

NATIONAL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORAL AND POPULAR VOTE

2008 Results			2004 Results			Party Swings				
	EVs	PVs	PV %		EVs	PVs	PV %	EVs	PVs	PV %
Obama, D	365	69.46 M	52.9%	Kerry, D	252	59.03 M	48.3%	+113	+10.43 M	+4.6%
McCain, R	173	59.93 M	45.7%	Bush, R	286	62.04 M	50.7%	-113	-2.11 M	-5.0%
Others	0	1.87 M	1.4%	Others	0	1.23 M	1.0%	0	+0.64 M	+0.4%
Total	538	131.26 M		Total	538	122.30 M			+8.96 M	

Barack Obama's final popular vote margin was 9.53 million votes or 7.2%, a change in margin of 9.6% vs the 2004 result. Obama won nine more states than Kerry in 2004. Turnout was 61.6%, up only marginally from 60.1% in 2004. Obama's popular vote total was the biggest in US history, though this is largely due to population growth.

NATIONAL PRESIDENTIAL EXIT POLL ([details pg 4](#))

Obama's biggest vote gains came with the very wealthy (+17), first-time voters (+16), Latinos (+14), young people (+12), urban voters (+9) and blacks (+7, to 95% support). Almost all demographic groups swung to Obama, though the overall white gain of 2% masked some big drops in Obama's vote among whites in deep Southern states. McCain won the overall white vote 55-43, but Obama's huge margins among minorities gave him his win. At the 2004 election, Dem and GOP party identification was even on 37% each; at this one, the Dems party ID advantage was 39-32, setting up Obama's 7% win. With 63% saying the economy mattered most and Bush's high negatives, this was always going to be a difficult election for McCain to win.

SENATE ([details pg 10](#))

1/3 of its 100 members at stake every 2 years. This year had 35 Senate elections, due to 2 early retirements by GOP Senators in conservative states.

Not up for election: Dems 39, GOP 26 (Dems include Joe Lieberman)
 Full 2008 results: Dems 20, GOP 15 (Dems 20-13 in individual states)
 Total Senate: Dems 59, up 8; GOP 41, down 8 (pending final resolution of MN Senate)
 Dems have gained a total of 14 Senate seats since 2004.

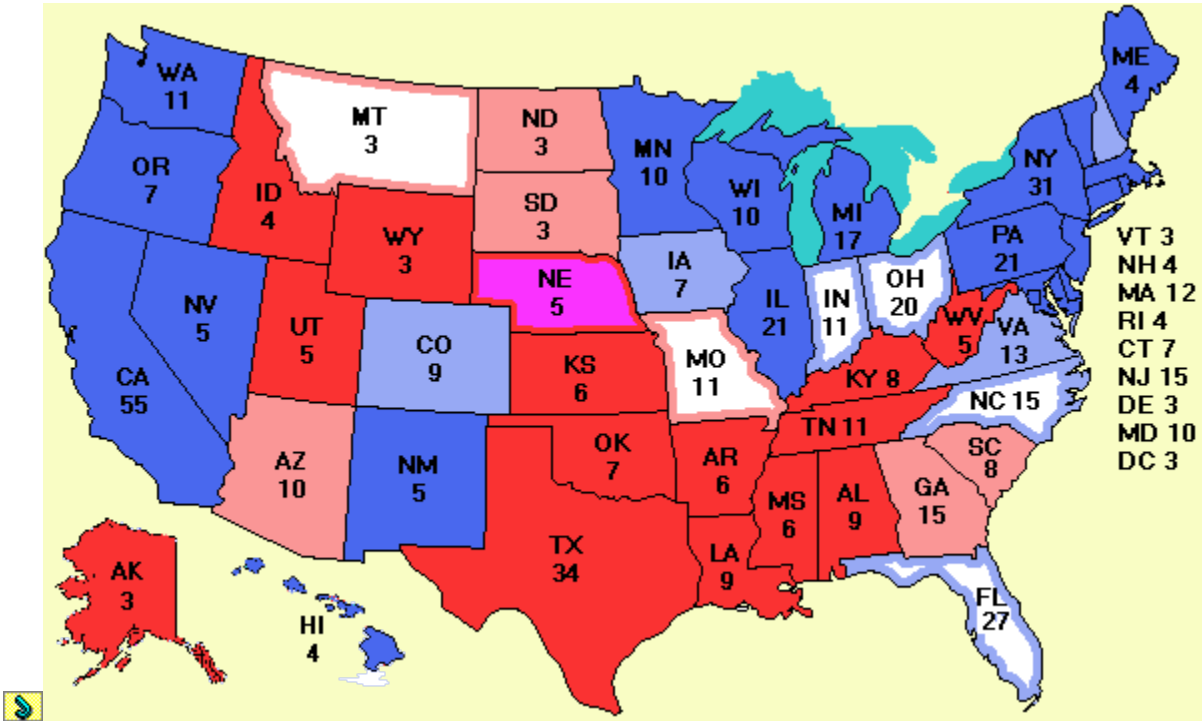
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ([details pg 12](#))

