



US ELECTIONS

2020

A P R I M E R

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INTRODUCTION

The United States (US) is set to head into its 59th quadrennial presidential election in early November. Being an election for arguably the most powerful political seat in the world, the race between Democrat Joe Biden—former vice president to Barack Obama — and Republican Donald Trump was billed early on as one of the most politically fraught elections the country has seen yet. Indeed, the election comes at a time of heightened racial tensions, misinformation wars, and abounding conspiracy theories, compounded by an unprecedented virus pandemic.

This report is a state-wise exposition on the US elections this year. We aim to make three key contributions towards current analyses on the 2020 US elections. First, this report outlines the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic—likely outsized—on US states and their economies. So-called “battleground states” like Texas, Florida, Pennsylvania, Georgia and Michigan are among the top 10 states in the US in terms of COVID-19 death tolls, as of 15 October 2020.¹ The report also aims to capture the peculiarities in the political dynamics and contestations around the pandemic in the states, with respect to the mask mandate, for example, and the electoral reforms spurred by the pandemic. Indeed, COVID-19 has upended state capacity and election processes to an unprecedented extent and has the potential to alter voter attitudes and turnout significantly. It has compounded the polarisation, too, with the politicisation of health messaging around the pandemic. At present, only 38 percent of citizens approve of President Trump’s handling of the pandemic,

a sharp slide from the March numbers.² Analysts are anticipating long queues at polling places and potentially late results, and there has been an unusual amount of litigation with at least 200 cases pending in 43 states across the country regarding changes to voting rules due to the pandemic.³ The president has not helped by casting doubt on the reliability of mail-in ballots—which experts have identified as the safest way to vote amidst the pandemic. The government response to COVID-19, and the political contestation around it is poised to become a key factor defining election outcomes this year.

Second, the report provides a glimpse into the electoral history and electorate profile of each of the states. It offers a commentary on the main issues that matter to these electorates and a glimpse of how states are likely to vote this November. In this regard, the report divides the states into three broad categories: (1) the “battleground states”—which, by ORF’s reckoning, could swing the outcome of the election either way; (2) the “Red” states, or those that are most likely voting Republican; and (3) the “Blue” states, those that are predicted to vote Democrat.

Finally, this report seeks to break new ground in pondering the potential influence of the Indian-American community as an electoral constituency in these states. To be sure, the Indian-American population has become a political force to reckon with in many parts of the US, despite the community comprising just about one percent of the electorate. This is mainly due to the growing numbers of Indian-Americans in the battleground states (these states are home to roughly

1.4 million Indian-American voters), and also partly owes to Indian-Americans being a particularly high-skilled and prosperous community that makes large contributions to election campaigns.⁴ A survey by Indiaspora and the Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPPI) released in September 2020, has found that 66 percent of Indian-Americans across the US favour the Democratic Party nominee Biden, 28 percent are for the incumbent Trump, and six percent are undecided. Democratic Party lawmaker, Raja Krishnamoorthi, once referred to these undecided Indians, especially from the battleground states, as the “tipping factor” in the November polls.⁵

The report also delves into the growing cultural influence of the Indian diaspora in many of these states and spotlights key individuals of Indian descent in the US who could have a probable influence on the Indian-American vote bank. Democrat Kamala Harris’ selection as running mate to Biden, for one, has added flavour to the race as far as Indian-Americans are concerned; some 49 percent of respondents to the Indian American Attitudes Survey said her candidacy has “invigorated” them to vote Democrat this election.⁶

There has recently been rife speculation concerning India-US relations and the impact of foreign policy perceptions on the Indian-American vote. An *Indian Express* report took the view that nostalgia for the homeland was translating to support for the Republican

Party.⁷ Commentators like Seema Sirohi⁸ have written about the Democratic Party’s disapproval of alleged human rights violations in India, calls for intervention in Kashmir by Kamala Harris in October 2019, and various liberal American City Councils passing resolutions against India’s Citizenship Amendment Act, as all equally driving Indian-Americans’ shift away from the Democratic Party.⁹ There is, however, little evidence to support such view. Indeed, Trump has made an early mark on the Indian community with his administration’s organising of high-profile events with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Houston in the US and Ahmedabad in India, as well as by using the ‘Howdy Modi!’ event in a Republican election campaign video. Still, this report finds, the issues that matter to the electorate as well as Indian-Americans are immigration, healthcare, and education reform. This, coupled with the fact that younger Indians are largely liberal and lean Democrat, as well as the Kamala Harris nomination, could be enough to tip the balance in favour of the Democrats.

The 2020 US election promises to be a political spectacle unlike anything the world has seen before, with far-reaching implications for the country’s domestic politics and the outlook for Indian and world foreign policy. It is the Observer Research Foundation’s endeavour to continue to provide in-depth analyses of developments in this space as they happen. This report is a contribution towards that end.

ENDNOTES:

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- ⁴ Sumitra Badrinathan, Devesh Kapur and Milan Vaishnav, “Indian-Americans are with Democrats”, *Hindustan Times*, October 15, 2020, <https://www.hindustantimes.com/analysis/indian-americans-are-with-democrats/story-l9KWSRPRud2gu7t7znFvOP.html>
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THE U.S. ELECTION PROCESS: A SIMPLE GUIDE

The United States (US) follows a two-party, presidential system, with the two main political parties being the Democratic Party and the Republican Party (also known as the GOP or the Grand Old Party). On 3 November 2020, voters will elect a president and a vice president. There are 35 seats in the Senate—where, at present, the Republican Party has a 47-53 majority—that are also up for election, and all 435 seats in the House of Representatives (currently ruled by the Democrats) are

being contested.¹ Each state elects two Senators for a six-year term. This year, the Senate race is just as important as that for the White House: even if the Democratic Party wins the presidency, Joe Biden's government could be hamstrung by a lack of majority in the Senate.²

The US presidential election is a contest for electoral college votes. The election is an indirect election—the people vote for a group of officials (the Electoral College), who in turn, pick the president and vice-president.³

CAUCUSES AND PRIMARIES

The election process begins with caucuses and primaries taking place in states across the country. The aim for a candidate is to be awarded as many delegates as possible. Delegates represent their state at national party conventions. The candidate who gets a majority of the party's delegates, wins the nomination.

Caucus: Party-run, where local party members meet to discuss and take a vote by head-count/show of hands on a candidate.

Primary: Where a state goes to the polls to select a candidate (by secret ballot) for the General Election

NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Both parties hold their respective national conventions to select their Presidential Nominee.

At the national conventions, the pledged delegates cast their preferences alongside the “super delegates” who are senior party leaders and other influential individuals who are not bound to vote for a particular candidate. The winner is nominated to represent their party in the General Election.

The Presidential nominee also announces their Vice-Presidential running mate at the Convention.

Explaining the Electoral College

There are 538 members of the electoral college in total. The number of electors (members of the Electoral College) from each state in the US is equal to its total number of Senators and Representatives in Congress (which, in turn, is dependent on the state’s population)—this decides that state’s weight in the entire election process. To win, a candidate requires a majority of 270 electoral votes.⁴

A state awards all its electoral votes to the candidate who wins more than 50 percent of the vote in the state (except Maine and Nebraska, where electoral college votes are split and go to candidates in proportion to the votes they received⁵).

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

The Electoral College determines who wins the Presidency, and not the popular vote. On Election Day, voters across the country vote for the Electoral College, who will in turn, choose the President.

This year, Election Day is on 3 November 2020.

Members of the electoral college will then formally meet and vote on 14 December, and the winner will be announced on 6 January 2021.

The 2020 White House race

There are approximately 239.2 million eligible voters in the US this year, and based on current forecasts and the enthusiasm seen among early voters, the election may just see a record turnout.⁶

According to 2018 numbers by the Pew Research Centre, the demographic profile of the US electorate is roughly the following:⁷



This year, incumbent President Donald Trump, alongside Republican vice-presidential candidate Mike Pence, who are running for re-election, had a strategic way to the national convention. The party cancelled its primaries in several states to focus all its resources towards the November elections and ease the way for Trump's nomination.⁸ In the case of Democratic Party presidential candidate, Joe Biden, he had a clear win at the primaries against promising prospects Bernie

Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. Senator Kamala Harris was chosen to be his vice-presidential candidate.⁹ Harris, who is of Indian descent, was initially Biden's competitor for the Democratic Party presidential nomination. She is the first ever woman of colour to be nominated for a national office by any major political party in the US and is expected to draw substantial support from the country's Indian-American community.¹⁰

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- ⁹ Alexander Burns and Katie Glueck, "Kamala Harris Is Biden's Choice for Vice President," *The New York Times*, August 11, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/11/us/politics/kamala-harris-vice-president.html>
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BATTLEGROUND STATES

These are the states that could swing the outcome of the 2020 elections either way.



ARIZONA

Source - Nations Online⁷

A SNAPSHOT

The state of Arizona is situated in the southwestern part of the United States and borders with Mexico in the south.

CAPITAL
PHOENIX

*POPULATION
(ESTIMATED 2019)*
7,278,717

*INDIAN-AMERICAN
POPULATION*
48,120

*ELECTORAL
VOTES*
11

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian industry to Arizona (in 2018-20):



Number of jobs created due to
Indian investments in Arizona⁸

1,579



Volume of goods and services
exported to India from Arizona⁹

\$440 million



Jobs supported by exports to
India in Arizona¹⁰

3,929



Indian visitor spending
in Arizona¹¹

\$274.2 million



Economic contribution of Indian
international students in Arizona¹²

\$134.7 million

Key personalities



Amish Shah: Shah is a member of the Arizona House of Representatives and represents District 24. His current term will end on 10 January 2021, and he is running for re-election.¹³ This Indian-American Democrat's platform includes improved education for children, universal healthcare, and transparent democracy.¹⁴



Satish Hiremath: Hiremath served as the Mayor of Oro Valley, Arizona for two terms and is currently practising as a dentist.¹⁵ He is engaged in philanthropic activities in the town as well.¹⁶



Dr. Hiral Tipirneni: An Indian-American physician and cancer research advocate, Dr Tipirneni won the Democratic Party primaries for the House of Representatives in Arizona, and she is running for Arizona's 6th Congressional District which has been traditionally Republican.¹⁷ Among her endorsers is Kamala Harris, the Democratic Party's vice-presidential candidate for the 2020 elections. Dr Tipirneni supports Second Amendment rights, women's reproductive health rights, and expanding choice in medicare.¹⁸

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)¹⁹

Total Cases
220,754

Active Cases
179,210

Total Deaths
5,706

Recovered
35,838

Arizona is one among the top ten states in the US in terms of the total number of COVID-19 cases. The state was sluggish in issuing stay-at-home orders and reopened the economy before it even witnessed a decline in the number of cases.²⁰

The state is also one of few which do not have a mask mandate, requiring masks only for employees and salon customers.²¹ Moreover, when the lockdown was lifted in late May, restaurants and bars were allowed to operate without proper social-distancing rules and limitations on seating capacity. Beginning in June, the number of cases started rising exponentially.²²

Economic impact²³

State GDP	\$297.2 billion GDP per capita - \$42,353
Pillar Industries: Real estate, professional and educational services, manufacturing, and tourism	Real estate contributes approximately \$54.2 billion to state GDP; other big earners are professional services (\$39.7 billion), manufacturing (\$28.9 billion), and tourism (\$24.7 billion)

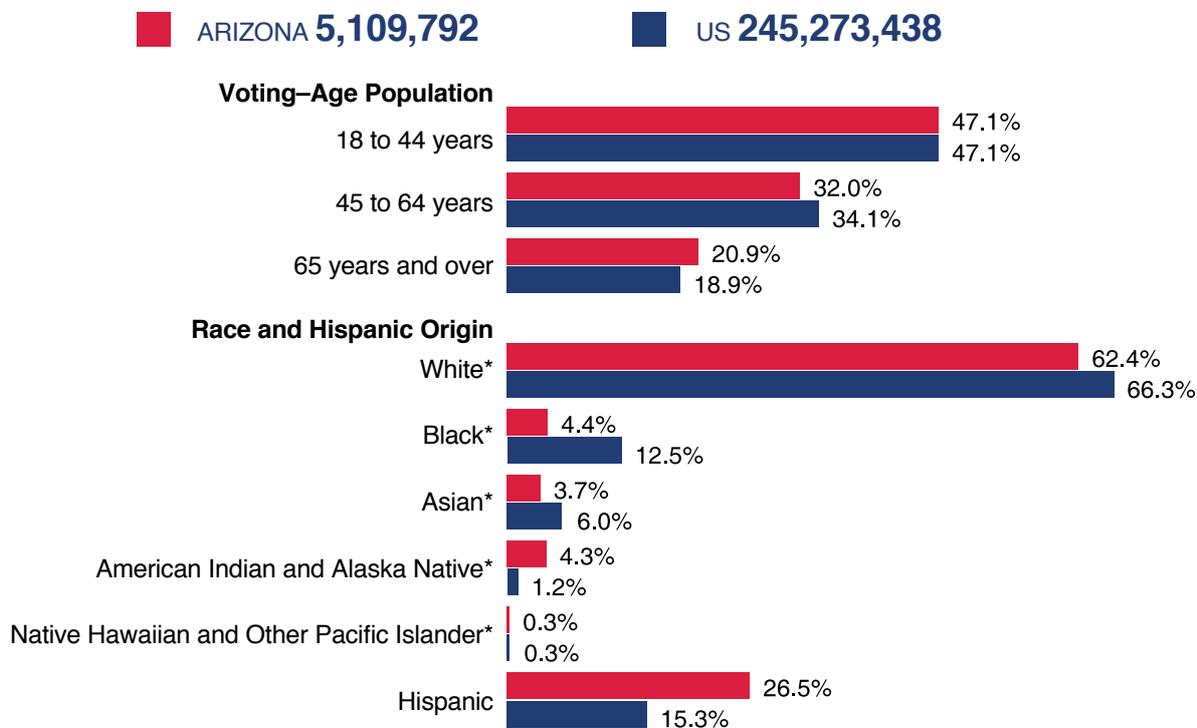
Arizona’s industrial base is diverse, with the leading sectors being real estate, financial services, and manufacturing. The tourism industry had a record-breaking year in 2019, generating \$70.1 million per day across the state and employing 194,300 across the industry. The industry has taken a big hit with the pandemic: it has lost approximately \$7 billion so far and could take some years to recover, and only with solid infrastructure and policy framework in place.²⁴ Arizona’s hospitality industry has been battered, and is expected to take the longest time to recover.²⁵

