

UTAH
Winner: Republican

Analyst: Kanika Garvey
Date: April 1, 2008

Utah is a sure pick for the Republican Party. In the recent election analyses, there really isn't a state that is more red, or Republican, than Utah. It looks like a sure Republican victory in November because of the state's demographics, partisan makeup, and past election results. We are confident that this will be the case no matter who the Democratic candidate will be. To simply put it, Utah will vote for McCain, the Republican presidential candidate.

It is not surprising that Utah will vote Republican. According to the Census data, the state is 89 percent white ("Utah Census Data,"2006). To explain it another way there is less than 10 percent of minorities, a natural Democratic constituency, in Utah (Flanigan, and Zingle, 2005). This percentage is below the national mean (25 percent), and below the percentage of minority population in Democratic strongholds (known as the blue state). Also, the median income for the state is way above the national average. This implies that the Democrats, who are likely to do well among those that are less fortunate, might have difficulty in Utah.

In past election the Republicans have been winning across all levels of government. For example, in the previous five elections (since 1988) Utah has given its Electoral College votes to the Republican Party, typically by a clear margin. In 2000, Bush won 66.8 percent of the vote; in 2004, he increased his margin to 71.5 percent. The lowest margin was in 1992, when George H. W. Bush won by 43.4 percent against Bill Clinton who received 24.7 percent (Leip, 2008). At the presidential level, Utah is a solid red state. Utah tendency to vote for Republican doesn't just apply to presidential races. For example, a Republican candidate has won the past six Senate races since 1992. The lowest margin for the Senate was in 1992 with a percentage of 55.4, but in 1994 their margin increase to 69 percent (Leip, 2008).

The pattern remains the same for the House of Representatives. From 1992 to 2006, the Republicans have won for Utah, with the average vote percentage of 68 percent. For the Governor, State Senate and State House the Republicans have proven themselves to be winners. Utah has proven itself to be a dominant red state in the past elections. There is no doubt that in November Utah's five Electoral College votes will be going to John McCain.

SOURCES

- AllPolitics. 1998. CNN.com. October 25, 1998. Available at
<<http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/1998/states/UT/>>.
- AllPolitics. 2000. "Voters Results in Utah" CNN.com. Available at
<<http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2000/results/index.governor.html>>
- Cable News Network. 2002. "Elections 2002: State Races (Utah)." CNN.com. Available at
<<http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2002/pages/states/UT/index.html>>.

Cable News Network. 2005. "Election Results 2004: State Race (Utah)" CNN.com. Available at <<http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2004//pages/results/states/UT/index.html>>.

Flanigan, William H., and Nancy H. Zingale. 2005. *Political Behavior of the American Electorate*, 11th Edition. Washington DC: CQ Press.

Leip, David. 2008. "Dave Leip's Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections." Available at <<http://www.uselectionatlas.org>>.

StateVote 2000. 2000. "Election Profile." National Conference of State Legislatures. Available at <<http://www.ncsl.org/ncslldb/elect98/profile.cfm?year=2000&state=UT>>.

StateVote 2002. 2002. "Election Profile." National Conference of State Legislatures. Available at <<http://www.ncsl.org/ncslldb/elect98/profile.cfm?year=2002&state=UT>>.

StateVote 2004. 2004. "Election Profile." National Conference of State Legislatures. Available at <<http://www.ncsl.org/ncslldb/elect98/profile.cfm?year=2004&state=UT>>.

StateVote 2006. 2006. "Election Profile." National Conference of State Legislatures. Available at <<http://www.ncsl.org/ncslldb/elect98/profile.cfm?year=2006&state=UT>>.

The Green Papers. 2007. "The Green Papers: Utah 2006 Midterm Election." June 27, 2007. Available at <<http://www.thegreenpapers.com/G06/UT.phtml>>.