All 435 at stake every 2 years, comparison with last Congress
 Dems 257, up 21; GOP 178, down 21
 Dems up 24 since 2006 election, and up 55 since 2004 election

Note: (1) GOP = Grand Old Party = Republican; (2) Overall changes in margin will be about double the swings to one candidate; (3) It is the *electoral vote*, NOT the popular vote, that actually needs to be won; (4) State abbreviations are at the end of this report.

PRESIDENTIAL RESULTS MAP

Obama 365	McCain 173	Senate Dem 59	GOP 41	House Dem 257	GOP 178
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Dem gains (vs. 2004):

CO FL IN IA NV NM NC OH VA

Colour code: dark – 10%+ margin; light – 5-9%, border – 0-4%
 In Nebraska, McCain won 4 EVs to Obama's 1; hence the colour.

Helped by the Latino vote, Obama enjoyed big swings in NM, Nevada and Colorado, helping him to easily win these 3 south-western states. In the western states generally, Obama swings were above his overall swing, with McCain's home state of Arizona the only exception. All states won by Kerry in 2004 swung strongly to Obama, with the exception of Kerry's home state of Massachusetts. The 3 big traditional swing states of Penn, Florida and Ohio swung by somewhat less than overall, but this was still enough for Obama to flip Fla and Ohio. Indiana recorded the 2nd biggest Obama swing, behind only Obama's original home state of Hawaii. Strong black and youth turnout helped Obama to wins in Virginia and NC. Obama's primary campaign took off when he won the Iowa caucus in Jan 2008, so it's appropriate that he gained Iowa in the general election; this state is virtually all-white. Obama's one weakness was the mid-South, with Arkansas the only state moving significantly to McCain, and near-zero or negative swings in other states in the region; this was most probably driven by racism.

FULL PRESIDENTIAL RESULTS

Lighter shades in Obama's states denote gains.
270 Electoral Votes needed to WIN Presidency.

Obama States	EVs	cum EVs	O's 08 margin from 04	change
Washington D.C.	3	3	86%	D+6
Hawaii	4	7	45%	D+36
Vermont	3	10	37%	D+17
Rhode Island	4	14	28%	D+7
Massachusetts	12	26	26%	D+1
Delaware	3	29	25%	D+17
Illinois	21	50	25%	D+15
Maryland	10	60	25%	D+12
New York	31	91	25%	D+7
California	55	146	24%	D+14
Connecticut	7	153	22%	D+12
Maine	4	157	17%	D+8
Washington St	11	168	17%	D+10
Michigan	17	185	16%	D+13
Oregon	7	192	16%	D+12
New Jersey	15	207	15%	D+8
New Mexico	5	212	15%	D+16
Wisconsin	10	222	14%	D+14
Nevada	5	227	12%	D+15
Iowa	7	234	10%	D+11
Minnesota	10	244	10%	D+7
Pennsylvania	21	265	10%	D+7
Colorado	9	274	9%	D+14
New Hampshire	4	278	9%	D+8
Virginia	13	291	6%	D+14
Ohio	20	311	5%	D+7
Florida	27	338	3%	D+8
Indiana	11	349	1%	D+22
North Carolina	15	364	0.3%	D+12

McCain States	EVs	cum EVs	M's 08 margin from 04	change
Wyoming	3	3	32%	D+8
Oklahoma	7	10	31%	EVEN
Utah	5	15	29%	D+17
Idaho	4	19	25%	D+14
Alabama	9	28	22%	D+5
Alaska	3	31	22%	D+3
Arkansas	6	37	20%	R+10
Louisiana	9	46	18%	R+3
Kentucky	8	54	16%	D+4
Kansas	6	60	15%	D+10
Nebraska	5	65	15%	D+18
Tennessee	11	76	15%	R+1
Mississippi	6	82	13%	D+6
West Virginia	5	87	13%	EVEN
Texas	34	121	12%	D+11
Arizona	10	131	9%	D+1
North Dakota	3	134	9%	D+18
South Carolina	8	142	9%	D+8
South Dakota	3	145	8%	D+13
Georgia	15	160	5%	D+12
Montana	3	163	3%	D+17
Missouri	11	174	0.1%	D+7

Obama actually won 365 EVs due to a 1% win in a Nebraskan Congressional District. Nebraska and Maine are the only two states that awards one EV to the winner of each of their CDs; all other states award their EVs using winner-takes-all.

