Papers, 2007). A look at party representation in the US House in the past two decades clearly demonstrates the mixed party status of the state. The Democratic Party enjoyed a majority in the 1990s, and since 2000, when the state's number of representatives declined from 21 members to 19 members, the Republican Party has had the benefit of majority seats (from Pennsylvania), holding 12 of the 19 seats in the past 3 elections (The Green Papers 2007, 2005; Cable News Network, 2002; Trandahl, 2001, 1999; Carle, 1997, 1995; Anderson, 1993; Lendy, 1991). Similarly, both parties have held the governor's office for two consecutive terms within the past four terms (although the most recent two terms have been held by a Democrat) (The Green Papers, 2007; US Election Atlas, 2002, 1998, 1994). Finally, within the state's House of Representatives and Senate, the Republican Party holds a majority of the seats within the past decade, with one exception – since the most recent State House election in 2006, the Democrats have a one seat advantage over the Republicans: 102 to 101 (State Vote 2006, 2004, 2002, 2000).

So far the analysis points to a mixed party system, yet Pennsylvania has a history of being a blue state when it comes to presidential elections. Pennsylvania has voted for a democrat in the past four presidential elections. The state's ability to appear as more of a 'red' state at the state level and a 'blue' state at the national level can be attributed to its rural and urban characteristics. The two large cities in the state, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, constitute a majority of the population. As of 2000, Pittsburgh had a population of 2,358,695 (US Census Bureau, 2000) and Philadelphia had 4,922,177; the total population of the state was 12,281,054. Therefore, these two cities combined made up more than half of the electorate (USDA, 2004). Modern voting behavior demonstrates an urban tendency towards the Democratic Party, and oppositely a rural voting tendency toward the Republican Party. Therefore, since the majority of Pennsylvania's electorate live in urban areas, it is no surprise that on the national level, Pennsylvania is a blue state.

Although Pennsylvania has a large number of elected officials from both political parties, due to voting behavior from the past and certain important demagogues, the state will vote for a Democratic candidate in the 2008 presidential election.

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