

# People Voting with Their Feet Means a Growing Republican Advantage, but Decades of Continued Political Gridlock

With the shift in population will come a shift in political power based on population in the U.S. House of Representatives and the election of the president. There are winners and losers among the states. The winners will gain political power as those states add congressional representation and Electoral Votes; conversely, loser states will lose political powers with the loss of congressional representation and Electoral Votes.

The biggest winner states are Texas (+18 Electoral Votes), Florida (+12), Arizona (+8), Georgia (+6), and Nevada (+6), followed by Colorado (+4), North Carolina (+4), Washington (+4), and Utah (+3). By the 2052 presidential election, these states will hold much greater political power in the make-up of the U.S. House and electing the president. Florida will hold 50 Electoral Votes, which will be one Electoral Vote less than California. Should Texas remain a red state, it will fully balance the oversized power California currently holds in filling the U.S. House

PART 2 OF 3  
**Opportunity Ohio's  
 Projected 2050  
 Population & Political  
 Power Series**

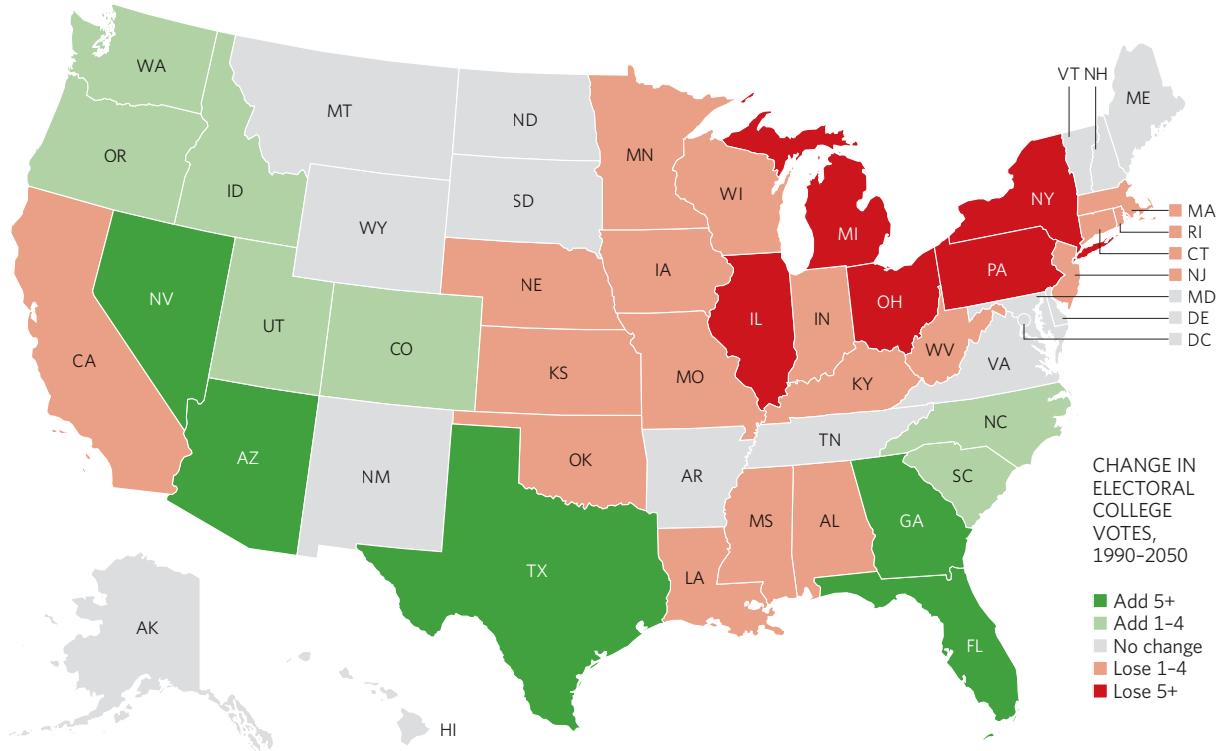
and determining who will be president.

Florida also will hold much greater political power with thirty-seven Electoral Votes—a solid fourteen Electoral Votes more than the next state, New York (23). In total, the winner states noted above will jump from 149 Electoral Votes in 2020 to 184

by 2050, which is a 24% increase in political power. Of these, 113 Electoral Votes, or 61.4%, will come from Red states that voted from Donald Trump in 2020.

