



## ELECTION UPDATE

No recommendation is made in respect of non-U.S. Government web sites and publications listed.

TABLE OF CONTENTS	Page:
Abbreviation Notes:	1
U.S. Government Sites:	2
Advertisements, campaign commercials:	2
Ballot initiatives and referenda:	2
Campaign financing, election cost & expenditure:	2-3
Congressional elections, 2008:	3
Congressional districts (for the U.S. House of Representatives):	3
Debates:	3
Demographic data:	3
Elections 2008 – Candidates (former & current):	4
Election Basics & Overview material:	4
Elections – conduct of:	4-5
Elections- irregularities, miscounting, misconduct, crimes and fraud:	5
Electoral College:	5
Election law:	5
Fast Facts & Statistics:	6
Foreign policy and the elections:	6
Inauguration:	6
International perspectives on U.S. elections:	6
Maps:	6
News & media coverage of:	6-7
Party platforms:	7
Polling & tracking:	7
Political newsletters etc:	7
State election offices:	7-8
Swing states / battleground states	8
Technology & internet issues:	8
Voter registration and turnout:	9
Voting population, electorate:	9
Voting – military, overseas & absentee:	9
Voting rights:	9
Young voters and youth participation:	9

- NOTE:**
- BNA = Bureau of National Affairs Inc.
  - CBO = Congressional Budget Office
  - CRS = Congressional Research Service (Library of Congress)
  - DHS = U.S. Dept of Homeland Security
  - EAC = U.S. Election Assistance Commission
  - FEC = Federal Election Commission
  - FPC = Foreign Press Center, U.S. Dept of State
  - GAO = Government Accountability Office
  - IIP = U.S. Dept of State, Office of International Information Programs
  - MOU = memorandum of understanding
  - NARA = National Archives and Records Administration
  - NASS = National Association of Secretaries of State
  - NCSL = National Conference of State Legislatures
  - PAC = political action committee

## **U.S. GOVERNMENT SITES:**

[Federal Election Commission](#)

[Federal Voting Assistance Program](#)

[U.S. Election Assistance Commission](#)

## **ADVERTISEMENTS, CAMPAIGN COMMERCIALS:**

[Wisconsin Advertising Project](#) – *University of Wisconsin*

[The Living Room Candidate: presidential campaign commercials 1952-2004](#)

[2008 Presidential Nomination Ads: Ads More Negative than in Previous Years](#) by Darrell M. West.  
*Brookings*, 2 July 2008.

[Election 2004 video archive](#)

## **BALLOT INITIATIVES & REFERENDA:**

[Referendum and Initiative Institute](#)

[Ballot Watch](#)

[Ballot Initiative Strategy Center](#)

[Ballot Measures Database](#) – by *National Conference of State Legislatures*

[A History of the Initiative and the Referenda Process](#)

## **CAMPAIGN FINANCING, ELECTION COST & EXPENDITURE:**

[Federal Election Commission \(FEC\)](#)

[ACE Electoral Knowledge Project, formerly Administration and Cost of Elections Project](#)

[Focus on Cost of Registration and Elections](#)

[Federal Election Campaign Laws](#), compiled by the *FEC*, April 2008.

[FEC disclosure reports](#)

[Presidential Campaign Finance Summaries](#) - via *FEC*

[Campaign Money.com](#)

[Searchable FEC information from CQ Money Line](#)

[Campaign finance policy](#)

[PAC activity increases for 2004 elections](#). *FEC*, 13 April, 2005.

["527" campaign fundraising organizations](#): *BNA's* annotated links to reports, analyses etc

[Campaign Finance Information Center](#)

[Campaign Finance Institute](#)

[Common Cause](#)

[Open Secrets](#)

[Follow the Money](#) - *Institute on Money in State Politics*

[CQ Money Line](#), formerly *Political Money Line*

[Campaign Disclosure Project](#)

[Campaign Finance Legislation in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress](#) *CRS*, 29 May, 2007.