Obama won the electoral college vote at Colo and NH on the table, a margin about 2% higher than his national popular vote margin.

Group	Obama	Kerry	Delta
Gender			
Men	49	44	+5
Women	56	51	+5
Race			
White	43	41	+2
African-American	95	88	+7
Latino	67	53	+14
Asian	62	56	+6
Other	66	54	+12
White Men	41	37	+4
White Women	46	44	+2
Age			
18-29	66	54	+12
30-44	52	46	+6
45-64	50	48	+2
65+	45	47	-2
Income			
<\$15,000	73	63	+10
\$15K-\$30K	60	57	+3
\$30K-\$50K	55	50	+5
\$50K-\$75K	48	43	+5
\$75K-\$100K	51	45	+6
\$100K-\$150K	48	42	+6
\$150K-\$200K	48	42	+6
\$200K+	52	35	+17
Education			
No High School	63	50	+13
H.S. Grad	52	47	+5
Some College	51	46	+5
College Grad	50	46	+4
Postgraduate	58	55	+3
Party ID			
Democrat	89	89	+0
Republican	9	6	+3
Independent	52	49	+3
Ideology			
Liberal	89	85	+4
Moderate	60	54	+6
Conservative	20	15	+5
Religion			
Protestant	45	40	+5
Catholic	54	47	+7
Jewish	78	74	+4
Other Religion	73	74	-1
No Religion	75	67	+8
Evangelical	24	21	+3
Weekly Churchgoer	43	39	+4
Misc.			
Veterans	44	41	+3
Parents (Children < 18)	53	45	+8
Gay & Lesbian	70	77	-7
Union Members	61	61	+0
Gun Owners	37	36	+1

NATIONAL EXIT POLLS

Blacks made up 13% of the vote in this election, a 2% increase on 2004. The white share of the vote was down to 74% from 77% in 2004 and 81% in 2000, and will probably be less in future elections due to demographic changes; this looks to be bad news for Republicans. Despite all the hype about a massive increase in the proportion of young people, these voters made up 18% of the vote, only up 1% on 2004. One should also take the 7% drop in Obama's vote among gays with a grain of salt, as this finding is based on only 4% of the overall sample. Total no. of interviews was almost 18,000, with about 13,500 surveyed in 2004.

The following pages contain exit poll tables that have been copied from CNN. In all cases, the first column contains the % for each answer to the question asked, and the other columns have the Obama and McCain votes for that subset of the population. For example, in the first table, the first column tells you that 60% did not think Palin was qualified to be President, and that, of those 60%, 82% voted for Obama. On some tables I've put share of vote swings and Obama vote swings, all against the 2004 election.

There is a formatting error for most of these tables, but the columns for all tables are (1) responses to question, (2) Obama vote %, (3) McCain vote, (4) Other vote.

Is Palin Qualified to be President if Necessary?

Total	D Obama	R McCain	O Other/No Answer
Yes (38%)	8%	91%	1%
No (60%)	82%	16%	2%

U.S. War in Iraq

Total	D Obama	R McCain	O Other/No Answer
Approve (36%)	13%	86%	1%
Disapprove (63%)	76%	22%	2%

How George W. Bush is Handling His Job

Total

	Obama	McCain	Other/No Answer
Strongly Approve (7%), -26	15%	83%	2%
Somewhat Approve (21%), +1	9%	91%	N/A
Somewhat Disapprove (21%), +9	31%	65%	4%
Strongly Disapprove (51%), +17	82%	16%	2%

Would McCain Continue Bush Policies?

Total

	Obama	McCain	Other/No Answer
Yes (48%)	90%	8%	2%
No (48%)	13%	85%	2%

Country is Going In...

Total

	Obama McCain	Other/No Answer	
Right Direction (20%), -29	27%	71%	2%
Wrong Track (75%), +29	62%	36%	2%

Who Is In Touch With People Like You?

Total

	Obama McCain	Other/No Answer	
Only Obama (44%)	99%	1%	N/A
Only McCain (26%)	2%	98%	N/A
Both (13%)	45%	52%	3%
Neither (16%)	23%	69%	8%

Which Candidate Attacked Unfairly?