The biggest loser states are New York (-10), Pennsylvania (-8), Ohio (-7), Illinois (-7), and Michigan (-6), followed by Massachusetts (-3) and California (-3). In total, these states will lose twenty-two Electoral Votes from 2020 to the 2052 presidential election. Of these twenty-two Electoral Votes, twelve Electoral Votes, or 54.5%, will come from Blue states. From 1990 to 2050, these seven states will have lost forty-four Electoral Votes, as the winner states above will have gained sixty-five Electoral Votes. The gains

# The Changing Political Landscape, 1990 to 2050

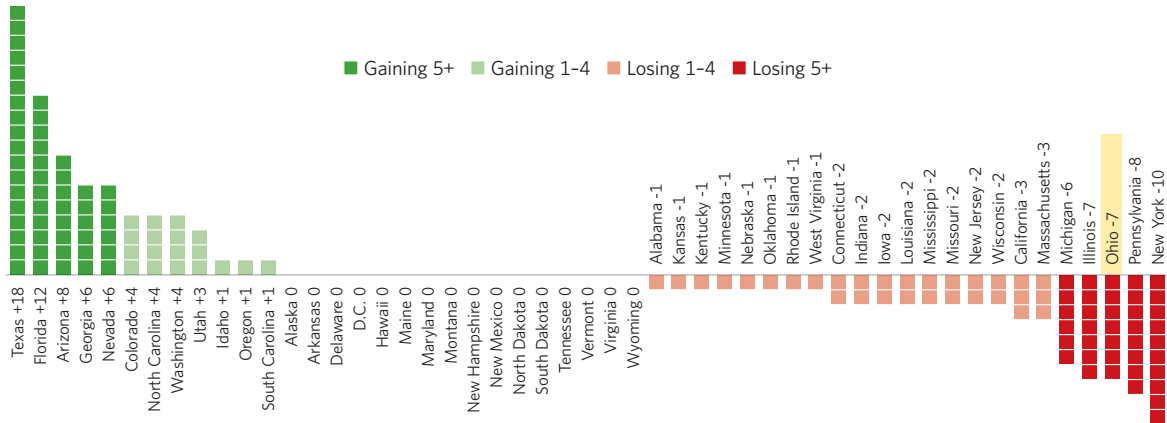


State	1990	2050	Chg.	State	1990	2050	Chg.	State	1990	2050	Chg.
Texas	32	50	+18	Maryland	10	10	0	Connecticut	8	6	-2
Florida	25	37	+12	Montana	3	3	0	Indiana	12	10	-2
Arizona	8	16	+8	New Hampshire	4	4	0	Iowa	7	5	-2
Georgia	13	19	+6	New Mexico	5	5	0	Louisiana	9	7	-2
Nevada	4	10	+6	North Dakota	3	3	0	Mississippi	7	5	-2
Colorado	8	12	+4	South Dakota	3	3	0	Missouri	11	9	-2
North Carolina	14	18	+4	Tennessee	11	11	0	New Jersey	15	13	-2
Washington	10	14	+4	Vermon	3	3	0	Wisconsin	11	9	-2
Utah	5	8	+3	Virginia	13	13	0	California	54	51	-3
Idaho	4	5	+1	Wyoming	3	3	0	Massachusetts	13	10	-3
Oregon	7	8	+1	Alabama	9	8	-1	Michigan	18	12	-6
South Carolina	8	9	+1	Kansas	6	5	-1	Illinois	22	15	-7
Alaska	3	3	0	Kentucky	8	7	-1	Ohio	21	14	-7
Arkansas	6	6	0	Minnesota	10	9	-1	Pennsylvania	23	15	-8
Delaware	3	3	0	Nebraska	5	4	-1	New York	33	23	-10
D.C.	3	3	0	Oklahoma	8	7	-1				
Hawaii	4	4	0	Rhode Island	4	3	-1				
Maine	4	4	0	West Virginia	5	4	-1				

SOURCES: U.S. Census Bureau and Opportunity Ohio calculations.



## How Population Changes Would Affect Electoral College Votes, 1990 to 2050



SOURCES: U.S. Census Bureau and Opportunity Ohio calculations.

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by Red states should result in a growing Republican advantage in securing and maintaining control of the U.S. House, governor’s offices, and state legislatures. With more state-level control, Republicans should be able to draw congressional districts after the 2030, 2040, and 2050 U.S. Census counts more favorably to strengthen even more that party’s control on the U.S. House.

As a point of comparison, Joe Biden-Kamala Harris won the Electoral College 306 to 232 in 2020. If the state results were identical in 2052, the population shift would shrink their victory to a 294 to 244 win, which is a 24-point swing in the Republican’s favor. The Biden-Harris ticket managed to sweep virtually all of the battleground states and pull-off a big upset in Georgia in 2020. The battleground states in 2020 included Arizona, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Excluding North Carolina and adding Georgia, those six states accounted for seventy-eight Electoral Votes, or the entire margin of victory for Biden-Harris.