[2008 donor demographics](#)

[Parties Raise Over \\$120 Million Thus Far in 2007](#) *FEC*, 22 May, 2007.

[Presidential Expenditures: The 2008 Presidential Race](#) - *Center for Responsive Politics*

[FEC Introduces Online Map to Track Presidential Campaign Contributions](#) *FEC*, June'07. [Online map](#)

[Party Money in the 2006 Elections: The Role of National Party Committees in Financing Congressional Campaigns](#) *Campaign Finance Institute*, 28 August, 2007. 27p. [News Release](#)

[Presidential Fundraising in 2007 Doubles 2003](#) *Campaign Finance Institute*, 11 February, 2008.

**Legal, financial and real estate industries dominate presidential fundraising, study shows** News release, *Public Citizen*, 20 December, 2007. The study - **Fundraising Central**

**Contributions to Party Committees Rise for Democrats and Decline for Republicans** News release, *FEC*, 6 March, 2008.

**Congressional Campaigns Raise \$507 Million in 2007** *FEC*, 7 April, 2008.

**FEC Summarizes Party Financial Activity** *FEC*, June 9, 2008 (covers January 1'07- April 30'08).

**Obama's Fundraising Success May Herald a Whole New Model** by Norman Ornstein. *AEI*, 30 June, 2008.

**FEC approves matching funds for six 2008 presidential candidates** 16 July, 2008.

**Party Conventions are Free-for-All Influence Peddling: The Soft Money Loophole for Lobbyists**  
*Public Citizen*, August 2008. 14p.

**Party Conventions' Financiers Have Spent Nearly \$1.5 Billion on Federal Campaign Contributions and Lobbying Since 2005** *Campaign Finance Institute*, 20 August, 2008.