Before the pandemic, Arizona was seeing lower unemployment rates compared to the national average. Arizona’s growth was being driven by industries like construction and remote retail, which have retained their momentum even during the pandemic. Almost five percent of Arizona’s income in 2019 was injected into the economy through a number of initiatives such as increased unemployment benefits, and federal Paycheck Protection Program and Recovery rebates to support people who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic.²⁶

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state’s eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau²⁷

Indians are the second largest ethnic group in the state after Filipinos.²⁸ There is also a large population of undocumented Asian-American immigrants—23,099 people as of 2015, according to data from the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI).²⁹ Over the years, Indian-Americans have become a prominent force in the state and are poised to play an important role in the 2020 elections.³⁰ Their vote will help determine whether the Republican Party will regain control of the state or the Democratic Party will score a victory.³¹

Indian-American voters in Arizona formed only one-fourth of the margin of voters in the 2016 election.³² However, interestingly, Democratic Party-leaning Indian-Americans numbered about as many as the independents in 2016, and therefore the Republicans will be watching this base closely in the run-up to the polls.

Religious composition of adults in Arizona³³

Christian	67%
Evangelical Protestant	26%
Mainline Protestant	12%
Historically Black Protestant	1%
Catholic	21%
Mormon	5%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	6%
Unaffiliated	27%
Nothing in particular	19%

ELECTORAL HISTORY

An erstwhile testing ground for anti-immigration laws, Arizona has seen a pronounced political shift in recent years. This is a result of certain demographic changes, including a growing migrant population from liberal states and an increasing number of Latino voters.³⁴ A decade-long backlash to the immigration law and Donald Trump's anti-immigration views have hurt the Republican Party's chances in the state for the upcoming elections.

Historically, Arizona has voted Republican since 1952 (except once in 1996). However, Trump's margin of victory in Arizona in 2016 was narrower than any other Republican nominees before him. During the mid-term elections in November 2018, the victory of Democrat Kyrsten Sinema from Arizona was the first in 30 years.³⁵ Such a reshaping of the state's political landscape has turned one of the last conservative bastions in the southwest into a significant battleground for the elections in November 2020.³⁶

According to *The Economist's* predictions as of 4 October, the gap between Joe Biden and Donald Trump is very narrow, and there is no clear indication of who would take Arizona. While the current polls are slightly in favour of Biden, it could still go either way.³⁷ Additionally, the latest polls by FiveThirtyEight as of 3 October predicts a win for Biden with 48.8 percent share of votes, while Trump is expected to receive 45.3 percent.³⁸

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Police Reforms.** A law banning chokeholds was passed by Congress on the one-month anniversary of George Floyd's death.³⁹ A Democrat-backed police reform bill split Arizona's representatives: among the 200 co-sponsors of the Justice in Policing Act of 2020, three Arizona lawmakers were in support of reforming the relationship between law enforcement agents and the public. Joe Clure, the executive director of the Arizona Police Association has opposed the act, saying the bill was drafted without any inputs from law enforcement officials. Trump has also ruled out any demands to disband the police—this position could cost the Republicans in November.⁴⁰
- **Anti-immigration sentiments.** Arizona is a large base for immigrants who have historically voted Democrat—this could give a boost to Biden's campaign. In 2016, Trump received only 31 percent of the vote share among Hispanics, compared to 61 percent in favour of Hillary Clinton. In the mid-term elections in 2018, the Republicans lost more ground. Analysts attributed this loss to the anti-immigration positions and rhetoric of Trump and former Maricopa County sheriff Joe Arpaio. Heavily suburban and home to a growing population of immigrants, Maricopa County is one of the largest counties in the US and a defining constituency for Arizona; whoever wins the county usually wins Arizona.^{41,42}

FLORIDA

Source - Nations Online⁴³

A SNAPSHOT

The state of Florida is located in the southeastern part of the United States, between the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico.

<i>CAPITAL</i> TALLAHASSEE	<i>POPULATION (ESTIMATED 2019)</i> 21,477,737	<i>INDIAN-AMERICAN POPULATION</i> 158,630	<i>ELECTORAL VOTES</i> 29
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THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Florida (in 2018-20)



Number of Indian companies
in Florida⁴⁴

21



Total volume of investment by
Indian companies⁴⁵

Approximately

\$915 million

(4.049% of total Indian investment in the US,
i.e. \$22.6 billion)



Number of jobs created due to
Indian investments in Florida⁴⁶

5,454



Volume of goods and services
exported to India from Florida⁴⁷

\$1.7 billion



Jobs supported by exports to
India in Florida⁴⁸

12,831



Economic contribution of
Indian international students
in Florida⁵⁰

\$175.8 million



Indian visitor spending in
Florida⁴⁹

\$860.2 million



Indian Companies in Florida
(2018-20)⁵¹

Information Technology and
Telecommunications

57.14%

Life Sciences, Pharmaceuticals
and Healthcare

28.57%

Aerospace and Defense

4.76%

Design and Engineering

4.76%

Financial Services

4.76%

Key personalities



Rakesh Gangwal: Born in Kolkata, Rakesh Gangwal is an American billionaire business tycoon based in Miami. In 2006, he co-founded Indigo airlines with Rahul Bhatia, and today owns close to 37 percent of the company.⁵²



Bharat Desai: Co-founder of Syntel, billionaire Bharat Desai is a Florida resident and serves on various corporate and academic boards across the country, including the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.⁵³

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)⁵⁴



Florida is the third most affected state in the US in terms of the total number of COVID-19 cases. On a single day, on 12 July, Florida reported over 15,000 cases, higher than the number in the whole of the European Union for the same day.

Anti-mask protests have been taking place across Florida.⁵⁵ It is one among a few states in the US that still do not mandate face coverings.⁵⁶ It has also decided to open up schools and bars at 50 percent capacity beginning 14 September, despite its high COVID-19 casualties.⁵⁷

Economic impact

State GDP	\$883.1 billion GDP per capita - \$42,085
Pillar Industries: Real estate (\$172.5 billion), professional and business services (\$136.6 billion) and educational services and healthcare (\$100 billion)	Tourism constitutes 10% of Florida's GDP. Florida's south-east is the farming hub for the state.

Florida has a diverse industrial base, with services, tourism, agriculture and international trade driving the state’s economic growth. Home to Orlando—with one of the US biggest tourist destinations, DisneyWorld—Florida enjoys visitors from all over the world all throughout the year. In 2018, Orlando welcomed a record 75 million visitors.⁵⁸ The agriculture industry is also a significant part of Florida’s economy, employing two million people and producing a large share of the world’s citrus-based products.⁵⁹

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit Florida’s economy hard. During the period between April and June, it lost almost 20 million visitors compared to the same period last

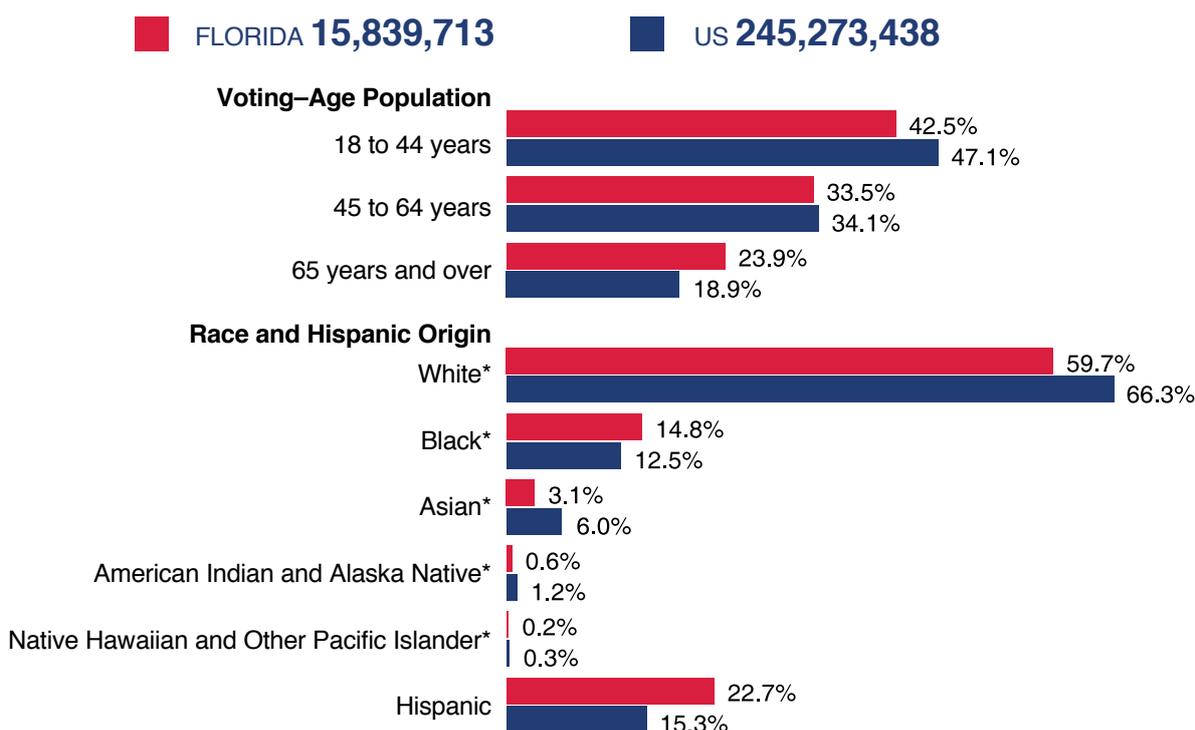
year. Sales tax revenues are projected to be down by \$1.6 billion for the period; this will have ramifications for the state economy, dependent as it is on sales and hotel tax revenues.⁶⁰

The unemployment rate increased during the pandemic to 11.3 percent in July (i.e., 1.125 million people)—which is more than the national average. There has been a marked decline in construction and manufacturing activities across the state, and the agriculture and marine industries have also felt the fallout. Among all sectors, leisure and hospitality have been most severely affected, losing some 254,400 jobs in the same period.⁶¹

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

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Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau⁶²

Indians comprise the largest Asian community in Florida. The Indian-American population in the state has grown over the past decade and has gained electoral prominence in recent years. Their population has increased by approximately 125 percent since 2000. There are estimated to be around 56,987 undocumented Asian-Americans in the state, according to AAPI data.⁶³

Florida's Indian-American community has the potential to swing the state's electoral outcomes. In 2016, the Indian-American voters made up two-thirds of the electoral margin, and although the Democrats are double the number of Republicans, there is a significant number of independent voters—enough to influence the result of the elections.⁶⁴ Al Mason, co-chair of the Trump Victory Indian American Finance Committee, expects 50,000 voters in the community to switch sides and lean Red this election.⁶⁵

Jacksonville has recently become a hub for the Indian population. The Indian Cultural Society in Jacksonville has been instrumental in bringing the Indian-American community together in the state.⁶⁶

Religious composition of adults in Arizona⁶⁷

Christian	70%
Evangelical Protestant	24%
Mainline Protestant	14%
Historically Black Protestant	8%
Catholic	21%
Mormon	1%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	1%
Other Christian	1%
Non-Christian Faiths	6%
Unaffiliated	24%
Nothing in particular	17%

ELECTORAL HISTORY

In recent years, parallel patterns have played out across the state: suburbanites are moving away from the Republican Party, and conservative Democrats who have stayed with the party for decades are changing sides. Indeed, the state has always had a chequered electoral history—swinging Republican in 2000 and 2004, Democrat in 2008 and 2012, and again Republican in 2016.⁶⁸ In the 2016 elections, the state swung red, as Trump overtook Clinton in picking up new voters, which ultimately paved the way for a narrow victory for Trump by 1.2 percent. In the upcoming elections, Republicans seem to have added more new voters than Democrats. Florida could thus be one of the swing states for the 2020 elections.⁶⁹

A model created by *The Economist* takes a close call: as on 4 October, the Democrats are expected to take Florida back from the Republicans in 2020, with Biden likely to command 46-57 percent of the popular vote share, and Trump likely to receive 43-54 percent of votes.⁷⁰ Additionally, the latest polls by FiveThirtyEight as of 3 October predicts a win for Biden with a 48-percent share of votes, while Trump is expected to receive 45.1 percent.⁷¹

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Six Constitutional amendments.** For the 2020 elections, voters will decide whether to approve six constitutional amendments that include, among others, citizenship requirement to vote in Florida elections, and raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. The amendment to raise the minimum wage has drawn negative attention from the hospitality industry. The amendment seeking citizenship requirement for voting will revamp the state's primary election system.⁷²
- **Mail-in ballots.** During the primary elections, there was heavy use of mail-in ballots due to the COVID-19 pandemic across the state. To avoid any further outbreak of infections, many election officials are encouraging voters to use mail-in ballots in the general elections.⁷³ Since the turnout for general elections is heavier than the primaries, the efficiency of the postal service to deliver the mail-in ballots in time will be crucial. While Trump and other Republicans have cast suspicion over the process, arguing for strict signature matches, the Democrats are easing rules for the use of mail-ballots.⁷⁴

GEORGIA

Source - Nations Online⁷⁵

A SNAPSHOT

The state of Georgia is located in the southeastern mainland of the United States. It borders the Atlantic Ocean in the southeast and shares a border with North Carolina and Tennessee in the north.