By the 2052 presidential election, those same six states will be worth eighty-one Electoral Votes. Assuming those states don’t swing one-way or the other way, that means today’s battleground states will continue to serve as battleground states in 2052. With the projected Red state gains, however, the 50-point

margin in 2052 will only increase the zealous focus both political parties will place on the battleground states. It also will allow both political parties to chart out several routes to achieve the 270-vote threshold needed to win the Electoral College and, therefore, the presidency.

If Republicans can figure out how to pull Georgia and Arizona back into that party’s reliable presidential tally, it would result in the 2052 election being won by the Republican ticket with an Electoral Vote tally of 279 to 259. Before 2020, Arizona hadn’t gone with the Democratic ticket since Bill Clinton-Al Gore in 1996, which represented the sole instance of going Blue since 1948. Georgia hadn’t gone Blue for a president since Clinton-Gore in 1992, with was the only Democratic win since 1980. Thus, given how few states flip, Republicans would be wise to focus on bringing those two states back into the Republican fold starting in 2024. Doing so in combination with keeping the other reliable Red states would put a vise grip on the presidency for many years.

If the Republicans can secure those states, that would leave just Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin as likely battleground states in the coming decades.

One development to watch closely is the current movement of the Hispanic vote from heavily favoring

## Electoral College Votes: 1990, 2021, and 2050

■ Gaining 4+ ■ Gaining 1-3 ■ Losing 1-3 ■ Losing 4+

State	1990	2021	2050	State	1990	2021	2050	State	1990	2021	2050
Alabama	9	9	8	Kentucky	8	8	7	North Dakota	3	3	3
Alaska	3	3	3	Louisiana	9	8	7	Ohio	21	17	14
Arizona	8	12	16	Maine	4	4	4	Oklahoma	8	7	7
Arkansas	6	6	6	Maryland	10	10	10	Oregon	7	8	8
California	54	53	51	Massachusetts	13	11	10	Pennsylvania	23	19	15
Colorado	8	10	12	Michigan	18	15	12	Rhode Island	4	4	3
Connecticut	8	7	6	Minnesota	10	9	9	South Carolina	8	9	9
Delaware	3	3	3	Mississippi	7	6	5	South Dakota	3	3	3
D.C.	3	3	3	Missouri	11	10	9	Tennessee	11	11	11
Florida	25	30	37	Montana	3	4	3	Texas	32	41	50
Georgia	13	16	19	Nebraska	5	5	4	Utah	5	6	8
Hawaii	4	4	4	Nevada	4	6	10	Vermont	3	3	3
Idaho	4	4	5	New Hampshire	4	4	4	Virginia	13	13	13
Illinois	22	19	15	New Jersey	15	14	13	Washington	10	12	14
Indiana	12	11	10	New Mexico	5	5	5	West Virginia	5	4	4
Iowa	7	6	5	New York	33	28	23	Wisconsin	11	10	9
Kansas	6	6	5	North Carolina	14	16	18	Wyoming	3	3	3

SOURCES: U.S. Census Bureau and Opportunity Ohio calculations.

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Democrats to splitting its vote between the parties or favoring Republicans. Should that trend continue in 2022 and beyond, the implications in states with large Hispanic populations will be significant for U.S. Senate and presidential races. While California is a lost cause for Republicans regardless of how the Hispanic vote goes, four other key states could decide control in Washington.

Specifically, Biden won Arizona by less than 10,500 votes and it contains 2.31 million Hispanics, or 31.33% of all citizens. He won Nevada by just under 34,000 votes and it holds 917,000 Hispanics, or 28.3% of all Nevadans. Biden won New Mexico by less than 100,000 votes and it has 1.03 million Hispanics, or 48.79% of all citizens. Lastly, though Democrats have tried to win Texas, Trump won Texas by more than 630,000 votes and it houses 11.52 million Hispanics, or 39.34% of all citizens.