**Federal Funding of Presidential Nom. Conventions: Overview & Policy Options** *CRS*, 22 August, 2008.

### **CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS, 2008:**

**Senate Sensibilities: The Update: The '08 Battles for the U.S. Senate** by Larry J. Sabato, 19 June'08.

**Top 25 Competitive Congressional Races** *Real Clear Politics*, 8 September, 2008.

**Campaign Guide for Congressional Candidates and Committees** *FEC*, 2007. 186p.

### **CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS (for the U.S. House of Representatives):**

**Congressional apportionment – how the systems works, current and historical facts and statistics**

**Printable Maps: Congressional Districts, 109<sup>th</sup> Congress (2005-2006)**

### **DEBATES:**

**Presidential Debates** Links compiled by *Foreign Press Center, U.S. Dept of State*.

**Commission on Presidential Debates**

**Presidential Debate history** (with highlights)

**MyDebates** (launched August 2008)

**"Eight debates that rate"**

**Presidential Debates, 1960-2008: links to transcripts**

**Poll (2004) finds that most voters want third-party voices included** in presidential election debates.

**Voters have much to learn from debates, National Annenberg Election Survey shows:** Sept'04.

**Historic Debates: resources for educators**

**The Great Debate: history of televised presidential debates**

### **DEMOGRAPHIC DATA:**

**Demographic data on states holding primaries/caucuses in the 2008 federal elections**

**Census Bureau releases state estimates of voting-age population** *Census Bureau*, 31 January'08.

### **ELECTION BASICS & OVERVIEW MATERIAL:**

**2008 Elections** – *U.S. Dept of State* – incl. briefings, primaries, delegate scorecards etc.

**U.S. Elections: Guide to the 2008 Election** *IIP, U.S. Dept of State*, 2008.

**U.S. election process** – resources compiled by *Foreign Press Center, U.S. Dept of State*.

**U.S. Election Procedures** by Michael W. Traugott (2004).

**Weekly Reader – includes information on the U.S. election process,** etc. for students.

**United States Elections Project** [basic information]

**Battleground states in the 2008 elections**

**The Long Campaign: U.S. Elections 2008** IIP, *e-Journal USA*, October 2007.

**How to Run for President** – material for K-12.

**ELECTIONS 2008 – CANDIDATES (former & current):**

**The Candidates** U.S. Dept of State, *eJournal USA*, October 2008.

**John Edwards for President** – campaign web site.

**Hillary Clinton 2008 campaign web site**

**Obama '08 – campaign web site**

**Mike Huckabee for President 2008**

**John McCain 2008 campaign web site**

**Presidential Brands 2008: A Brand Study of the 2008 Presidential Candidates**

**Endorsements '08 – list of endorsements (so far) of 2008 presidential candidates** by members of the current Congress.

**Youth Radio: Election 2008** – “following Election 2008 around the country, through the perspectives of young people who are getting a close-up view of the process.”

**Obama’s Next Challenge: Turning Primary Losses into Electoral Votes** by Rhodes Cook, 15 May’08.

**Candidate Issue Index: Fiscal Responsibility** Brookings, 2008.

**How Obama Won the Nomination: Getting the Most Delegates per Voter** by Jay Cost. Hoover Institution, *Policy Review*, August-September 2008.

**American Public Has Much to Learn about Presidential Candidates’ Issue Positions, National**

**Annenberg Election Survey Shows** *National Annenberg Election Survey*, Sept.26, 2008

**Two Kinds of Change: Comparing the Candidates on Foreign Policy** by Justin Logan. *Cato Institute*, 14 October, 2008. 24p.

**ELECTIONS – conduct of:**

**Federal Election Campaign Laws** Comp. by the *FEC*, September 2004.

**The Campaign Legal Center**

**Election Reform Legislation Database** - by *National Conference of State Legislatures*

**Election Administration Research Center** at *University of California Berkeley*

**Commission on Federal Election Reform** *American University*

**FactCheck.org** – evaluates the accuracy of campaign claims

**ElectionLine.org** – *Election Reform Information Project*

**Open Secrets: Center for Responsive Politics**

**The Reform Institute for Campaign and Election Issues**

**Are States Prepared for Problems When Voters Go to the Polls in 2008?** *Pew Research*, 30 Jan.’08.

**Voting at Risk 2008: A Report by Common Cause and Verified Voting** *Common Cause*, 30 January’08.

**Election Reform and Local Election Officials: Results of Two National Surveys** *CRS*, 7 Feb.’08.

**Elections: States, Territories, and the District Are Taking a Range of Important Steps to Manage Their Varied Voting System Environments** *GAO*, September 2008.

**Protecting the Right to Vote: Oversight of the Department of Justice’s Preparations for the 2008 General Election** Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary*, 9 September, 2008.

**Voting in 2008: Ten Swing States** *Common Cause and the Century Foundation*, September 2008. (108p.)  
- “a close look at voting preparedness in 10 swing states”; **News release**

**Federal, State and Local Efforts to Prepare for the 2008 Election** Joint hearing before *subcommittees of the U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary*, 24 September, 2008.

## **ELECTIONS - irregularities, miscounting, misconduct, crimes and fraud:**

**U.S. Dept of Justice's activities to address past election-related voting irregularities** GAO,14 September, 2004.

**Election Crimes: An Initial Review and Recommendations for Future Study** *U.S. Election Assistance Commission*, December 2006. 24p.

**The Politics of Voter Fraud** by Lorraine C. Minnite. *Project Vote*, March 2007. 44p.

**Protecting the Right to Vote: Election Deception and Irregularities in Recent Federal Elections**  
Hearing before the *U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary*, March 7, 2007.

**Further Testing Could Provide Increased but Not Absolute Assurance that Voting Systems Did Not Cause Undercount in Florida's 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District** Statement by N. Barkakati (GAO) to a task force of the *U.S. House Committee on House Administration*, October 2, 2007.

