

WYOMING
Winner: Republican

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Date: January 10, 2008

In the parlance of recent election analyses, it is difficult to find a state that is more red, or Republican, than Wyoming. The state's demographics, partisan makeup, and past election results all point to a Republican victory in November. We are confident this will be the case regardless of who the Democratic and Republican candidates will be. Simply put, Wyoming votes Republican.

This is hardly a surprise. Although the demographic make-up of the state may not look strictly Republican, it looks even less Democratic. For example, the state is quite rural, and rural areas tend to vote Republican (Baumgartner and Francia, 2006). According to Census data, the state is almost 90 percent white ("Wyoming Census Data," 2006). To put this another way, fewer than 10 percent of the state's population can be categorized as minorities, a natural Democratic constituency (Flanigan, and Zingale, 2005). This is well below the national mean (25 percent), and certainly below the percentage of minority population in Democratic strongholds (the so called blue states and/or urban centers). In addition, the median income for the state is above, and the poverty level falls below, the national average. This also suggests that Democrats, who tend to do well among those who are less prosperous, might have a hard time in the state. These data are reflected well in the state's voter registration data. As of 2006, a full 62 percent of registered voters in Wyoming were registered Republicans, almost double the national average. Democrats number approximately 25 percent, about 10 points below the average (Flanigan, and Zingale, 2005).

Past election results bear out the assertion that the state is Republican. For example, in the previous 10 presidential elections (since 1968) Wyoming has given its Electoral College votes to the Republican candidate, usually by a clear margin. For example, in 2000, Bush won 67.8 percent of the vote; in 2004, he increased his margin to 68.9 percent. The lowest percentage of any Republican candidate since 1968 has been George H. W. Bush in 1992, who received 39.7 percent, but even then, he beat Bill Clinton who received 34.1 percent (the independent Ross Perot polled 25 percent in this race; Leip, 2008). At the presidential level, Wyoming is a solid Republican state.

If we look at other offices we can see that Wyoming's tendency to vote Republican is not restricted to the presidency. For example, The Republican candidate has won all six Senate races since 1990, typically by very safe margins. The lowest margin of victory during this time period was the 1996 Senate race when they won with a comfortable 54.1 percent of the vote; in 2000, they received 74 percent. For the House of Representatives (Wyoming has only one House member) the pattern is the same, although these races are slightly more competitive. On average, Republicans have won this seat in the 9 House elections since 1990 with 56.7 percent of the vote (Lendy, 1991; Anderson, 1993; Carle, 1995, 1997; Trandahl, 1999, 2001; The Green Papers, 2005, 2007). Similarly, they dominate the state legislature, holding greater than a two to one seat margin

in both the House and the Senate since 2000 (StateVote 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006). It is only at the gubernatorial level that the Democrats have seen any electoral success in Wyoming in the past few decades. There, they have won in 1990, 2002, and 2006, when the incumbent Dave Freudenthal was re-elected with 70 percent of the vote (Smith, 1998; AllPolitics, 1998; Cable News Network, 2002, 2006).

Barring some cataclysmic event in the coming months, all of the above points clearly to a Republican win of Wyoming's three Electoral College votes in 2008.

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