Total

	Obama McCain	Other/No Answer	
Only Obama (10%)	16%	83%	1%
Only McCain (24%)	96%	3%	1%
Both (40%)	41%	57%	2%
Neither (23%)	39%	58%	3%

Most Important Issue

Total

	Obama McCain	Other/No Answer	
Energy Policy (7%), +7	50%	46%	4%
Iraq (10%), -5	59%	39%	2%
Economy (63%), +42	53%	44%	3%

Terrorism (9%), -10	13%	86%	1%
Health Care (9%), +1	73%	26%	1%

Vote by Region

Total

	Obama	McCain	Other/No Answer
Northeast (21%), -1	59%, +3	40%	1%
Midwest (24%), -2	54%, +6	44%	2%
South (32%), +0	45%, +3	54%	1%
West (23%), +3	57%, +7	40%	3%

Which Candidate Quality Mattered Most?

Total

	Obama	McCain	Other/No Answer
Shares My Values (30%)	32%	65%	3%
Can Bring Change (34%), +10	89%	9%	2%
Experience (20%)	7%	93%	N/A
Cares About People (12%), -3	74%	24%	2%

Who Did You Want to Win the Democratic Nomination?

Total

	Obama	McCain	Other/No Answer
Clinton Democrats (14%)	83%	16%	1%
Obama Democrats (20%)	98%	2%	N/A
Dems for Other Candidate (2%)	63%	35%	2%
Dems W/No Preference (2%)	75%	25%	N/A
Independents/ Republicans (59%)	31%	67%	2%

Vote for President in 2004

Total

	Obama McCain	Other/No Answer	
Kerry (37%)	89%	9%	2%
Bush (46%)	17%	82%	1%
Someone Else (4%)	66%	24%	10%
Did Not Vote (13%)	71%	27%	2%

Vote by Size of Place

Total

	Obama McCain	Other/No Answer	
Urban (30%), +0	63%, +9	35%	2%
Suburban (49%), +3	50%, +3	48%	2%
Rural (21%), -4	45%, +3	53%	2%

Worried About Health Care Costs?

Total

	Obama McCain	Other/No Answer	
Yes (66%)	60%	38%	2%
No (33%)	42%	56%	2%

When Did You Decide Who To Vote For?

Total

	Obama McCain	Other/No Answer	
Within Last Week (7%),	49%	48%	3%
Earlier in October (18%)	53%	44%	3%
Sometime in September (14%)	54%	45%	1%
Earlier Than That (60%)	52%	47%	1%

White Evangelical/Born-Again?

Total

	Obama McCain	Other/No Answer
Yes (26%), +3	24%, +3	74% 2%
No (74%), -3	62%, +6	36% 2%

Vote by Party ID

Total

	Obama McCain	Other/No Answer
Democrat (39%), +2	89%, +0	10% 1%
Republican (32%), -5	9%, +3	90% 1%
Independent (29%), +3	52%, +3	44% 4%

Vote by Ideology

Total

	Obama McCain	Other/No Answer
Liberal (22%), +1	89%, +4	10% 1%
Moderate (44%), -1	60%, +6	39% 1%
Conservative (34%), +0	20%, +5	78% 2%

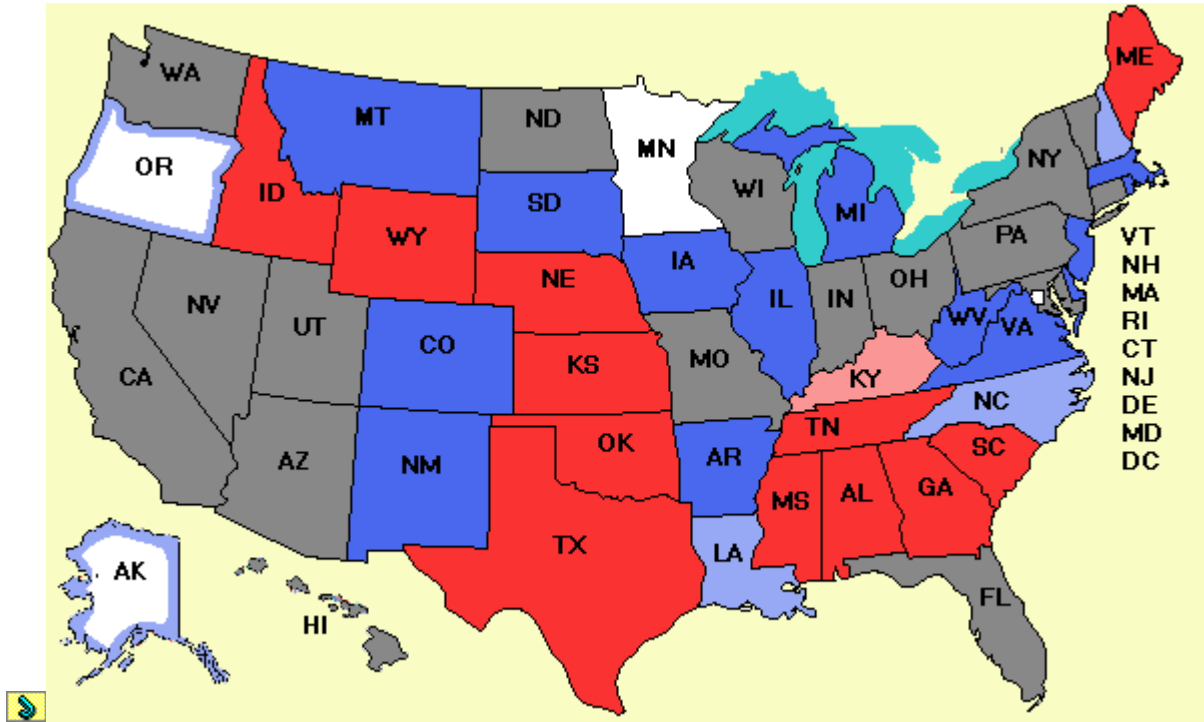
Is This the First Year You Have Ever Voted?