## **ELECTORAL COLLEGE:**

**The Electoral College** – official information site (NARA).

**The Electoral College: How It Works in Contemporary Presidential Elections** *CFR*, November, 2004.

**The Electoral College – a profile and history** by William C. Kinderling (*FEC*), 1992. 20p.

**The Electoral College: an Overview.** [particularly detailed on the matter of “faithless electors”]

**General information about the Electoral College** – by History.com

**270 to Win – “interactive 2004 Electoral College map & a history of Presidential elections in U.S.”**

**Leip's Electoral College Calculator and Map Generator 2004**

**The Electoral College: Reform Proposals in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress** *CRS*, 12 March, 2007.

**Wrong-Way Reforms for Allocating Electoral College Votes** *FairVote*, 9 August, 2007. 19p.

**Electoral College projection update** 2008 Presidential election.

**The Case for Keeping the Electoral College** by Walter Berns. *AEI*, 7 April, 2008.

**Will States Topple Electoral College?** by Pamela M. Prah. *Stateline*, 9 June, 2008.

**The Electoral College** *U.S. Dept of State, IIP, eJournal USA*, September 2008.

## **ELECTION LAW:**

### **Election Law**

**U.S. election law - online resources** compiled by *Law Library of Congress*.

**Federal Election Campaign Laws** Compiled by the *FEC*, September 2004.

**Election Law @ Moritz** – Moritz School of Law, Ohio State University; with latest litigation news.

**Professor Rick Hasen's Election Law Blog** – with links.

**FindLaw 2008 Presidential Election website** – focus is substantially but not entirely on legal aspects of the 2008 elections. There is a **Press Release** (October 16, 2008).

## **FAST FACTS & STATISTICS:**

**The 2008 presidential election** – some fast facts from the *Census Bureau*, 1 October, 2007.

## **FOREIGN POLICY & THE ELECTIONS:**

**Foreign Policy and the 2008 Presidential Nominating Campaigns** Backgrounder by Toni Johnson.  
*Council on Foreign Relations*, updated May 12, 2008

**Foreign Policy and the 2008 Presidential Candidates**

**Foreign Policy and the U.S. Midterm Elections** Analysis by Robert McMahon, *CFR*, 27 September, 2006.

**Foreign Policy Guide to Election 2008** A blog of the *Foreign Policy Association*.

**America and the World into a New Era – Part I: U.S. Candidates for President Can't Please World Opinion** by Bruce Stokes. *YaleGlobal*, 2 September, 2008.

**U.S. Election 2008 – selected speeches by candidates, and other material** - compiled by *CFR*.

## **INAUGURATION:**

**[Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies](#)**

**[White House web site on inauguration](#)**

**[Presidential inaugurations](#)** – *Library of Congress*

**[Presidential Inaugurations, Past and Present: a Look Behind the Pomp and Circumstance](#)** –

Interview with Donald R. Kennon, chief historian, U.S. Capitol Historical Society, at *Foreign Press Center, U.S. Dept of State*, 13 January, 2005.

## **INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE U.S. ELECTIONS:**

**[International Press Assess U.S. Presidential Race](#)** by Eben Kaplan. *CFR*, 28 August 2008.

## **MAPS:**

**[Electoral Geography 2.0 – “mapped politics”](#)** – primary election results by county within each state.

**[Printable Maps: Congressional Districts, 109<sup>th</sup> Congress \(2005-2006\)](#)**

**[Dave Leip's Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections](#)**

**[Presidential election maps, 1880-1996](#)**

**[Printable maps: Presidential elections 1789-2000](#)**

**[State votes in presidential election campaigns 1972-2000 sorted by how often a state has voted for the candidate who won the election nationally](#)**

**[Electoral Map Predictions](#)** – 18 June, 2008.

## **NEWS MEDIA & MEDIA COVERGE:**

**[Election News Resources](#)** – Political news & Blog Links....

**[RealClearPolitics](#)** – polls, etc

**[ABC News political news](#)**

**[CBS politics news](#)**

**[CNN America Votes 2004](#)**

**[CNN 2004 results](#)**

**[Washington Post elections news](#)** (*login required*)

**[USA Today Politics news](#)**

**[IFES guide to elections worldwide](#)**

**[The Challenge of Covering Presidential Elections](#)** A discussion at *CSIS*, 24 April, 2008. 29p.

**[Election Newshounds Speak Up: Newspaper, TV and Internet Fans Tell How and Why They Differ](#)**

*Pew Internet & American Life Project*, 6 February, 2007.