As Roy Teixeira notes in his recent Substack column:

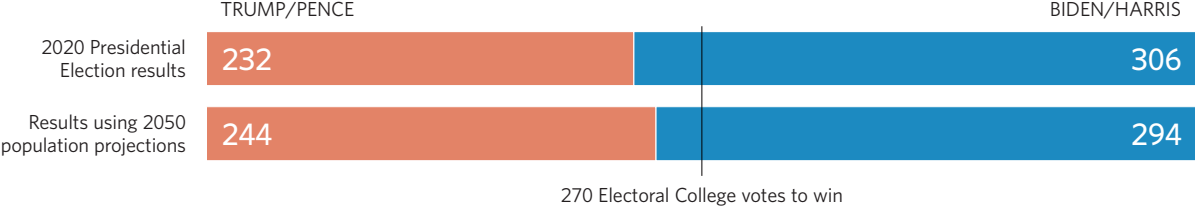
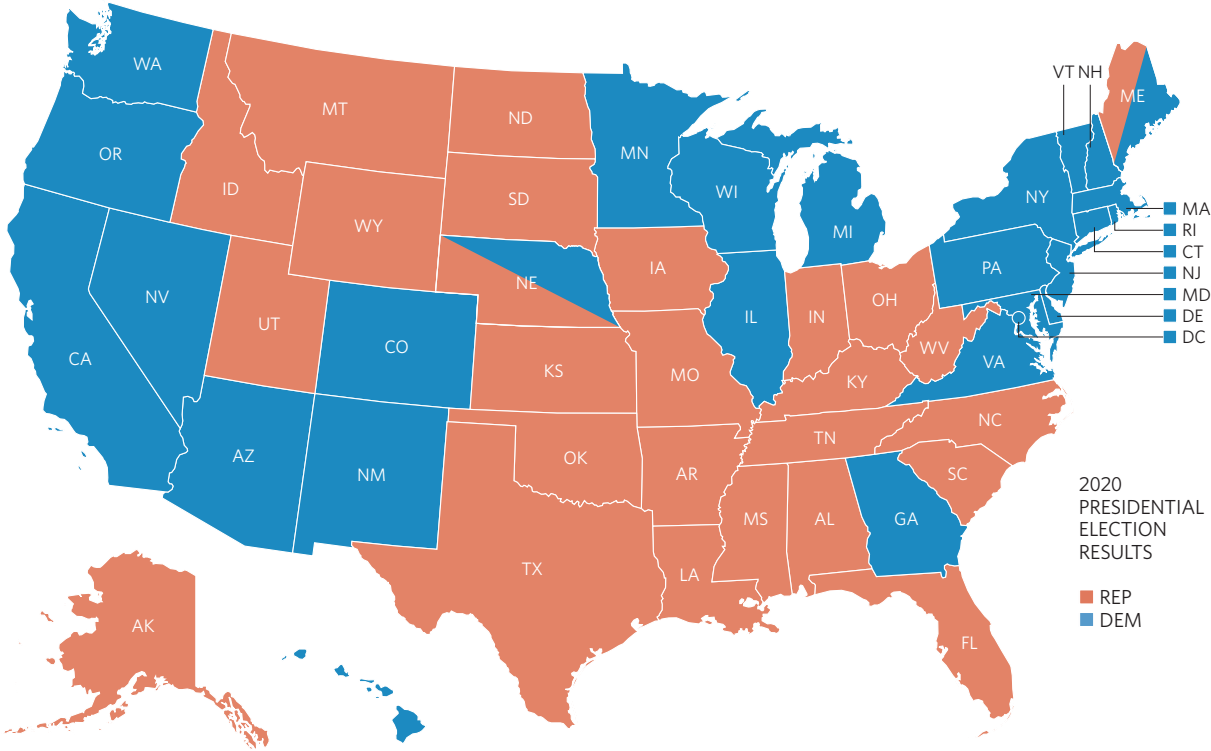
“Latino shifts toward Trump were widely dispersed geographically. Hispanic shifts toward Trump were not confined to Florida (28 points)

and Texas (18 points) but also included states like Wisconsin (20 points), Nevada (18 points), Pennsylvania (12 points), Arizona (10 points) and Georgia (8 points) ... this constituency does not harbor particularly radical views on the nature of American society and its supposed intrinsic racism and white supremacy. They are instead a patriotic, upwardly mobile, working class group with quite practical and down to earth concerns.”

If Texas becomes redder as Hispanics move right and Arizona, Nevada, and New Mexico follow suit, that would place eighty-one Electoral Votes, including three states Biden won in 2020 that currently are represented by six Democrat U.S. Senators, solidly in the Republican column.

The obvious curveball in this scenario is if the population shift results in Democrats leaving the Midwest and Northeast to move West and South, but not leaving their liberal-progressive voting habits behind. As Colorado vividly demonstrates, an influx of Democrats can easily turn a purple state dark blue in only a decade or two.

# Presidential Elections to Remain Close for Decades as Population Shifts Slightly Favor Republicans



SOURCES: U.S. Census Bureau and Opportunity Ohio calculations.

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