Total

	Obama McCain	Other/No Answer
Yes (11%)	69%, +16	30% 1%
No (89%)	50%, +2	48% 2%

SENATE RESULTS MAP

Final Senate: Dem 59 GOP 41



Dem gains (vs. 2002): AK CO NH NM NC OR VA

Colour code: dark – 10%+ margin; light - 5-9%; border – 0-4%, plus one tie in Minnesota
Grey colour – no Senate race for that state this year

The Dems have won Minnesota by 225 votes out of 2.4 million or 0.01%, pending a legal challenge. However, the Dem governor of Illinois was caught trying to sell Obama's Senate seat; his appointee has nevertheless been seated.

All Dem seats except Louisiana (6% margin) were easily held. All except one Dem gain came in states Obama won. The exception was in Alaska, where the GOP incumbent was convicted of corruption charges a week before the election. Split-ticket voting is common in the US; two Senate examples are Arkansas, which McCain won by 20%, but the GOP didn't even contest for the Senate; and Maine, where Obama won by 17%, but a Dem was crushed 62-38 by a moderate Republican. The biggest casualty in the Senate for the GOP was Elizabeth Dole in NC.

The Dems will be just short of the 60 votes needed to end debate in the Senate, and move to an actual vote; this endless debate tactic is known as a filibuster. However, most US votes are not strictly party-line, and there are moderate Republicans who will be prepared to work with Obama, though there are also conservative Democrats who will be suspicious of some of his policies. Filibusters are not applicable in the House.

FULL SENATE RESULTS

Democrats 59 (+8) Republicans 41 (-8)

The above headline includes seats not up for election. The table below gives the results of the 35 2008 Senate elections, which the Dems won 20-15. Officially, there are 57 Dems and 2 Independents, but both Inds caucus with the Dems and one, self-described democratic socialist Bernie Sanders of Vermont, is a reliable Dem vote. In the table, (I) denotes incumbent; incumbents have considerable advantages in US elections.

State	Democrat	%	Republican	%	Status
Arkansas	Pryor (I)	79%	(none)	0%	Dem Hold
Montana	Baucus (I)	73%	Kelleher	27%	Dem Hold
Rhode Island	Reed (I)	73%	Tingle	27%	Dem Hold
Massachusetts	Kerry (I)	66%	Beatty	31%	Dem Hold
Virginia	Warner	65%	Gilmore	34%	Dem Gain
Delaware	Biden (I)	65%	O'Donnell	35%	Dem Hold
West Virginia	Rockefeller (I)	64%	Wolfe	36%	Dem Hold
Illinois	Durbin (I)	63%	Sauerberg	33%	Dem Hold
Iowa	Harkin (I)	63%	Reed	37%	Dem Hold
Michigan	Levin (I)	63%	Hoogendyk	34%	Dem Hold
South Dakota	Johnson (I)	63%	Dykstra	37%	Dem Hold
New Mexico	Udall	61%	Pearce	39%	Dem Gain
New Jersey	Lautenberg (I)	56%	Zimmer	42%	Dem Hold
Colorado	Udall	53%	Schaffer	43%	Dem Gain
North Carolina	Hagan	53%	Dole (I)	44%	Dem Gain
Louisiana	Landrieu (I)	52%	Kennedy	46%	Dem Hold
New Hampshire	Shaheen	52%	Sununu (I)	45%	Dem Gain
Oregon	Merkley	49%	Smith (I)	46%	Dem Gain
Alaska	Begich	48%	Stevens (I)	47%	Dem Gain
Minnesota	Franken	41.99%	Coleman (I)	41.98%	Dem Gain
Kentucky	Lunsford	47%	McConnell (I)	53%	GOP Hold
Mississippi (sp)	Musgrove	45%	Wicker (I)	55%	GOP Hold
Georgia 4 Nov	Martin	47%	Chambliss (I)	50%	Runoff
Georgia Runoff	Martin	43%	Chambliss (I)	57%	GOP Hold
Texas	Noriega	43%	Cornyn (I)	55%	GOP Hold
South Carolina	Conley	42%	Graham (I)	58%	GOP Hold
Nebraska	Kleeb	40%	Johanns	58%	GOP Hold
Oklahoma	Rice	39%	Inhofe (I)	57%	GOP Hold
Maine	Allen	38%	Collins (I)	62%	GOP Hold
Mississippi	Fleming	38%	Cochran (I)	62%	GOP Hold
Alabama	Figures	37%	Sessions (I)	63%	GOP Hold
Kansas	Slattery	36%	Roberts (I)	60%	GOP Hold
Idaho	LaRocco	34%	Risch	58%	GOP Hold
Tennessee	Tuke	32%	Alexander (I)	65%	GOP Hold
Wyoming (sp)	Carter	27%	Barrasso (I)	73%	GOP Hold
Wyoming	Rothfuss	24%	Enzi (I)	76%	GOP Hold