CAPITAL
ATLANTA

POPULATION
(ESTIMATED 2019)
10,617,423

INDIAN-AMERICAN
POPULATION
118,043

ELECTORAL
VOTES
16

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Georgia(in 2018-20)



**Number of
Indian companies
in Georgia⁷⁶**

21



**Total volume of investment by
Indian companies⁷⁷
Approximately**

\$426 million

(1.886 percent of total Indian investment in
the US, i.e. \$22.6 billion)



**Number of jobs created due to
Indian investments in Georgia⁷⁸**

4,578



**Volume of goods and services
exported to India from Georgia⁷⁹**

\$975.6 million



Jobs supported by exports to
India in Georgia⁸⁰

6,610



Economic contribution of
Indian international students
in Georgia⁸²

\$117.2 million



Indian visitor spending in
Georgia⁸¹

\$381.7 million



Indian Companies in Georgia ⁸³

Information Technology and
Telecommunications

72.73%

Manufacturing

13.64%

Life Sciences, Pharmaceuticals
and Healthcare

4.55%

Food and Agriculture

4.55%

Automotive

4.55%

Key personalities



Bikram Kumar Mohanty: Odisha-born entrepreneur Mohanty was the choice of former US President Barack Obama to contest Georgia's Senate elections as a candidate of the Democratic Party in 2012. Mohanty, who re-contested the elections in 2014, is the founder of Innovative Rehab Solutions, a healthcare company based in Georgia's Valdosta city.⁸⁴

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)⁸⁵

Total Cases
322,925

Active Cases
205,187

Total Deaths
7,162

Recovered
110,576

Georgia is among the top five states in the US in terms of infection numbers. State response has been lackadaisical: there is no state-wide mandate on the wearing of masks, and bars in areas with high transmission rates remain operational.⁸⁶

In July, the Mayor of Atlanta tightened the lockdown restrictions in an attempt to flatten the curve: he issued a directive making masks compulsory in public spaces in Atlanta. At the same time, however, the governor of Georgia refused to issue an order making the wearing of masks in public mandatory, and only went as far as launching a 'Wear A Mask' campaign. The governor also said: "If the Mayor actually wants to flatten the curve, she should focus on enforcing state restrictions."⁸⁷

Economic impact

State GDP	\$510.8 billion GDP per capita - \$55,668
Pillar Industries: Broadcasting (except internet) and telecommunications	The industry's GDP contribution is \$30.5 billion (6.5% of the state total) The industry's workforce is 57,493 (1.3% of the state total)

Georgia’s economy is driven by services, broadcasting and telecommunications, real estate, manufacturing, and agriculture. The broadcasting industry got an enormous boost from tax incentives passed in the state in 2007, which paved the way for the film and television industry to be more lucrative. Georgia is behind only New York and California in the industry, and is the third largest television and film production hub in the country.⁸⁸

The manufacturing industry is also a prominent area for output generation and employment for Georgia. In 2018, out of the total output in the state, manufacturing accounted for 10.98 percent and employed 408,000.⁸⁹

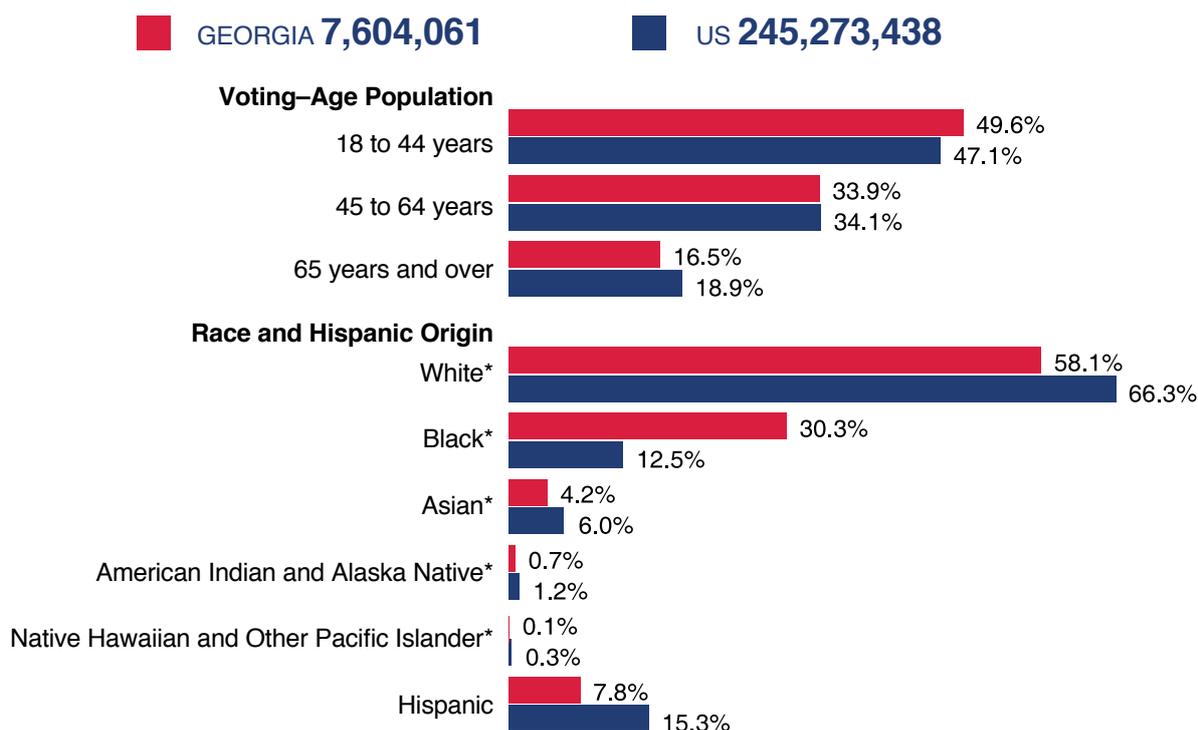
The agricultural sector is another important industry for Georgia, employing one in every seven workers in the state.⁹⁰

The pandemic has significantly affected many of Georgia’s industries. Lockdown orders have brought the state’s film industry to a halt. While no permanent production shutdown has been observed across the state, even a temporary cessation of production has been costly. With stay-at-home regulations expected to be in place up to early 2021 and most of the full-time jobs becoming more equipped with work-from-home standards, the demand for entertainment will only rise in the coming months.⁹¹

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the ve race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state’s eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau⁹²

Both the Democratic and Republican parties have begun paying more attention to the Indian-American population across the swing states. A huge Indian-American population in Georgia—representing a voter base of some 150,000—has given the community some notable clout.⁹³ Forsyth County, for example, has increasingly become a hub for the growing minority community and has had the fastest growing Asian population of all US counties, with more than 20,000 residents. This region also features a 60-acre cricket field complex and has multiple Asian-owned businesses, temples and religious retreats.⁹⁴

Religious composition of adults in Georgia⁹⁵

Christian	79%
Evangelical Protestant	38%
Mainline Protestant	12%
Historically Black Protestant	17%
Catholic	9%
Mormon	1%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	2%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	3%
Unaffiliated	18%
Nothing in particular	13%

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Georgia was primarily a Democratic state during the 20th century. From the late 20th century, however, the trend started to shift: since Bill Clinton's re-election as president in 1996, Georgia has been voting Republican for more than two decades.

For the 2020 elections, issues such as racial discrimination, economic slowdown, a deadly virus, and a polarising presidential election appear to be transforming Georgia into a swing state.⁹⁶ In the mid-term elections in 2018, Democrats garnered the highest share since 1990, winning 48 percent of the votes. Since 2000, the number of African-American voters in Georgia have increased from 25 percent to 33 percent of all registered voters. Moreover, there has been an increase in the number of white Americans with a college degree, putting them in the top half in the nation for the percentage of white American voters with a college degree. This is a significant reason for Georgia's transformation into a swing state.⁹⁷

According to modelling by *The Economist* as of 4 October, it is unclear whether Biden or Trump will capture Georgia. During the first half of 2020, Trump was way ahead of Biden in public opinion polls; from June onwards, the gap has narrowed, and the election could go either way.⁹⁸ Additionally, the latest polls by FiveThirtyEight as of 3 October predicts Biden to receive a 47.1-percent share of votes, while Trump, 46.6 percent.⁹⁹

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Trade.** International trade through the ports of Savannah and Brunswick is of great importance to Georgia. However, as a fallout of the trade war with China, the imposition of tariffs on cotton, peanuts, pecans and soybeans has hit Georgia's agricultural industry. Moreover, as the nation's biggest poultry producer, Georgia has been massively affected by the ban on exports of chicken to China. Trade from the perspective of the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), a reboot of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), has created a divide among Georgian farmers. The growers of cotton and peanuts are in favour of the new trade proposal. Others, including farmers who grow seasonal produce such as blueberries, peppers, squash and tomatoes, are against it.¹⁰⁰
- **Gun ownership.** A bill was proposed by Governor Brian Kemp and supported by other Republican leaders that would allow Georgians to carry firearms without a permit. However, the bill made little headway in the General Assembly. In more recent times, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* polling has shown state voters in favour of new restrictions on gun owners.¹⁰¹

MICHIGAN

Source - Nations Online¹⁰²

A SNAPSHOT

Michigan is located in the Great Lakes and mid-western region of the United States.

CAPITAL LANSING	POPULATION (ESTIMATED 2019) 9,986,857	INDIAN-AMERICAN POPULATION 95,958	ELECTORAL VOTES 16
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THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Michigan (in 2018-20)



Number of Indian companies
in Michigan¹⁰³

22



Total volume of investment by
Indian companies¹⁰⁴
Approximately

\$314 million

(1.39 percent of total Indian investments in
the US, i.e. \$22.6 billion)



Number of jobs created
due to Indian investments
in Michigan⁷⁸

105 3,118



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Michigan¹⁰⁶

\$726.2 million



Jobs supported by exports to
India in Michigan¹⁰⁷

5,732



Indian visitor spending
in Michigan¹⁰⁸

\$305.4 million



Economic contribution of
Indian international students
in Michigan¹⁰⁹

\$182.5 million



Indian Companies in Michigan ¹¹⁰

Automotive
36.36%

Information Technology and
Telecommunications

31.82%

Manufacturing

18.18%

Life Sciences, Pharmaceuticals
and Healthcare

9.09%

Energy

4.55%

Key personalities



Amul R. Thapar:¹¹¹ The US' first Article III Judge of South Asian descent, Amul Thapar was appointed to the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit by nomination from President Donald Trump and confirmed by the Senate in June 2017. He was previously nominated to the Districts Court by then President George W. Bush in 2007.¹¹² His candidature as the next Judge of the Supreme Court was also widely speculated when he was shortlisted and interviewed by Trump in July 2018.¹¹³

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)¹¹⁴



Of Michigan's total population, those 65 years or older constitute 16.2 percent of the population—a proportion that is higher than the national average of 15.2 percent. (Experts have called attention to Covid's higher mortality rates amongst the elderly populations.) The state has recorded the fifth highest COVID-19 death toll in the US, with Detroit suffering disproportionately.¹¹⁵ The state has introduced voting reforms this year like online voter registration, no excuse absentee voting, and early voting.¹¹⁶ It is one of 20 states in the US with a universal mask mandate.

Economic impact¹¹⁷

State GDP	\$458.8 billion GDP per capita - \$46,055
Pillar Industry: Manufacturing	The industry's GDP contribution is \$99.2 billion (ranking 7th among all states in the US for contribution towards manufacturing). Ann Arbor, home to the University of Michigan, is an investment hub for the state.

Michigan’s advanced manufacturing and production industry is globally renowned. Detroit, in particular, is a world leader in the automotive industry.

