



MAINE

In Brief

"Maine was a Democratic state before the 1850's. But most Maine voters became Republicans in the period shortly before the American Civil War. They favored the Republican Party's antislavery and pro-Northern policies. For about a hundred years, until the 1950's, Maine voters almost always elected Republicans in state, congressional, and presidential elections. The Republicans are still a strong party in Maine. But since the 1960's, the Democrats have achieved a better balance of power with the Republicans.

From 1856 until 1964, Maine voted for the Republican candidate in every presidential election but one. In 1912, the state supported Democrat Woodrow Wilson. Since the 1960's, however, Republican and Democratic candidates have won about the same number of times. For years, Maine held its elections for Congress and governor in September. Its voters often chose candidates from the party that later won November elections in other states. This led to the slogan, "As Maine goes, so goes the nation." In 1960, Maine began voting in November."

Resource: World Book 2008

Capital: Augusta

Area: 35,385 sq mi

Population: 1,321,574

Resource: World Almanac 2008

About 73 percent of Maine's voting-age citizens cast a ballot in the 2004 general election, well above the national rate of 64 percent. As one of the next stops on the presidential primary trail, Maine's median age of 41.1 years is the highest in the nation, according to U.S. Census Bureau statistics.

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

Selected Characteristics	Maine	U.S.
Median age	41.1	36.4
Women	51.1%	50.7%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	95.8%	66.4%
Black alone	0.8%	12.8%
Hispanic or Latino	1.0%	14.8%
Median household income	\$43,439	\$48,451
Foreign born	3.2%	12.5%
Persons below poverty	12.9%	13.3%
Bachelor's degree or higher (age 25+)	25.8%	27.0%
Median home value	\$170,500	\$185,200

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

More Resources

Government Information
<p>The Official Web site for the State Maine http://maine.gov/</p> <p>Governor of Maine http://maine.gov/governor/baldacci/index.shtml</p> <p>Maine - Elected Officials in U.S. Senate http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm?State=ME</p> <p>Maine - Elected Officials in U.S. House of Representatives http://www.house.gov/house/MemberWWW_by_State.shtml#de</p>
Elections 2008
<p>Politics 1: Maine Directory http://www.politicsone.com/me.htm</p> <p>The Green Papers: Maine 2008 General Elections General http://www.thegreenpapers.com/G08/ME.phtml</p> <p>Department of the Secretary of State - Elections Division http://maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/</p> <p>Maine - Election & Voting http://maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/elections_voting.html</p>
Statistics
<p>Maine - Quick Facts from the US Census Bureau http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/23000.html</p>
Media
<p>Local newspapers http://www.newslink.org/menews.html</p> <p>Local radio stations http://www.newslink.org/meradi.html</p>
General Information
<p>Infoplease Maine http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0108221.html</p> <p>50states.com - Maine http://www.50states.com/maine.htm</p>

Please find more information at
<http://usa.usembassy.de/classroom/electionproject2008/index>