FULL HOUSE RESULTS

Dem Majority of 79

Holds in the table below are seats that the other party was given a chance of winning.

Democrats 257 (+21)				Republicans 178 (-21)							
Holds		Gains		Holds		Gains					
GA-8	NH-1	AL-5	MD-1	VA-2	VA-11	AK-AL	CA-4	WA-8	FL-16	KS-2	LA-2
KS-3	KY-3	MS-1	OH-1	ID-1	OH-15	MN-6	IN-3	SC-1	LA-6	TX-22	
NY-24	PA-10	PA-11	OH-16	AL-2	AZ-1	AZ-3	CA-44	CA-46			
WI-8	PA-12		CO-4	CT-4	FL-24	FL-13	FL-21	IL-10			
			FL-8	IL-11	MI-7	KY-2	MN-3	MO-6			
			MI-9	NV-3	NJ-3	MO-9	NJ-7	OH-2			
			NM-1	NM-2	NY-13	PA-6	TX-7	TX-10			
			NY-25	NY-29	NC-8	WY-AL	CA-50				
			PA-3	VA-5							

The far north-east is a wasteland for the GOP, as the Dems gained 3 NY and 1 Conn seat to take their total in that region to 48 of 51 seats. Other Dem multiple gain states were Virginia and Ohio (3) and Florida, Michigan and New Mexico (2). In NM, the two gains meant that the Dems took a clean sweep of all NM's 2008 elected Federal officials, as Obama gained NM's EVs and a Dem gained the NM Senate. Unlike the Senate and Presidency, the House wasn't all one-way traffic, with the GOP gaining 5 seats. The biggest upset came a month after the actual election, in LA-2, a very safe Dem seat. The black incumbent was expected to win easily, despite having \$90,000 found in a freezer, presumably from bribes. He lost to a Vietnamese, who becomes the first Vietnamese-American elected to Congress. The GOP is restricted mainly to the South and Mountain & Prairie West in the House. Unless they appeal to moderates, they don't have much hope of regaining the House.

Of the 3 seats gained by the Dems at by-elections earlier in 2008, 2 were retained, with one being regained by the GOP (LA-6).

The House national vote shown opposite says that the Dems won the House by about 10.5%, 3% more than the margin by which Obama won the Presidency, and also picked up a bigger swing than Obama when comparing 2004 and 2008. This 10.5% margin actually under-estimates the Dem House strength, as there were 43 seats that the GOP failed to contest. In fact, the Dems won 126 seats by a margin of 40%+, and 219 (a majority) by 15%+; the GOP had only 30 districts that they won by 40%+, 22 of these in the South.

2004 House seats won and popular vote by Party

Party	Seats Won	% Seats	Votes	% Vote
Democratic	202	46.44%	53,254,474	46.55%
Republican	232	53.33%	56,027,141	48.97%
Others	1	0.23%	5,132,227	4.48%
Totals	435		114,413,842	