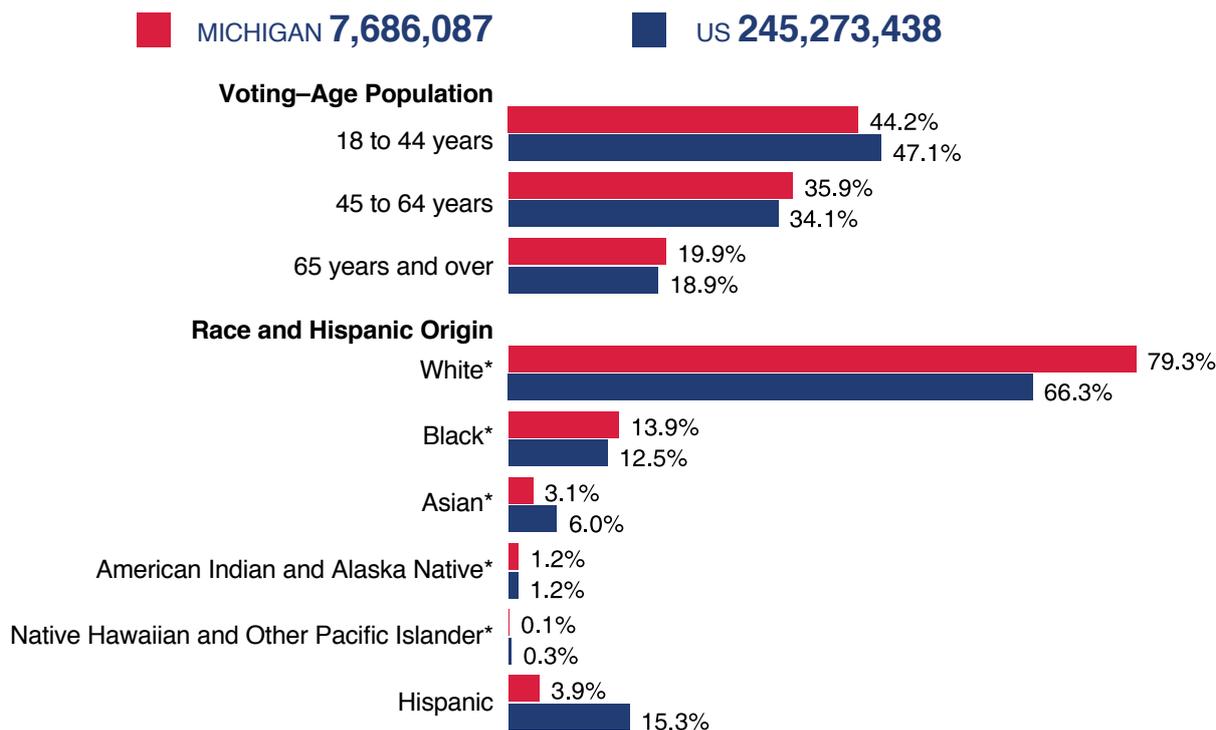
Michigan’s unemployment rate has generally been higher than the national average, but it spiked to an unprecedented 24 percent in April 2020.¹¹⁸ Due to the state’s dependence on manufacturing, COVID-19 has hit Michigan particularly hard and its economic growth is expected to be slower than that of other states through 2020. Michigan saw an armed protest from people against the pandemic-induced lockdown, demanding for businesses to reopen.¹¹⁹ Donald Trump has clashed on the subject with Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

Most other major industry sectors followed the same trend through April and May and picked up slowly after. Leisure and hospitality recorded the largest monthly industry job advance on both a numeric and percentage basis, up by 28,000, or 11.7 percent in July. The construction sector suffered the smallest over-the-year percentage drop in jobs since 2019, receding by 1.4 percent since July 2019. Total non-farm jobs in the state went down by 491,000, or 11.1 percent.¹²⁰ The mining and agricultural industries have been gravely affected due to the disruption in supply chains and transporters.¹²¹

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the ve race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state’s eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau¹²²

Although the Indian-American population in Michigan is considerably small, both the Republican and Democratic parties are reaching out to them ahead of the 2020 elections.¹²⁴ After all, in 2016, the Democrats lost Michigan by a margin of only 10,700 votes, and Michigan has around 125,000 Indian-American voters.¹²⁵ Al Mason, co-chair of the Trump Victory Indian American Finance Committee, predicts that 45,000 of Michigan's Indian voters will swing red this election.¹²⁶

Religious composition of adults in Michigan¹²³

Christian	70%
Evangelical Protestant	25%
Mainline Protestant	18%
Historically Black Protestant	8%
Catholic	18%
Mormon	<1%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	1%
Other Christian	1%
Non-Christian Faiths	5%
Unaffiliated	24%
Nothing in particular	17%

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Michigan has been a crucial swing state in previous presidential elections. It leaned Democratic from 1992 until Barack Obama's tenure in 2012. The Democrats lost Michigan to the Republicans in the 2016 election of Trump by a narrow margin of 0.23 percent.¹²⁷

The Economist predicts that the Democrats will take Michigan in 2020, with Joe Biden likely to command 48-59 percent of the popular vote share, and Donald Trump receiving 42-52 percent of the votes.¹²⁸ FiveThirtyEight polls predict that Biden is currently ahead in Michigan with a 50.1-percent approval rate, while Trump is at 43.2 percent.¹²⁹

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Anti-Lockdown protests.** Democrat Governor Gretchen Whitmer faced severe backlash and violent protests against her order extending the statewide lockdown through April and May 2020.¹³⁰ Republicans across the state quickly called the quarantine and social distancing measures “contrary to people’s freedoms.” Popular polls, however, suggested that the Michigan people supported the governor’s decision.¹³¹ The situation has worsened due to the use of hate symbols, with Trump himself being accused of fuelling violent domestic rebellions because of his rhetoric.¹³²
- **Jobs decline.** Trump signed the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement in January 2020, fulfilling a campaign promise he made in 2016 to bring in manufacturing jobs to the state. As the statewide lockdown was imposed to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, most factories could not re-open for business as expected, leading to job losses particularly in the automotive industry.¹³³ Biden has promised to create one million new jobs in the automotive industry, domestic auto supply chains, and auto infrastructure. He has also vowed to protect workers’ right to join a union.¹³⁴
- **Mail-in ballots.** Trump created controversy when he threatened to hold up the allocation of federal funds to the state, as a reaction to Michigan’s plans to expand voting by mail because of the pandemic. He incorrectly claimed that Michigan’s “rogue secretary of state” was planning to mail ballots to all voters and called Michigan’s initiative “illegal”.¹³⁵

NORTH CAROLINA

Source - Nations Online¹³⁶

A SNAPSHOT

North Carolina is located in the southeast region of the United States.

CAPITAL RALEIGH	POPULATION (ESTIMATED 2019) 10,488,084	INDIAN-AMERICAN POPULATION 78,852	ELECTORAL VOTES 15
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THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to North Carolina (in 2018-20)



Number of
Indian companies
in North Carolina¹³⁷

19



Total volume of investments
by Indian companies¹³⁸

Approximately

\$88 million

(0.389 percent of total Indian investment
in the US, i.e. \$22.6 billion)



Number of jobs created due to
Indian investments
in North Carolina¹³⁹

4,565



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from North Carolina¹⁴⁰

\$756.5 million



Jobs supported by exports to
India in North Carolina¹⁴¹

5,056



Indian visitor spending
in North Carolina¹⁴²

\$218.3 million



Economic contribution of Indian
international students
in North Carolina¹⁴³

\$123.1 million



Indian Companies in
North Carolina ¹⁴⁴

Information Technology and
Telecommunications

68.42%

Manufacturing

15.79%

Mining, and Materials

5.26%

Design and Engineering

5.26%

Life Sciences, Pharmaceuticals
and Healthcare

5.26%

Key personalities



Mohammed Mujtaba: Democrat Mujtaba's parents were immigrants from India. He represents the Mecklenburg County's 38th District in the North Carolina General Assembly. His advocacies are related to children and family rights, with an emphasis on indigent communities.¹⁴⁵



Swadesh Chatterjee: Long-standing North Carolina resident, Chatterjee is an Indian-American activist who has worked for the strengthening of relations between Americans and Indians in politics and business. He is a member of the Indian Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of Overseas Indians and the chairperson and co-founder of the US-India Friendship Council.¹⁴⁶



Steve Rao: The first Asian-American elected official in North Carolina and the triangle region and At-Large Councilman for Morrisville, North Carolina. His work is in transportation, and he was able to bring large investments in the sector in Morrisville. He is also a part of the Indian Political Action Committee.¹⁴⁷

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)¹⁴⁸

Total Cases

217,496

Active Cases

29,440

Total Deaths

3,634

Recovered

184,422

North Carolina is among 20 states in the US that have issued a mask mandate. The state's Latino population have been hit disproportionately hard by the virus.¹⁴⁹ A vote-by-mail system is in place, and voting began in the state on 4 September. People can also choose to do in-person voting.¹⁵⁰

Economic impact

State GDP	\$484.3 billion GDP per capita - \$47.142
Pillar Industry: Chemical manufacturing	The industry's GDP contribution is \$22.4 billion (5% of the state total). The industry's workforce is 41,278 (1% of the state total).

One of North Carolina's biggest industries to have been severely affected by the pandemic is tourism. Travellers to North Carolina have spent, on average, 60 percent less than what they did last year. The losses that are associated with tourism-related taxes should also be considered since it was estimated that the state has lost around \$375,000 million in state and local taxes due to the pandemic. Many workers in the hospitality sector have been laid off. In response, the El Pueblo relief fund was set up to provide aid to those who needed it the

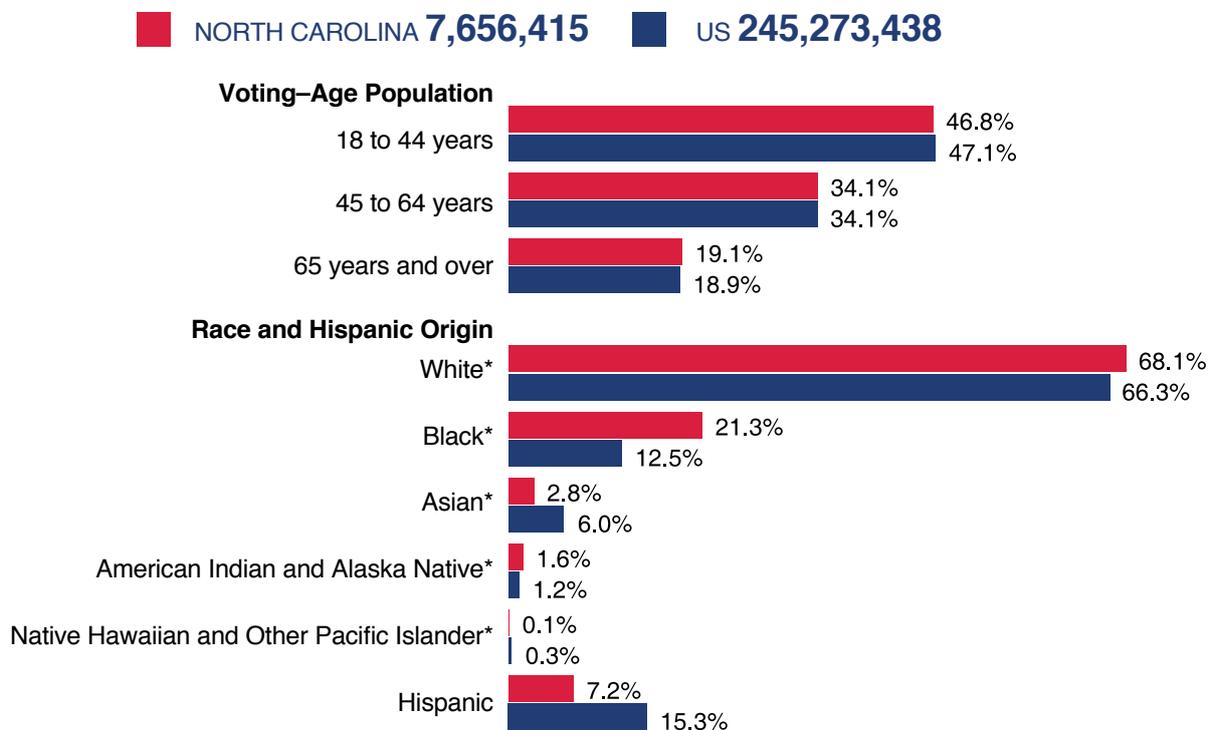
most.¹⁵¹ Jobs in the transportation industry declined by 26 percent from March to July; it is unlikely that these jobs will return any time soon.¹⁵²

The western region of North Carolina was hit hardest by the pandemic. However, beginning in May, there has been some dip in the rate of unemployment. Still, over 21,000 jobs will no longer be returning to the North Carolina economy any time soon, since the number of long-term layoffs has increased rapidly.¹⁵³

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the ve race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state's eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau¹⁵⁴

Religious composition of adults in North Carolina:¹⁵⁵

Christian	77%
Evangelical Protestant	35%
Mainline Protestant	19%
Historically Black Protestant	12%
Catholic	9%
Mormon	1%
Orthodox Christian	1%
Jehovah's Witness	1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	3%
Unaffiliated	20%
Nothing in particular	15%

Indians form the largest Asian-American ethnic community in North Carolina,¹⁵⁶ comprising about 110,900 voters.¹⁵⁷ However, the community's vote share was only one-fifth of the 2016 victory margin, — therefore, not a share that is significant enough to swing the outcome of the polls.¹⁵⁸

ELECTORAL HISTORY

North Carolina was an exclusively Democrat state from 1876 to 1964, but in recent years, a larger proportion of the population has voted Republican. In the last 40 years, North Carolina has voted blue only twice. Donald Trump won in North Carolina in 2016 with a 3.66-percent margin. In that election, seven counties swung from Democratic to Republican, while only one shifted the other way. Indeed, prior to the polls, the possible outcome was heavily debated since North Carolina was considered widely to be a 'tossup' state.¹⁵⁹

The Economist predicts that the Democrats will take North Carolina in 2020, with Joe Biden likely to command 45-56 percent of the popular vote share, and Donald Trump, 44-56 percent of votes. There is a 53-percent chance of Biden winning the most votes.¹⁶⁰

FiveThirtyEight polls predict that Biden is currently ahead in North Carolina with a 47.9-percent approval rate, while Trump is at 46.5 percent.¹⁶¹

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Healthcare.** In a study conducted by Elon University, out of the 1,400 North Carolina residents that were surveyed, only three percent said that the healthcare system is worthy of an A grade. Two-thirds of voters believed that a government-run healthcare system would benefit all Americans.
- **Economy.** According to the same Elon University survey, nearly 50 percent of North Carolina voters

thought that there has been a large improvement in the economy since 2017, under Trump. However, many believed that it was becoming increasingly difficult for most people to afford housing. There was a high degree of support for proposals to raise the minimum wage: 94 percent of respondents in the same survey agreed that it should be increased.

