

**Texas**  
**Winner: Republican**

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In looking over recent elections in the state of Texas it seems clear that they will be sending their Electoral College votes to the Republican Presidential Candidate, John McCain, in November. This state has voted consistently Republican in elections at all levels, except for the US House of Representatives, since 2000. We are sure the State of Texas will vote for John McCain and keep its Republican ways no matter who the Democratic nominee is.

Texas will vote Republican although, it is not a clearly strong Republican state as once assumed. Texas holds 34 Electoral College votes in the United States Presidential Elections. The Democrats could have a chance to fight for this state in the future but not in the year of 2008. Texas which is the second biggest state in both population and geographical size is made up of large cities and vast amount of rural land. Texas is also made up of many cities that are run by Hispanics and dominated by their Spanish language. There are so many different cultures in Texas it is not surprising that the political culture in Texas is always shifting in one way or the other. Around 1988 is when the Republican Party first started to make gains in Texas until the present where it now controls the Governor Seat and both houses in Texas's Congress.

Recent Election Results have favored the Republican Party. You have to go all the way back to the 80's to see when Texas last voted for a Democratic President. Just recently, after its controversial congressional redistricting in 2000, has it started turning out a majority of Republicans being elected for the US House of Representatives. Now the Republican Party receives a clear majority of House seats from Texas with 20 Republicans being elected in the 2006 elections compared to just 12 seats going to the Democrats. The two current state senators are both Republican with the last Senate election coming in 2006 where the Republican incumbent won 61.7% of the vote which was less than what she had won in her previous election in 2000. (Leip, David) The Republican Party has held both Senate seats in Texas since the 1980's. (Leip, David) The State House and the State Senate are both controlled by a strong majority of Republicans and have been since 2002. Before 2002 the Democrats held the power in the state house for many years. Since 2002, though the Republican Party has won a majority in both state houses. (Leip, David) The Seat of Governor has been occupied by the Republican Party since 1994, although in the most recent Governor election the Incumbent Republican Candidate didn't even win 40% of the vote but still won the seat. (Leip, David) This was most likely due to the fact that two strong Independents ran in the election taking away votes from the Democratic and Republican Candidates. Elections have started to become closer in Texas and there are signs that Texas is becoming more moderate as a whole.

Texas has many large cities in Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, Austin, El Paso, and many more. People living in large cities usually are more in favor of the Democratic Party. Four of the cities in Texas are among the top 10 in growth in the United States. (Weber, Paul) With these cities growing in size it is estimated that

the culture in Texas may continue to show signs of liberal growth in the coming years. That growth will not be strong enough for the democrats in this election, although may be in future Presidential elections. Although the cities in Texas are growing, most of Texas is still rural, which usually has a stronger conservative base.

(Baumgartner, Francia) Texas has a growing Hispanic population which may turn out to help the Democratic Party because it seems as though their leniency towards border patrol and their support of social welfare programs would attract the Hispanic vote. (Althoff, Andrea) It appears that the growth of Texas's cities or there Hispanic population is not enough in the upcoming election for the Democratic Party to win the vote there but might be enough in the future.

Texas will still vote for the Republican President this November even with the changing climate in the state. As long as the Republican Nominee John McCain does not do something as crazy, as promising to outlaw guns, it appears that Texas will defiantly send their 34 Electoral College votes his way.

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