**[The Invisible Primary: Invisible No Longer: A First Look at Coverage of the 2008 Presidential Campaign](#)**. *Pew Research Center*, 29 October, 2007.

## **PARTY PLATFORMS:**

**[Party platform excerpts \(2004\)](#)**    **[2004 Republican platform](#)**    **[Democratic platform 2004](#)**

**[Renewing America's Promise: report of the Platform Committee](#)** (Democratic Party), August 2008.

**[2008 Republican Platform](#)** September 2008.

## **POLLING & TRACKING:**

**[Daily Presidential Tracking Poll by Rasmussen Reports \(2008\)](#)**

**[Gallup Daily Tracking Poll \(2008\)](#)**

**[Electoral College projection update, 2008 Presidential election](#)**

## **POLITICAL NEWSLETTERS etc:**

**The Hotline** – Longstanding Washington political blog and website - *The National Journal*.

**The Cook Political Report**

**PolitiFacts** A new resource (2007) from *St Petersburg Times* and *CQ* (free access; analysis of presidential candidates' speeches, TV ads and interviews).

**A Map in Flux?** The 2008 Potential to Reshape the Electoral Landscape by Rhodes Cook. Larry J. Sabato's Crystal Ball, 23 August, 2007.

**STATE ELECTION OFFICES:**

**Links to web sites of state election administrations**

**National Association of State Election Directors**

**National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials and Clerks**

**Alabama Elections Division**

**Alaska Division of Elections**

**Arizona Election Services**

**Arkansas Elections Department**

**Arkansas Elections** – results, voter turnout, information on candidates.

**California elections & voter information**

**Colorado Elections Center**

**Connecticut Election Administration**

**Delaware Dept of Elections**

**Florida Division of Elections**

**Georgia Division of Elections**

**Hawaii Office of Elections**

**Idaho Elections**

**Illinois State Board of Elections**

**Indiana Election Division**

**Iowa elections information**

**Kansas Elections**

**Kentucky State Board of Elections**

**Louisiana Elections Division**

**Maine Elections Division**

**Maryland State Board of Elections**

**Massachusetts Elections Division**

**Michigan elections**

**Minnesota elections and voting**

**Mississippi Elections Division**

**Missouri Elections Division**

**Montana Elections & Legislative Bureau**

**Nebraska Election Administration**

**Nevada Elections**

**New Hampshire Election Division**

**New Jersey Division of Elections**

**New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission**

**New Mexico Bureau of Elections**

**New York State Board of Elections**

[North Carolina State Board of Elections](#)

[North Dakota Elections and Voting](#)

[Ohio Elections and Ballot Issues](#)

[Oklahoma State Election Board](#)

[Oregon Elections Division](#)

[Pennsylvania elections](#)

[Rhode Island Board of Elections](#)

[South Carolina State Election Commission](#)

[South Dakota Secretary of State](#)

[Tennessee Division of Elections](#)

[Texas Elections Division](#)

[Utah State Elections Office](#)

[Vermont Elections Division](#)

[Virginia State Board of Elections](#)

[Washington State – Elections](#)

[West Virginia Elections Division](#)

[Wisconsin State Elections Board](#)

[Wyoming Election Administration](#)

### **SWING STATES / BATTLEGROUND STATES:**

[Battleground states in 2008](#)

[Key battleground states in the fall campaign – interactive map](#) (*New York Times*)

### **TECHNOLOGY & INTERNET ISSUES:**

[Cell Phones and the 2008 Vote: An Update](#) by Scott Keeter. *Pew Research Center*, 17 July, 2008.

