



## CALIFORNIA

### In Brief

"Until 1959, California did not require political candidates to declare their party affiliation. For example, they could run as candidates of both the Democratic and Republican parties. This practice, known as cross-filing, kept many voters from being loyal to one particular party. As a result, political disagreements between various parts of the state tended to be stronger than disagreements among the parties themselves. Major political conflicts still occur between northern and southern California. In 1965, southern California gained political power when reapportionment of the Legislature gave the area more seats in the state Senate."

*Resource: World Book 2008*

Capital: Sacramento

Area: 163,696 sq mi

Population: 36, 457, 549

*Resource: World Almanac 2008*

As one of the 24 states holding "Super Tuesday" presidential primary and caucus sites on Feb. 5, California had a 2007 population of 36.6 million, more than one-third of which (35.9 percent) is Hispanic or Latino. At 12.4 percent, California also has a higher proportion of Asians than the nation as a whole, according to U.S. Census Bureau statistics. About 62 percent of California's voting-age citizens cast a ballot in the 2004 general election. The national rate of 64 percent.

More information at: <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/voting.html>

Selected Characteristics	California	U.S.
Median age	34.4	36.4
Women	50.0%	50.7%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	43.1%	66.4%
Black alone	6.7%	12.8%
Hispanic or Latino	35.9%	14.8%
Asian alone	12.4%	4.4%
Median household income	\$56,645	\$48,451
Foreign born	27.2%	12.5%
Persons below poverty	13.1%	13.3%
Bachelor's degree or higher (age 25+)	29.0%	27.0%
Median home value	\$535,700	\$185,200

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Total Population Estimates (2007), State Population Estimates by Characteristics (2006), American Community Survey (2006).

## More Resources

<b>Government Information</b>
<p>The Official Web site for the State California <a href="http://www.ca.gov/">http://www.ca.gov/</a></p> <p>Governor of California <a href="http://www.governor.arkansas.gov/">http://www.governor.arkansas.gov/</a></p> <p>California - Elected Officials in U.S. Senate <a href="http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm?State=CA">http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm?State=CA</a></p> <p>California - Elected Officials in U.S. House of Representatives <a href="http://www.house.gov/house/MemberWWW_by_State.shtml#ar">http://www.house.gov/house/MemberWWW_by_State.shtml#ar</a></p>
<b>Elections 2008</b>
<p>Politics 1: California Directory <a href="http://www.politicsone.com/ca.htm">http://www.politicsone.com/ca.htm</a></p> <p>The Green Papers: California 2008 General Elections General <a href="http://www.thegreenpapers.com/G08/CA.phtml">http://www.thegreenpapers.com/G08/CA.phtml</a></p> <p>Secretary of State - California <a href="http://www.sos.ca.gov/">http://www.sos.ca.gov/</a></p>
<b>Statistics</b>
<p>California - Quick Facts from the US Census Bureau <a href="http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/05000.html">http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/05000.html</a></p>
<b>Media</b>
<p>Local newspapers <a href="http://www.newslink.org/canews.html">http://www.newslink.org/canews.html</a></p> <p>Local radio stations <a href="http://www.newslink.org/caradi.html">http://www.newslink.org/caradi.html</a></p>
<b>General Information</b>
<p>Infoplease California <a href="http://www.50states.com/californ.htm">http://www.50states.com/californ.htm</a></p> <p>50states.com - California <a href="http://www.50states.com/californ.htm">http://www.50states.com/californ.htm</a></p>

Please find more information at

<http://usa.usembassy.de/classroom/electionproject2008/index>