OHIO

Source - Nations Online¹⁶⁴

A SNAPSHOT

Ohio is located in the East North Central region of the Midwestern United States.

<i>CAPITAL</i> COLUMBUS	<i>POPULATION (ESTIMATED 2019)</i> 11,689,100	<i>INDIAN-AMERICAN POPULATION</i> 77,489	<i>ELECTORAL VOTES</i> 18
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THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Ohio (in 2018-20)¹⁶⁵



Number of
Indian companies
in Ohio

16



Total volume of investment
by Indian companies¹⁶⁶
Approximately

\$48 million

(0.212 percent of total Indian investments in
the US, i.e. \$22.6 billion)



Number of jobs created due to
Indian investments in Ohio¹⁶⁷

3,094



Volume of goods and services
exported to India from Ohio¹⁶⁸

\$804.1 million



Jobs supported by exports
to India in Ohio¹⁶⁹

6,033



Indian visitor spending
in Ohio¹⁷⁰

\$267.1 million



Economic contribution of Indian
international students
in Ohio¹⁷¹

\$196.8 million



Indian Companies in Ohio¹⁷²

Information Technology and
Telecommunications

62.50%

Manufacturing

12.50%

Automotive

12.50%

Mining and Materials

6.25%

Life Sciences, Pharmaceuticals
and Healthcare

6.25%

Key personalities



Niraj J. Antani: Niraj Antani is representative for the 42nd district of the Ohio House of Representatives. He was the First Indian-American Republican to serve in the Ohio House. He is an advocate of gun rights—he is of the position that students over 18 years of age should be allowed to carry guns to school. He recently signed a bill that will protect businesses and healthcare workers in Ohio from lawsuits during the pandemic.¹⁷³



Jay Goyal:¹⁷⁴ Jay Goyal was a member of the Ohio House of Representatives from 2007-2013, for the 73rd District. He is a Democrat and was the first Indian-American in the Ohio House who served as the Majority Whip. Goyal advocated for the ‘Third Frontier Program’ which created thousands of jobs in Ohio.¹⁷⁵ He is president of Goyal Industries, a metal manufacturing firm in Ohio.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC’S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)¹⁷⁶

Total Cases
158,959

Active Cases
16,991

Total Deaths
4,930

Recovered
137,038

Since early August, there has been a decline in the number of COVID-19 patients in hospitals in Ohio; the number of deaths per week has also declined. The state’s mask mandate took effect on 23 July and played a role in the slowdown of infections.¹⁷⁷

Additionally, the secretary of state has authorised the distribution of the federal CARES Act funding worth \$13 million. During Election Day, curbside voting options will be provided to anyone who is unable or does not wish to visit the polling location.¹⁷⁸

Economic impact

State GDP	\$590.7 billion GDP per capita - \$50,666
Pillar Industry: Insurance carriers and related activities	The industry's GDP contribution is \$26.4 billion (4.8% of the state total). The industry's workforce is 107,248 (2% of the state total).

When the stay-at-home order was enforced in March, many businesses in Ohio were forced to close and since the middle of that month, over one million unemployment claims have been made. The manufacturing, food services and entertainment industries have been hit hardest.¹⁷⁹

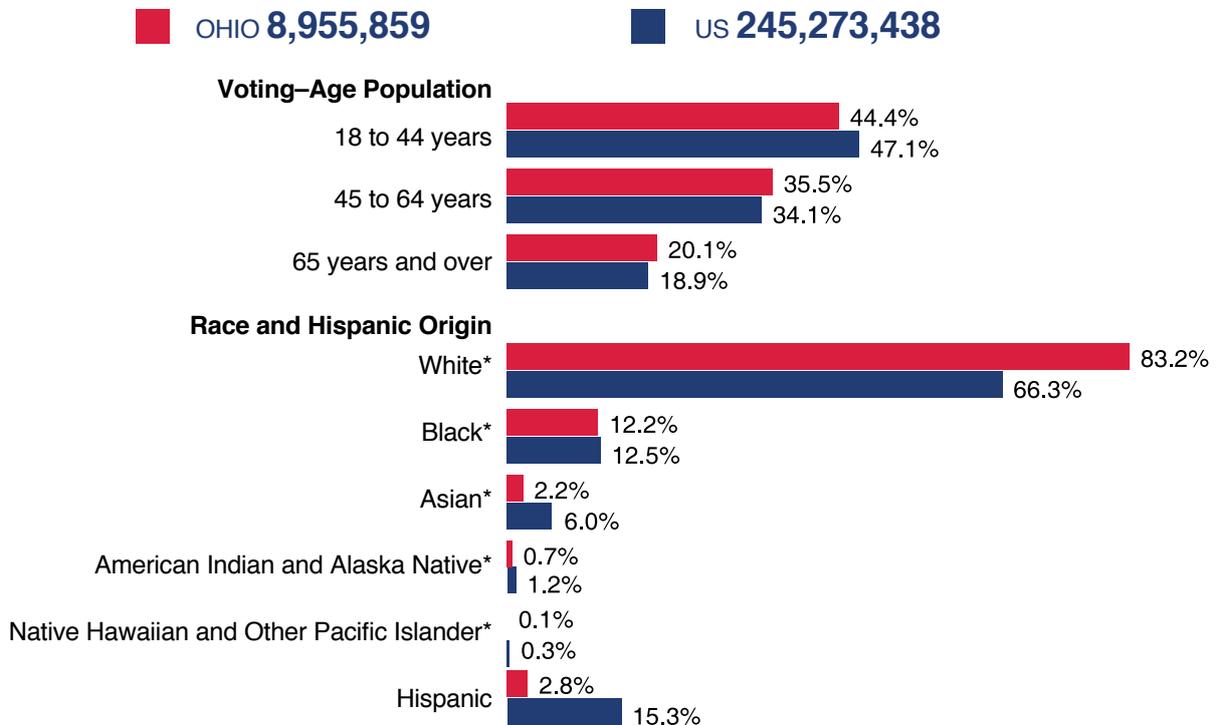
impact on this industry.¹⁸⁰ However, there is an increase in the of Indian healthcare and pharmaceutical companies: what once stood at 6.25 percent has increased in recent months.¹⁸¹ Food production, badly hit by the pandemic, is also fundamental to the Ohio economy, accounting for 14 percent of all state jobs and contributing over \$105 billion to the total economic output (2010).¹⁸²

Since manufacturing accounts for 12.5 percent of all Indian companies in Ohio, there will likely be a large

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.
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Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau¹⁸³

Religious composition of adults in Ohio¹⁸⁴

Christian	73%
Evangelical Protestant	29%
Mainline Protestant	17%
Historically Black Protestant	7%
Catholic	18%
Mormon	1%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	4%
Unaffiliated	22%
Nothing in particular	17%

The possible outcome of the polls in Ohio is uncertain.¹⁸⁵ Indian-Americans form the largest Asian ethnic community in the state, with a population of around 105,077. The community will hold a degree of influence in the outcome of the polls, though not large enough to swing the state.¹⁸⁶ There is tremendous potential here, as Asian-Americans in the state complain of having low voter contact: 50 percent of the community surveyed in 2018 received low/no contact from the Democratic Party and 60 percent reported the same from the Republicans.¹⁸⁷

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Ohio has always been a battleground state. No president has ever been elected without the party winning in Ohio; it was only once, in 1960, when Ohio voted for the losing candidate. At present, the Republicans outnumber the Democrats within the Ohio government and the Governor, Mike DeWine, is also a Republican. There are 24 Republicans and nine Democrats in the State Senate; however, the majority of mayors in Ohio are Democrats. Due to this split in party registration, Ohio is seen as a swing state: it has switched votes in favour of the Democrats and Republicans over the years.¹⁸⁸

The Economist predicts that the Republican Party will take Ohio in 2020, with Trump to command 46-57 percent of the popular vote share, and Biden, 43-54 percent. There is a 70-percent chance of Trump winning the most votes.¹⁸⁹ FiveThirtyEight polls predict that Biden is currently ahead in Ohio with a 47.7-percent approval rate, and Trump is at 47.1 percent.¹⁹⁰

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Jobs.** The pandemic has had a detrimental effect on Ohio's employment rates (only five other states had higher unemployment rates than Ohio). More than 750,000 people are out of work, or one in every seven Ohioans. A large majority of the state's working-class population (and those who lost their jobs in the pandemic) feel connected to Trump's clarion call of bringing jobs back for the American people.
- **Healthcare.** Ohio has a relatively older population in comparison to the rest of America (17.1 percent of Ohio residents are 65 and above, compared to the national average of 16.1 percent). Ohio ranks 39th in overall quality of life and is the state with the 10th shortest life expectancy. The public is of the view that the government should spend more on healthcare.
- **Race.** The African American community in Ohio is made up of almost 1.7 million people, or around 14.3 percent of the country's population. The incarceration rate for African Americans in Ohio is five times that for White Americans.

PENNSYLVANIA

Source - Nations Online¹⁹⁴

A SNAPSHOT

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is located in the Northeast, Great Lakes and Appalachian, mid-Atlantic regions of the United States.

CAPITAL HARRISBURG	POPULATION <i>(ESTIMATED 2019)</i> 12,801,989	INDIAN-AMERICAN POPULATION 1,03,026	ELECTORAL VOTES 20
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THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Pennsylvania (in 2018-20)



Number of
Indian companies in
Pennsylvania¹⁹⁵

18



Total volume of investments
by Indian companies¹⁹⁶
Approximately
\$539.6 million
(2.387 percent of total Indian investments in
the US, i.e. \$22.6 billion)



Number of jobs created
due to Indian investment in
Pennsylvania¹⁹⁷

2,921



Volume of goods and services
exported to India from
Pennsylvania¹⁹⁸

\$1.3 billion



Jobs supported by exports to
India in Pennsylvania¹⁹⁹

9,672



Indian visitor spending in
Pennsylvania²⁰⁰

\$426 million



Economic contribution of
Indian international students
in Pennsylvania²⁰¹

\$262.9 million



Indian Companies in
Pennsylvania²⁰²

Information Technology and
Telecommunications

50%

Life Sciences, Pharmaceuticals
and Healthcare

33.33%

Manufacturing

5.56%

Design and Engineering

5.56%

Automotive

5.56%

Key personalities



D. Raja: Born in Bangalore, Raja is a first-generation immigrant who came to the US on a student visa. He ran for the 37th District state Senate seat for the Republicans in 2019 and lost by a close margin to the Democratic candidate. Raja has been Commissioner, Mt. Lebanon, PA and radio show host between 2013 and 2016. He founded the Computer Enterprises Inc. and is chairperson of the Republican Committee of Allegheny County.²⁰³

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)²⁰⁴



Pennsylvania has made the wearing of masks mandatory, and the governor has repeatedly issued statements encouraging people to follow the order.²⁰⁵ Voting reforms have been announced for the 2020 elections to be conducted safely, through remote registration, postal ballots, and training provided to election officials.²⁰⁶

Economic impact²⁰⁷

State GDP	\$700.8 billion GDP per capita - \$54,725
Pillar Industries: Professional and business services	Industry GDP contribution is \$101.8.0 billion.