[Presidential Campaign Advertising on the Internet](#) *Pew Internet & American Life Project*, October 2004.

[The Use of Blogs in the 2004 Presidential Election](#) by Alexis Rice, 20 October, 2003.

[Email and the 2004 election campaign](#) *Pew Internet & American Life Project*, January 2005.

[Election Newshounds Speak Up: Newspaper, TV and Internet Fans Tell How and Why They Differ](#)  
*Pew Internet & American Life Project*, 6 February, 2007.

[How America Searches: Election '08](#) iCrossing Inc., July 2, 2007. **Full text** (free registration is required to access the full paper)

[The 51<sup>st</sup> State: The State of Online: The Presidential Campaign 2008: Candidates and News Sources](#)  
by Laura Gordon-Murnane. *Infotoday.com*, November-December 2007. 21p. (This is a comparative guide to candidates' websites, mainstream media online coverage of election campaigns, political blogs, and aggregator tools).

[The Internet and the 2008 Election](#) *Pew Internet & American Life Project*, 15 June, 2008. **Summary**

### **VOTING RIGHTS:**

[National Voting Rights Institute](#)

### **VOTING – military, overseas & absentee:**

[Overseas Vote Foundation](#)

[Military and Overseas Citizen Voting Project](#) *Pew Center on the States*.

[Absentee and Early Voting Laws](#) – table, by state

### **VOTER REGISTRATION & TURNOUT :**

**Census Bureau data**

**Voter turnout: U.S. Elections Project**

**About the National Voter Registration Act**

**Voter registration and turnout in the 2002 election**

**National voter turnout in federal elections 1960-1996**

**Voter registration and turnout in presidential elections 1960-1992**

**2004 general election turnout rates: by state and U.S. total** – by United States Elections Project.

**2008 general election turnout rates: by state and U.S. total** – by United States Elections Project.

**VOTING POPULATION, ELECTORATE:**

**Voting and Registration – data from the Census Bureau**

**Voting and Registration in the Election of 2002** *Census Bureau*, July 2004.

**Census Bureau releases state estimates of voting-age population** *Census Bureau*, 31 January, 2008.

**Voting and Voter Registration in the 2006 Election** *Census Bureau*, June 2008.

**YOUNG VOTERS & YOUTH PARTICIPATION:**

**Campus Politico** (focuses on college-age voters)

**Youth Vote in 2008** Briefing by Karlos Barrios Marcelo, research associate, *Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE)*, at the Foreign Press Center, U.S. Dept of State, 28 October, 2008.

**Youth Voting in the 2006 Midterm Elections, Ages 18-29** Nationwide & state fact sheets, *CIRCLE*, 2006.

**Youth Vote 2008** Issue brief, *The Century Foundation*, 4 September 4, 2007. 14p. **Brief Summary**

**Fact Sheet on Youth Vote and Text Messaging** *New Voters Project*, 6 September, 2007.

**Youth Radio: Election 2008** – “following Election 2008 around the country, through the perspectives of young people who are getting a close-up view of the process.”

**The U.S. Department of State assumes no responsibility for the content and availability of the resources listed above. All Internet links were active at 1 November, 2008.**

**American Reference Center, U.S. Embassy, P.O. Box 1190, Wellington**

**We welcome your feedback!**

**Email us: [wellington.arc@state.gov](mailto:wellington.arc@state.gov)**

**If you do not have Adobe Acrobat Reader, [download it here](#)**

***What's New!***

**Ballotpedia – the citizen powered encyclopedia to direct democracy.**

**2008 Electopedia - A guide to (almost) everything there is to know about presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama, from the important issues (Best Speech) to the really important issues.**

**The Choice 2008 - PBS, etc.**

