



VIRGINIA

In Brief

"The Democratic Party controlled Virginia politics throughout most of the state's history. However, Republican Party strength increased during the last half of the 1900's. In 1969, A. Linwood Holton, Jr., became the first Republican to be elected governor of Virginia since 1869. By the end of the 1990's, the Republican Party had become the dominant party in the state. However, Democrats won governor's races in 2001 and 2005 and a U.S. Senate seat in 2006. Until the 1950's, Virginia voted for the Democratic candidate in presidential elections most of the time. Since then, the state's voters have usually supported the Republican candidate."

Resource: World Book 2008

Capital: Richmond

Area: 42,774 sq mi

Population: 7,642,884

Resource: World Almanac 2008

Virginia had a 2007 population of 7.7 million. About 63 percent of Virginia's voting-age citizens cast a ballot in the 2004 general election, which is not statistically different from the national rate of 64 percent. Virginia's population includes a higher percentage of blacks and a lower percentage of Hispanics than the nation as a whole, according to U.S. Census Bureau statistics.

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

Selected Characteristics	Virginia	U.S.
Median age	36.9	36.4
Women	50.8%	50.7%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	67.7%	66.4%
Black alone	19.9%	12.8%
Hispanic or Latino	6.3%	14.8%
Median household income	\$56,277	\$48,451
Foreign born	10.1%	12.5%
Persons below poverty	9.6%	13.3%
Bachelor's degree or higher (age 25+)	32.7%	27.0%
Median home value	\$244,200	\$185,200

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

More Resource

Government Information
<p>The official web site for the State Virginia http://www.virginia.gov/cmsportal3/</p> <p>Governor of Virginia http://www.governor.virginia.gov/</p> <p>Virginia - Elected officials in U.S. Senate http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm?State=VA</p> <p>Virginia - Elected officials in U.S. House of Representatives http://www.house.gov/house/MemberWWW_by_State.shtml#de</p>
Elections 2008
<p>Politics 1: Virginia Directory http://www.politicsone.com/va.htm</p> <p>The Green Papers: Virginia 2008 General elections - General http://www.thegreenpapers.com/G08/VA.phtml</p> <p>Virginia State Board of Elections http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/</p>
Statistics
<p>Virginia - Quick facts from the US Census Bureau http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/51000.html</p>
Media
<p>Local newspapers http://www.newslink.org/vanews.html</p> <p>Local radio stations http://www.newslink.org/varadi.html</p>
General Information
<p>Infoplease Virginia http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0108283.html</p> <p>50states.com - Virginia http://www.50states.com/virginia.htm</p>

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