Pennsylvania's industrial base is sufficiently diverse, with services as key. The state is also known for its coal and steel manufacturing, which is its fourth largest industry, contributing \$91.5 billion to state GDP every year. The broadcasting and telecommunications

industry is productive as well, and has expanded by 39 percent in the last five years, generating six percent of Pennsylvania's output.²⁰⁸

The state government is expected to face a revenue shortfall over the next two years of almost \$5 billion due to the pandemic. An IFO Institute forecast suggests that 453,000 payroll jobs will be lost this year; indeed, the state has been among the hardest hit in the country

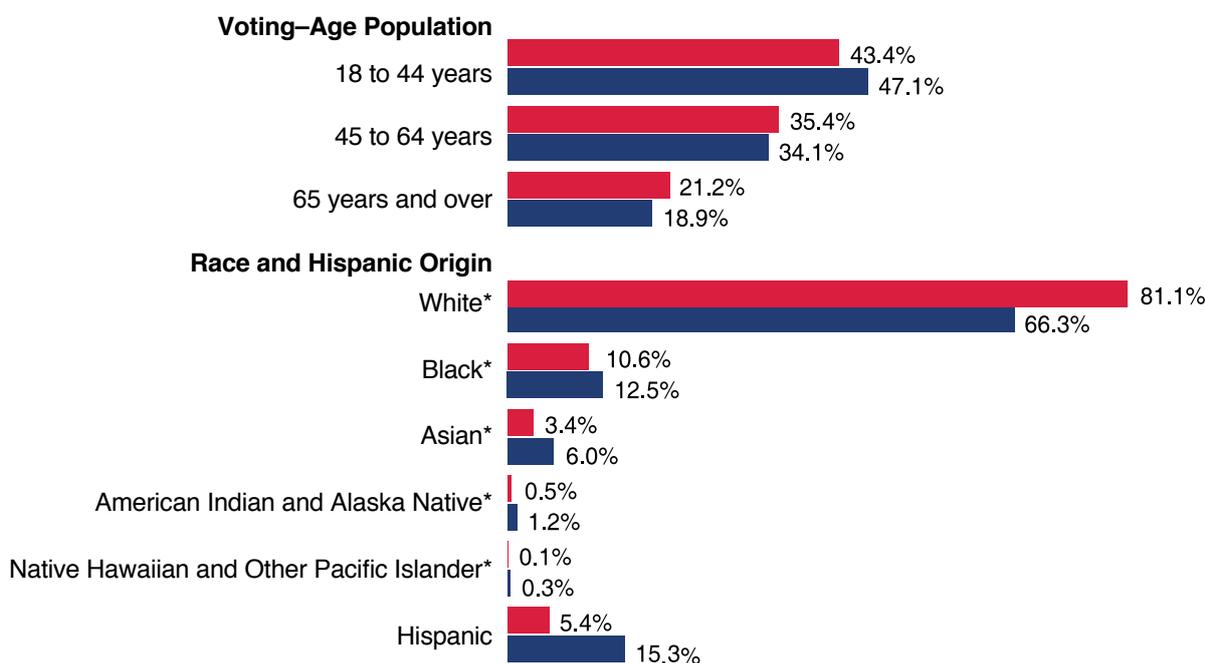
in terms of employment.²⁰⁹ The construction sector, as well as the food and accommodation service industries, have suffered the most severe fallout in terms of employment.²¹⁰

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population

PENNSYLVANIA 10,086,316 **US 245,273,438**



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the ve race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state's eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau²¹¹

Religious composition of adults in Pennsylvania:²¹²

Christian	73%
Evangelical Protestant	19%
Mainline Protestant	23%
Historically Black Protestant	5%
Catholic	24%
Mormon	<1%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	6%
Unaffiliated	21%

The Indian-American population forms the largest ethnic community in the state and is a key voting constituency.²¹³ Pennsylvania has among the largest share of Indian-American population on the East Coast. In the recent years this population has grown tremendously, doubling in South Jersey and Southeast Pennsylvania and growing by nearly 200 percent in some counties in only a decade.²¹⁴ A majority of the registered Indian-American voters in the state are Democrats.

The Indian-American population in the state is large enough to swing the election.²¹⁵ In 2016, the Republican Party won the polls by a slim 42,000 votes. There are 156,000 Indian-American voters in the state.²¹⁶

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Pennsylvania will be a swing state for the 2020 polls. Although the state voted Democrat in all six elections before 2016, Trump won the race in 2016 by a small margin of 44,292 votes (out of more than 6,000,000 votes cast—or a 0.72-percent margin, which set a record margin for a presidential election in Pennsylvania in 176 years). Three counties swung the election in 2016, making the state one of the most interesting battlegrounds to watch this November.²¹⁷

The Economist predicts that unlike the last time, the Democrats will take Pennsylvania in 2020, with Biden likely to command 48-58 percent of the popular vote share and Donald Trump, 42-52 percent.²¹⁸ FiveThirtyEight polls predict similarly: Joe Biden will command 50.1 percent of the votes, and Trump, 44.1 percent.²¹⁹

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Ballot issues.** Pennsylvania attracted controversy after its primaries in June as some absentee ballots went missing, and is therefore currently mired in chaos, unable to finalise its mail-in ballot process, even this late in the process.
- **Suburban voters.** The suburbs have received a fair share of the limelight in Pennsylvania this election season, especially from Trump who has reached out to what he called the “suburban housewives”. In a particularly divisive statement, he tried to create a scare around the Democrats’ low-income housing proposal.
- **Police reforms.** In the backdrop of the Black Lives Matter protests for racial justice in the US, Pennsylvania lawmakers have passed two police reform measures with an overwhelming majority. The new law requires officers applying for jobs to submit their employment records for scrutiny.

TEXAS

Source - Nations Online²²³

A SNAPSHOT

The Commonwealth of Texas is located in the South-Central region of the United States.

CAPITAL AUSTIN	POPULATION <i>(ESTIMATED 2019)</i> 28,995,881	INDIAN-AMERICAN POPULATION 326,558	ELECTORAL VOTES 38
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THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Texas (in 2018-20)



Number of
Indian companies
in Texas²²⁴

40



Total volume of investments by
Indian companies²²⁵

Approximately

\$9.5 billion

(42 percent of total Indian investments in the
US, i.e. \$22.6 billion)



Number of jobs created due to
Indian investments
in Texas²²⁶

17,578



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Texas²²⁷

\$3 billion



Jobs supported by exports to
India in Texas²²⁸

17,975



Indian visitor spending in
Texas²²⁹

\$821.1 million



Economic contribution of Indian
international students
in Texas²³⁰

\$451.1 million



Indian Companies in Texas: ²³¹

Information Technology and
Telecommunications

42.5%

Energy

25%

Automotive

7.50%

Manufacturing

7.50%

Design and Engineering

5.00%

Life Sciences, Pharmaceuticals
and Healthcare

5.00%

Mining and Materials

2.50%

Financial Services

2.50%

Food and Agriculture

2.50%

Key personalities



R.K. Sandill:²³² American-born R.K. Sandill is a Democrat of Indian descent and is a judge of the Texas 127th District Court. He is running for re-election for judge of the Texas 127th District Court. He advanced from the Democratic primaries in March 2020 and will be up for election in November. Sandill is the first District Court Judge in Texas of South Asian descent. His motivation is to restore balance to the conservative-heavy Texan Supreme Court.²³³



Himesh Gandhi:²³⁴ This Indian-American holds a council seat in Sugar Land, Texas, first elected in 2012. He has served on numerous city council committees and was also a member of the task force that led the development of the Smart Financial Center at Sugar Land (an iconic entertainment landmark). He was named one of the region's '40 under 40 young leaders' by the *Houston Business Journal* in 2015.



Nandita Berry:²³⁵ Nandita Berry was the 109th Secretary of State for Texas and the first Indian-American to hold the office. She is a Republican and among the most distinguished attorneys in the state.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)²³⁶

Total Cases
805,485

Active Cases
90,393

Total Deaths
16,505

Recovered
698,587

Texas is one of the US states most severely affected by COVID-19. In the initial days, state governor, Greg Abbott, was not in favour of imposing statewide mandates that would unnecessarily burden the parts of the state where the outbreak was less severe. However, as economic activity restarted, there was a significant rise in the number of COVID-19 cases. As a result, Texas issued a statewide mask mandate in early July that required people in counties with more than 20 coronavirus cases to wear a mask inside a public building as well as outdoor public spaces.²³⁷ Among the 11 exemptions to Abbott's executive order for a mask mandate are polling places.²³⁸ Two civil groups and two Texas voters filed a lawsuit to include a mask mandate in the state's in-person voting rules. The federal judge dismissed the suit, saying the court lacked jurisdiction.²³⁹

Economic impact

State GDP	\$1.6 trillion GDP per capita - \$57,077
Pillar Industry: Manufacturing	The Industry's GDP contribution is \$237.7 billion.

Texas is the top exporter in the US, and home to the headquarters of 48 in the Fortune 500 companies list, including AT&T and ExxonMobil. Texas' GDP is higher than Australia's.²⁴⁰

Activity in the service sector has been severely affected by the pandemic, hit worse than the manufacturing sector, precipitating downward pressures on wages and prices. The state's oil and gas sector—the largest in the United States—has also been affected. The housing market has slowed, too, as sellers and buyers take a wait-and-see approach. Consumer confidence in Texas plunged in

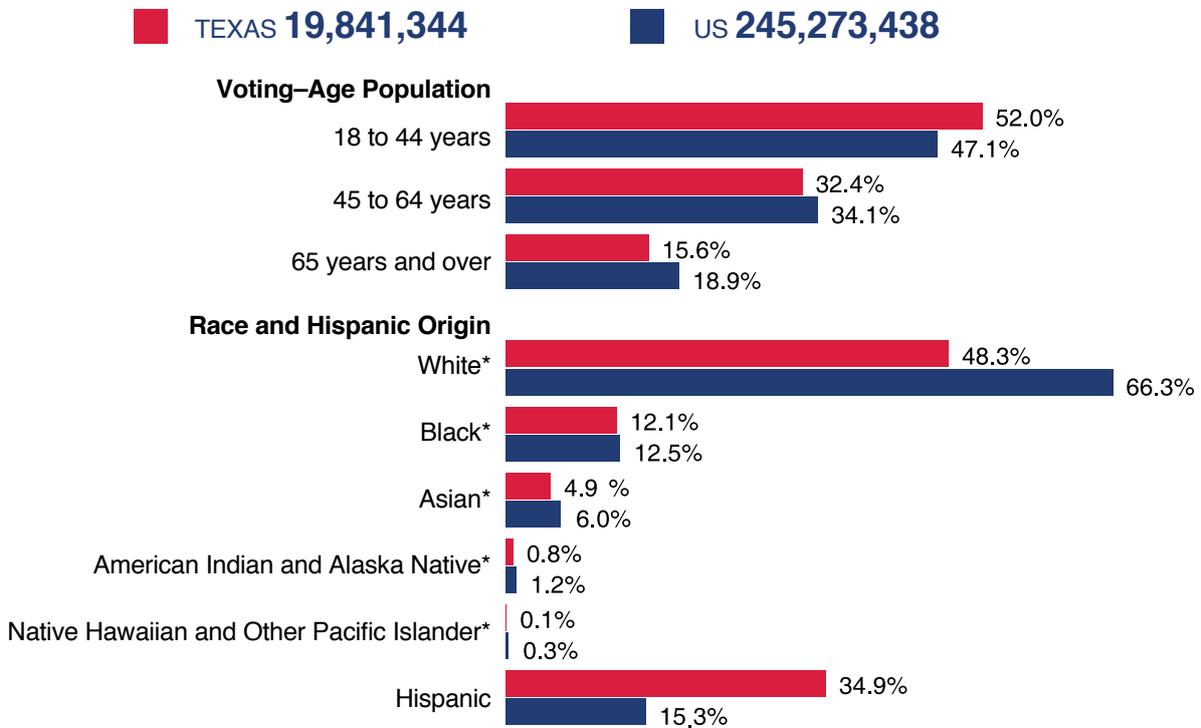
April to its lowest level in seven years, according to data from the Conference Board.²⁴¹

It is likely that Texas will underperform in terms of job and output growth this year compared to the US average, due to Texas' disproportionate share of vulnerable industries such as food services and air transportation, as well as prolonged weakness in the oil and gas sector. According to estimates by the Dallas Fed, employment will contract sharply through midyear, rebound in the second half of 2020, and end the year with a down of 7.6 percent.²⁴²

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the ve race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state's eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau²⁴³

Religious composition of adults in Texas²⁴⁴

Christian	77%
Evangelical Protestant	31%
Mainline Protestant	13%
Historically Black Protestant	6%
Catholic	23%
Mormon	1%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	1%
Other Christian	1%
Non-Christian Faiths	4%
Unaffiliated	18%

Indians in Texas are increasing in number and have a strong presence in the state. Indian students who go to Texas for studies eventually get sponsored by a company for a work visa.²⁴⁵ In a demonstration of the political importance of Texas' Indian community, Trump welcomed Prime Minister Modi to the US with a 'Howdy Modi' rally in Houston. During the 2016 elections, Trump won the elections in Texas by a margin of around 800,000 votes.²⁴⁶ In a state of 340,000 Indian-American voters, this community can play a pivotal role in swinging the elections in 2020.²⁴⁷

ELECTORAL HISTORY

It was 40 years ago when Texas last elected a Democrat candidate for president. In the 10 elections since then, the state has been a Republican stronghold. In 2016, Trump defeated Democrat Hillary Clinton in Texas by nine points.²⁴⁸ Political pundits have identified Texas as a key battleground state.²⁴⁹