2006 House seats won and popular vote by Party

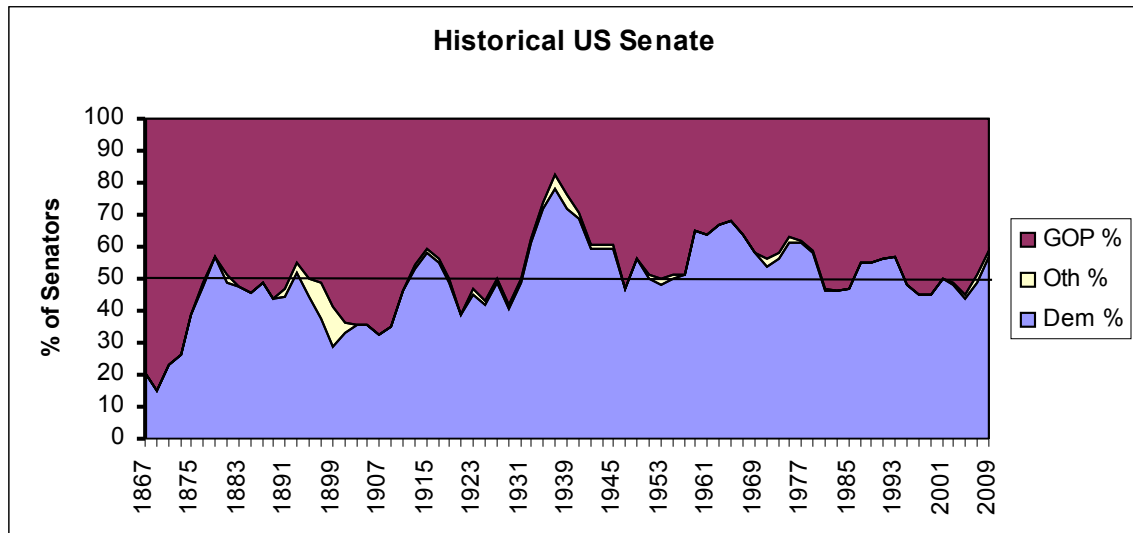
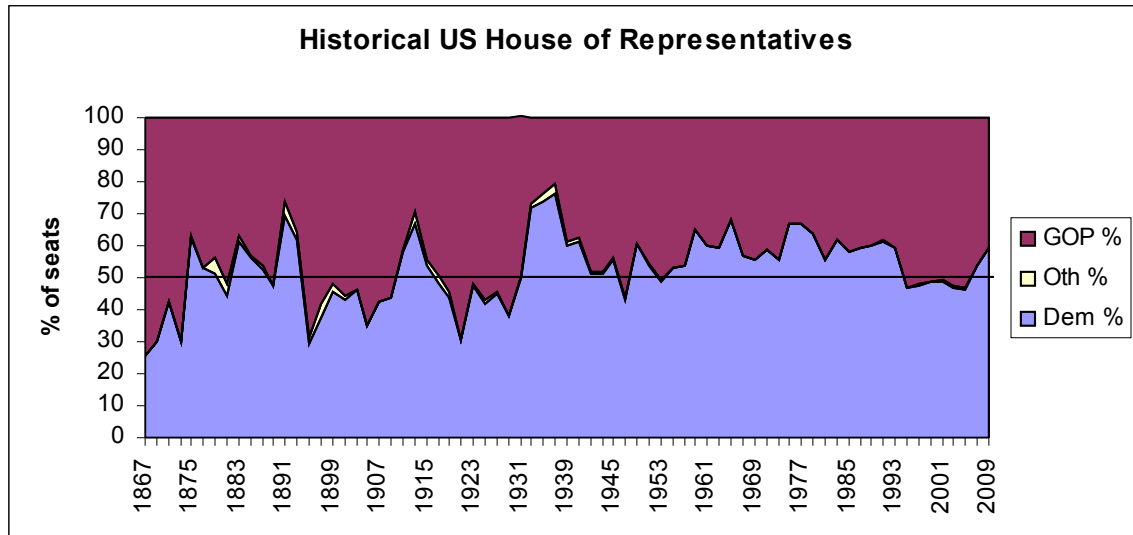
Dem, GOP and Total votes are now from an official source, so total votes and %'s may not necessarily sum correctly.

Affiliated Party or Classification	Contested seats	Winners		Vote	
Democratic	426	233	53.56%	42,255,280	52.52%
Republican	390	202	46.44%	35,657,353	44.32%
Libertarian	112	0		612,437	0.80%
Independent	72	0		504,049	0.66%
Other Third Party	54	0		325,898	0.43%
Green	43	0		227,841	0.30%
Others	122	0		90,673	0.12%
Reform	6	0		51,877	0.07%
8 listings	1,246	435	100.00%	80,454,673	100.00%