The Economist predicts that the Republicans will take Texas again in 2020, with Trump likely to command 47-57 percent of the popular vote share and Biden to hold 43-53 percent.²⁵⁰ Similarly, FiveThirtyEight polls predict that Biden is behind at 45.7 percent, with Trump at 48 percent.²⁵¹

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Race.** The divide between the Texans on issues of race is prominent. In a poll related to the Confederate memorials, 60 percent of African-American voters were in favour of the removal or relocation of Confederate memorials, whereas 64 percent of White American voters wanted to leave them in place. Moreover, 28 percent of African-American voters supported the building of a wall along the border with Mexico; 64 percent of White American voters support the border wall.²⁵² These divides were further heightened after the death of George Floyd, an unarmed black man killed in a particularly horrific episode of police brutality in Minneapolis. A new energy has flourished from East Texas, a centre of white supremacist activity in the past, in support for the Black Lives Matter movement.²⁵³
- **Gun Violence.** In 2015, Texas legislators enacted a law that allowed people to carry hidden, loaded guns in college campuses. In 2017, Texas had the 27th highest rates of deaths caused by guns. Although

Texas is a major importer of guns, of all the crime guns recovered for the year 2017, nearly 85 percent of them were locally bought. There are calls for the passing of gun reform laws to require background checks on all gun sales and the strengthening of laws that will either restrict or prohibit access to ammunition.²⁵⁴

- **Police Reforms.** The killing of George Floyd provoked protests for racial justice and police reform across major cities of Texas. Subsequently, a number of changes were implemented by police chiefs as they announced new restrictions in their ranks.²⁵⁵ Similarly, other policing changes were being introduced across the state, until recently when a major reform was passed by the Texas legislature. Subsequently, the George Floyd Act was passed by the African-American members of the state legislature, banning the use of chokeholds during arrests and requiring law-enforcement officers to either intervene or prevent an officer from using excessive force on the job.²⁵⁶

WISCONSIN

Source - Nations Online²⁵⁷

A SNAPSHOT

The Commonwealth of Wisconsin is located in the north-central, Midwest and Great Lakes regions of the United States.

CAPITAL
MADISON

POPULATION
(ESTIMATED 2019)
5,822,434

INDIAN-AMERICAN
POPULATION
30,369

ELECTORAL
VOTES
10

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Wisconsin (in 2018-20)



Volume of goods and services
exported to India from
Wisconsin²⁵⁸

\$369.5 million



Jobs supported by exports to
India in Wisconsin²⁵⁹

2,561



Indian visitor spending
in Wisconsin²⁶⁰

\$102.3 million



Economic contribution of Indian
international students
in Wisconsin²⁶¹

\$35.6 million

Key personalities



Satya Nadella:²⁶² Microsoft Corp. CEO Satya Nadella is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Originally from Hyderabad, India, Nadella came to Milwaukee as a graduate student of computer science. He then proceeded to work at Sun Microsystems' Chicago office, while studying business at the University of Chicago. He joined Microsoft in 1992.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)²⁶³



More than 50 people who voted in person or worked during the polls in Wisconsin's presidential primaries contracted COVID-19.²⁶⁴ Wisconsin's mask mandate came into effect only in August. As of 21 September, more than 100,000 people have tested positive for COVID-19 in Wisconsin.²⁶⁵

Economic impact

State GDP	\$292.3 billion GDP per capita - \$50,431
Pillar Industry: Manufacturing	The industry's GDP contribution is \$63.1 billion, dominating the economy. The next biggest sector - real estate and rentals, contributes \$39.3 billion to state GDP. Dairy is a key agricultural industry in the state.

On 13 May 2020,²⁶⁶ the Wisconsin Supreme Court rejected the extension of the state's lockdown, in line with the position taken by Republican legislators. Tourism, retail and service businesses have suffered particularly massive losses. Agriculture and food/beverage, which have been identified as essential businesses, are seeking to mitigate supply-chain disruptions. Manufacturing and construction saw less immediate disruption but, in the long term, are expecting a slowdown, with falling

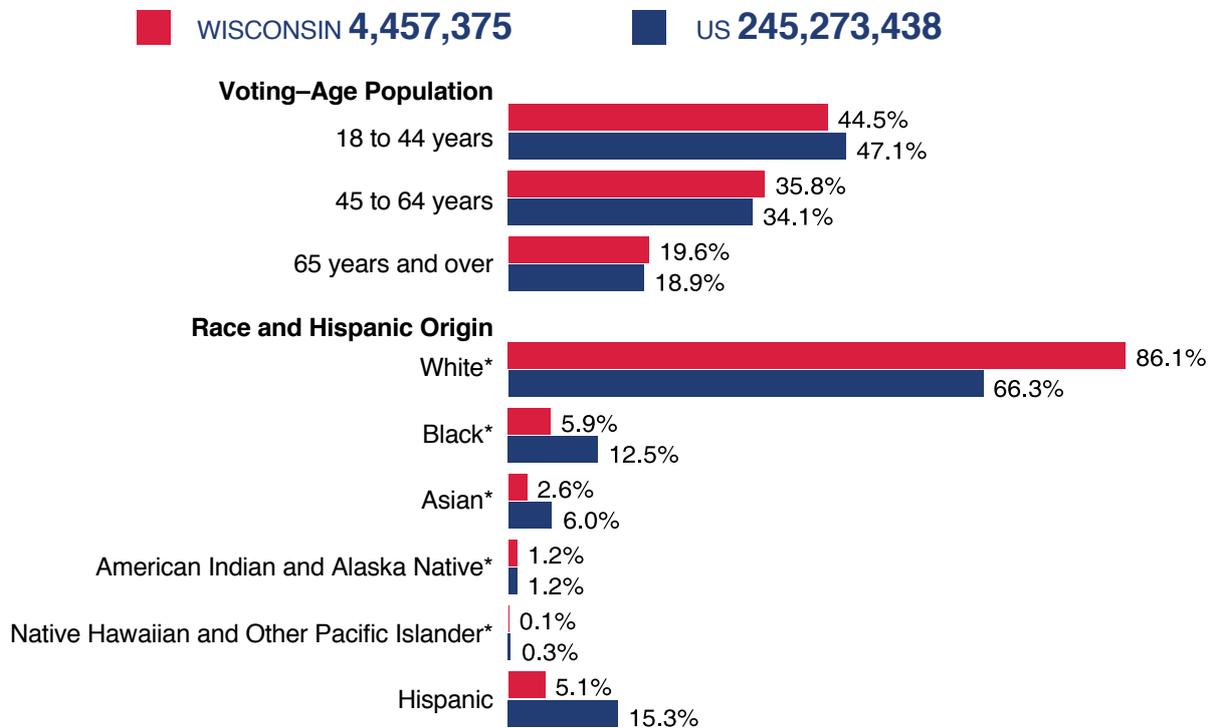
consumer spending and capital investment. Education and healthcare—both huge economic engines in the state—have also been disrupted or nearly brought to a halt by the pandemic.²⁶⁷

President Trump has announced \$13 billion in farm aid to Wisconsin, especially aimed at providing relief to the state's key agricultural industries of dairy, cranberry and ginseng farming.²⁶⁸

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the ve race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state's eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau²⁶⁹

Religious composition of adults in Wisconsin²⁷⁰

Christian	71%
Evangelical Protestant	22%
Mainline Protestant	18%
Historically Black Protestant	4%
Catholic	25%
Mormon	<1%
Orthodox Christian	1%
Jehovah's Witness	1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	4%
Unaffiliated	25%

Indian-Americans form the second-largest Asian ethnic community in the state.²⁷¹ The community is a key voting constituency, large enough to swing the state:²⁷² the Democrats lost Wisconsin by 21,000 votes in the 2016 election, in a state of 37,000 Indian-Americans.²⁷³ Both parties are therefore looking closely at Wisconsin.

ELECTORAL HISTORY

In 2016, it was Wisconsin and Pennsylvania that helped Trump's White House run. Democrats performed unexpectedly well in the 2018 midterms in the state and put up a strong showing in the local elections as well. The Democratic Party has won seven elections in a row in the state, from 1988-2012, all in close races, but Donald Trump unexpectedly took Wisconsin in 2016 by a small margin of 0.7 percent.²⁷⁴

The Economist predicts that the Democrats will take Wisconsin in 2020, with Biden likely to command 48-58 percent of the popular vote share and Trump, 42-52 percent.²⁷⁵ FiveThirtyEight polls predict that Biden comfortably leads the state with 50.6-percent approval, against Trump's 43.8 percent.²⁷⁶

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Healthcare.** Healthcare was a key issue in the 2018 midterm elections in Wisconsin; it will be true for November 2020 as well. In Wisconsin, 993 likely voters were asked to choose their top priority: reducing the cost of healthcare and prescription drugs, or guaranteeing healthcare to all: reducing costs received 60 percent of the vote while universal coverage of healthcare was supported by 30 percent.²⁷⁷ Majority of the people accounted for in the poll supported the Democratic Party's stance on Healthcare.
- **Civil justice and Legal reforms.** Just a few years ago, Wisconsin's legal climate was rated among the worst in the country. However, Wisconsin has recently received a national award for tort and legal reform as a result of the bold legislation enacted over the past four years.²⁷⁸
- **Education.** Despite recent trends in above-average levels of unemployment, thousands of jobs in the state remain unfilled. Employers are struggling to find qualified, skilled workers to fill high-wage positions. Some initiatives to help provide employers with access to a pipeline of skilled workers that enables economic growth include reduction of information asymmetry between job opportunities and the workforce, and enhancing workforce training resources.²⁷⁹

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RED STATES

These states will likely vote for the Republican Party in the 2020 elections.

ALABAMA

Source - Nations Online¹



A SNAPSHOT

The state of Alabama is located in the southeastern part of the United States, between the states of Mississippi and Georgia.

CAPITAL	POPULATION (ESTIMATED 2019)	INDIAN-AMERICAN POPULATION	ELECTORAL VOTES
MONTGOMERY	4,903,185	14,124	9

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Alabama (in 2018-20)



Number of
Indian companies
in Alabama²

4



Total volume of investment
by Indian companies³
Approximately

\$500 million

(2.212% of total Indian investments in the
US, i.e. \$22.6 billion)



Number of jobs created
due to Indian investment
in Alabama⁴

2,619



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Alabama⁵

\$323.7 million



**Jobs supported by exports
to India in Alabama⁶**

2,201



**Indian Companies
in Alabama
Sector Diversification⁹**

**Information Technology and
Telecommunications**

75%

Automotive

25%



**Indian visitor spending
in Alabama⁷**

\$83.9 million



**Economic contribution of Indian
international students
in Alabama⁸**

\$32.5 million

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)¹⁰



Although Alabama is not among the states where COVID-19 has hit hardest, the number of cases is still significant. In June, the “Safer At Home” order was extended, but only until the end of July.¹¹ In addition, initial measures—including the closure of businesses—were not expected to be sustainable in the long run and the state governor, Kay Ivey, decided to lift the lockdown in mid-May. Alabama waited until 15 July to issue a mask mandate for public spaces, amidst a surge in infections. A drop in hospitalisations and daily positive COVID-19 numbers soon followed. The mask mandate has been extended till early October.¹²

Economic impact

State GDP	\$192.7 billion GDP per capita - \$39,523
Pillar Industries: Manufacturing, real estate and, professional and business services	Manufacturing contributes approximately \$37.6 billion to state GDP; other big earners are real estate (\$23.6 billion), and professional and business services (\$22 billion)