2008 House seats won and popular vote by Party

Affiliated Party or Classification	Contested Seats	Winners		Vote	
Democratic	422	257	59.08%	65,102,039	53.08%
Republican	392	178	40.92%	52,181,175	42.55%
Others	305	0		2,057,387	1.68%
Libertarian	126	0		1,082,967	0.88%
Independent	71	0		947,661	0.77%
Other Third Party	59	0		674,406	0.55%
Green	57	0		570,729	0.47%
Reform	4	0		22,603	0.02%
8 listings	1,439	435	100.00%	122,638,967	100.00%

HISTORICAL CONGRESSIONAL COMPOSITIONS 1867-2009



PRESIDENTIAL PARTY 1861-2009

R – 1861-84, D – 85-88, R – 89-92, D – 93-96, R – 1897-1912, D – 13-20, R – 21-32, D – 33-52, R – 53-60, D – 61-68, R – 69-76, D – 77-80, R – 81-92, D – 93-2000, R – 01-08, D – 09-12 (at least)

Until the early 20th century the GOP was the more progressive party, with the Dems confined to the South, through white Southerners' hatred of the party of Abraham Lincoln. The Dems became the natural majority party after the Great Depression, securing over 70% of Senate and House seats at one stage, as they won the non-southern parts of the country with a focus on labour policy during the depression years. Since the Civil Rights reforms of the 1960's that ended state-sanctioned segregation, the South has

become more hostile to the Dems, though this was felt much more for the Presidency than for Congress, with the GOP winning 7 of the 10 Presidential elections between 1968 and 2004. The GOP won the Senate in 1980, and finally broke the Dems 60-year hold on the House in 1994, with the Dems regaining both chambers in 2006, and increasing their majorities in 2008. Demographics are now working against the GOP, with people becoming more educated, the white share of the population declining, and the youth vote going Democratic.

Notes:

- (1) Years in the graphs are the 1st year of the new Congress, which sits in Jan following the Nov election the previous year. Each Congress has a two-year term, with the President having a four-year term.
- (2) In calculating percentages in the graphs, vacant seats are subtracted from the total number of seats.
- (3) Up until the 1990's, Dem congressional delegations included a large number of southern Democrats, often called Dixiecrats, who tended to be extremely conservative and racist, so the Dem majorities were not necessarily progressive.
- (4) During the period following the 1861-65 Civil War, there was an attempt to fix the inequities caused by slavery in the South; this period was known as Reconstruction. This involved enfranchising blacks and temporarily disfranchising Southern rebels, with the result that the GOP won control of Southern legislatures. The GOP won the disputed presidential election of 1876, but only in return for an end to Reconstruction, and the North then forgot about the South until the 1960's. Blacks were openly disfranchised and discriminated against, and the South became a one-party Dixiecrat region from the end of Reconstruction in 1877 until the Civil Rights reforms of the 1960's.

SOURCES

For Pres electoral and popular vote, and state results, and House popular vote, and historical Presidential election results:

<http://www.thegreenpapers.com/G08/> (use G04 for 04 and G06 for 06 results)

For 2004 and 2006 Official Results, and 2008 Official Pres Results:

<http://www.fec.gov/pubrec/electionresults.shtml>

(these won't be available for the 2008 House popular vote until later, so I'm using the Green Papers for 08)

For historical Congressional results

http://clerk.house.gov/member_info/electionInfo/2006/TABLE.HTM

(scroll down a bit)

For electoral maps:

<http://www.electoral-vote.com/evp2008/Pres/Maps/Dec24.html>

For House and Senate results:

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/election_2008/senate_final_results.html

For 2008 exit polls:

<http://us.cnn.com/ELECTION/2008/results/polls/#USP00p1>

For 2004 exit polls (needed for comparison)

<http://us.cnn.com/ELECTION/2004/pages/results/states/US/P/00/epolls.0.html>

For exit poll comparison table on pg 4

<http://www.fivethirtyeight.com/search/label/exit%20polls>

For data on safe Dem House seats

<http://www.fivethirtyeight.com/2008/12/are-republicans-still-national-party.html>
(538.com is named for the total no. of electoral votes.)

For information on Reconstruction:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reconstruction_era_of_the_United_States#Suffrage_issue

US STATE ABBREVIATIONS

A full list of 2-letter US state abbreviations (used on the electoral maps) can be found here:

<http://www.stateabbreviations.us/>

Less obvious ones:

AL – Alabama, AK – Alaska, AZ – Arizona, AR – Arkansas, CT – Connecticut, IA – Iowa, GA – Georgia, KS – Kansas, KY – Kentucky, ME – Maine, MD – Maryland, MA – Massachusetts, MI – Michigan, MN – Minnesota, MS – Mississippi, MO – Missouri, MT – Montana, NE – Nebraska, NV – Nevada, PA – Pennsylvania, TN – Tennessee, TX – Texas, VT – Vermont, VA - Virginia