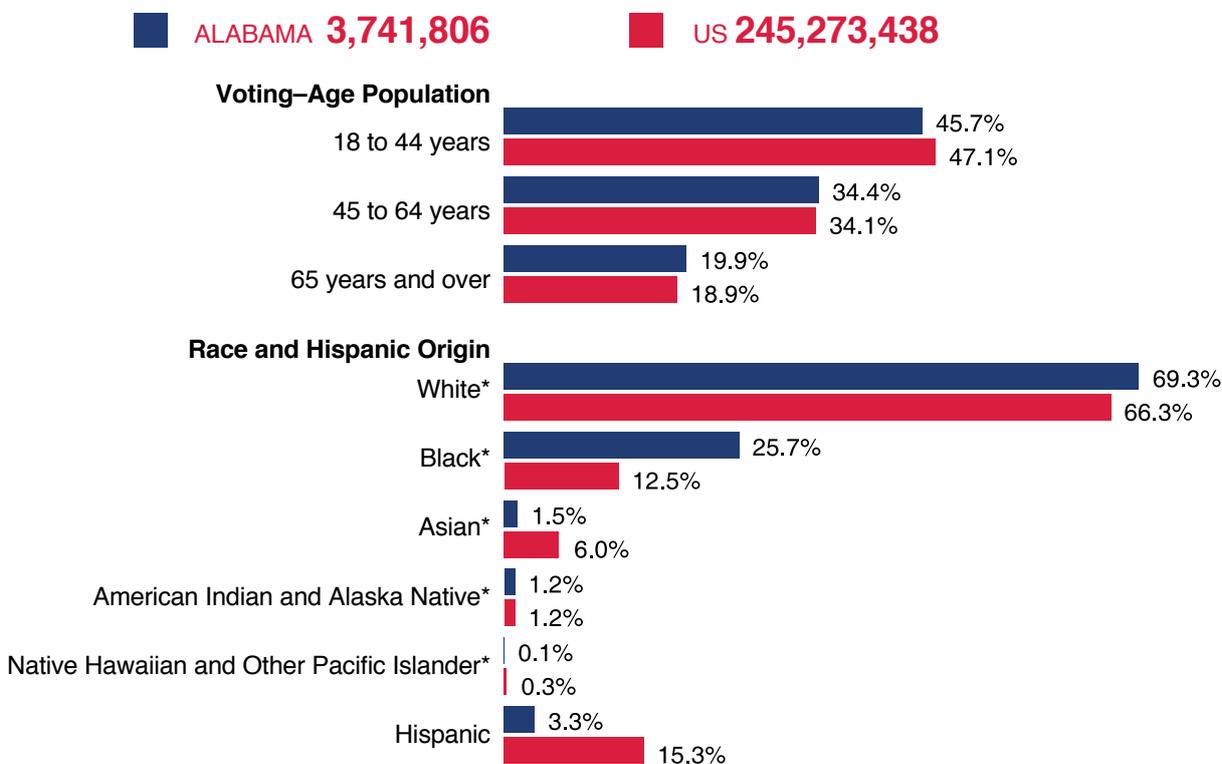
Alabama has a diverse industrial base, where the manufacturing industry serves as backbone for the state economy. Besides manufacturing, real estate and professional and business services contribute significantly to the state GDP. Alabama used to be known for coal mining and steel production, but it has diversified, and today the state is heralded as the one with the best business climate in the country.¹³ Automobile manufacturers like Toyota, Mercedes-Benz and Hyundai have set up their manufacturing units across the state.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the demand for passenger vehicles in the US has plunged. The production of new cars almost came to a halt as cases started to surge beginning in March. Companies such as Daimler and Hyundai resumed their production in the last week of April, while adhering to new safety norms including frequent plant sanitising, wearing of face masks, and temperature checks.¹⁴ The auto industry has been one of the hardest hit in terms of unemployment claims.¹⁵

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the ve race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state's eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau¹⁶

Alabama's population is majority White Americans, followed by African-Americans. The minuscule Indian-American population (1.2 percent of the state population) is not expected to play a significant role in the general elections.¹⁷ Significantly, a whopping 49 percent of the population in the state comprises of Evangelical Protestants, who have historically voted Republican. Conversely, the much smaller community of African-American Protestants in Alabama are an important and influential Democrat voter base.¹⁸

Religious composition of adults in Alabama¹⁹

Christian	86%
Evangelical Protestant	49%
Mainline Protestant	13%
Historically Black Protestant	16%
Catholic	7%
Mormon	1%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	<1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	1%
Unaffiliated	12%
Don't Know	1%

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Alabama has voted Republican ever since Ronald Reagan won the presidential elections in 1980. During the 2016 elections, Donald Trump had a clear win over Hillary Clinton by a margin of 27.72 percent.²⁰ One of the main reasons why Alabama has remained a Red state for almost three decades is that it has seen lower in-migration from outside the state, unlike the neighbouring states of Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.²¹

According to poll predictions by *The Economist* (as of 5 October), the Republicans are expected to take Alabama again in 2020, with Trump likely to command 54-65 percent of the popular vote share, and Biden likely to receive 34-46 percent of votes.²² Moreover, the latest polls by FiveThirtyEight predict a win for Trump with 56.9 percent of the vote share, while Biden is expected to receive 38.4 percent.²³

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Senate elections.** Although Trump is expected to win in Alabama, the Senate race between Democrat incumbent Doug Jones and Republican challenger Tommy Tuberville will play an important role in deciding the majority in the upper chambers from January 2021.²⁴
- **Racism and Constitutional language (Amendment 4).** Among the six state-wide constitutional amendments on the ballot, Amendment 4 will be of utmost importance, as it proposes to re-draft the Constitution and remove the use of obsolete and offensive, including racist, language. The state, for instance, still uses references to separate schools for “white” and “coloured children,” and there are laws prohibiting marriages between “any white and a negro.” Similar ballot referendums have already failed in 2012 and 2004. With growing national awareness, people in the state have also started paying more attention to race issues especially violence committed on African-Americans by police personnel.²⁵
- **Voting reforms.** According to a recent ruling in Birmingham, Alabama, voters who are 65 and above or those who have any underlying medical conditions that make them more susceptible to complications related to COVID-19, are exempted from the state’s identification and witness signature requirements for absentee ballots for the November elections. This flexibility is an antidote to Alabama’s long history of racial discrimination and a relief for the African-American population in the state, who has been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. However, the Republican secretary of state John Merrill has appealed this decision, saying such change in voting requirements at this point could only bring uncertainty.²⁶

ALASKA



Source - Nations Online²⁷

A SNAPSHOT

Alaska is the largest state in the US and occupies a peninsula in the extreme northwest of North America, along the Arctic and North Pacific Ocean coastlines.

CAPITAL
JUNEAU

POPULATION
(ESTIMATED 2019)
731,545

INDIAN-AMERICAN
POPULATION
1,184

ELECTORAL
VOTES
3

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Alaska (in 2018-20)²⁸



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Alaska
\$48.4 million



Jobs supported by exports
to India in Alaska²⁹
380



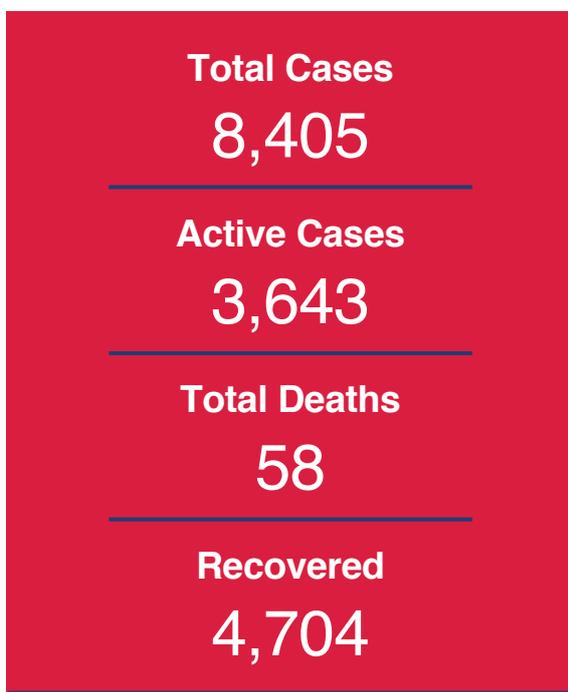
Indian visitor spending
in Alaska³⁰
\$37.2 million



Economic contribution of Indian
international students
in Alaska³¹
\$1.5 million

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)³²



Alaska has one of the lowest numbers of COVID-19 cases and its per capita death rate is among the lowest in the country. Due to Alaska's unique geographic location and fragile healthcare resources, the state health officials adopted an aggressive testing strategy early on.³³ Within a week of the first official COVID-19 case in the state, schools were immediately closed, and state governor Mike Dunleavy strongly encouraged the use of masks when Alaska saw a surge in new cases. In mid-July, he made masks mandatory for state workers and people who visit state-owned buildings and facilities.³⁴

Economic impact³⁵

State GDP	\$52.3 billion GDP per capita - \$70,683
Pillar Industry: Mining, Oil and gas extraction	The industry's GDP contribution is \$9.3 billion (15.9% of the state total)

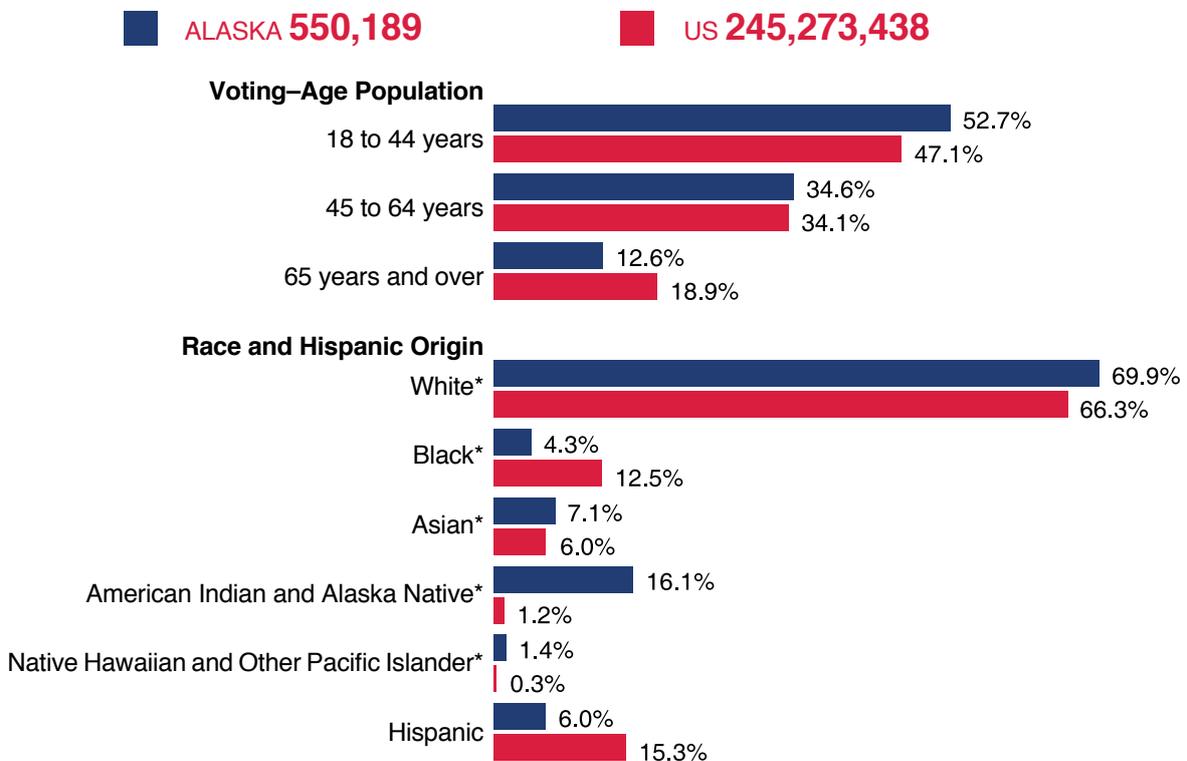
Alaska’s economic growth is driven mainly by the oil and gas extraction industry and supported by others such as construction, healthcare and tourism. Alaska is known for a being resource-rich state, with some of the largest oil fields in the country.³⁶ Despite the downsizing of the oil industry because of the global recession, it remains a critical component of the state’s economy because of its significant contribution to GDP and direct as well as indirect impact on employment.³⁷ Tourism is another noteworthy industry in Alaska, with a record figure of 2.26 million visitors between May and September in 2019.³⁸

Due to the pandemic, a number of oil companies have minimised their activities and delayed any plans for expansion. The immediate impact of the oil price crash has been the loss of massive state revenues.³⁹ As a result of COVID-19, the unemployment rate—already the highest in the country—doubled from 6.2 percent in June 2019 to 12.4 percent in June 2020. The economy was already reeling from a recent recession due to slower economic activity driven by lower oil prices, and the pandemic has exacerbated the crisis.⁴⁰

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state’s eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau⁴¹

Alaska's demographic is mostly White American, with less than one percent of the population being made up of India-Americans. The Indian-American population in Alaska will not be playing a statistically significant role in November.⁴² About 55 percent of Republicans in the state claim that religion is very important to them; some 44 percent of Republicans in the state are Evangelical Protestants).⁴³

Religious composition of adults in Alaska⁴⁴

Christian	62%
Evangelical Protestant	22%
Mainline Protestant	12%
Historically Black Protestant	3%
Catholic	16%
Mormon	5%
Orthodox Christian	5%
Jehovah's Witness	<1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	6%
Unaffiliated	31%
Don't Know	1%

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Alaska began voting in the presidential elections in 1960. Except for 1964 when Democrat Lyndon B. Johnson won Alaska's votes, the state has always been inclined towards the Republican Party. During the 2016 elections, Trump won with more than 50 percent of the vote.⁴⁵

In the 2012 presidential elections, Barack Obama received 40.81 percent of the vote, making him the first Democrat since 1968 to get more than a 40-percent share of the vote. However, the Republican Party still emerged as the winner from Alaska in 2012, with 54.80 percent of the vote share.⁴⁶

According to poll predictions by *The Economist* (as of 5 October), the Republicans will take Alaska again in 2020, with Trump likely to command 48-59 percent of the popular vote share, and Biden, 41-52 percent.⁴⁷ The latest polls by FiveThirtyEight predict a win for Trump with 50.4 percent share of vote, against Biden's 45 percent.⁴⁸

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Implications for Economic Recovery.** Increased taxes on oil production in the North Slope (Ballot Measure 1) – This measure calls for increased taxes on oil production fields in the North Slope area including Alpine, Kuparuk and Prudhoe Bay. The new tax regime would use either alternative gross minimum tax or an additional production tax, whichever would be greater for each month and each field. Leading oil and gas companies have raised millions in funds in order to oppose this measure.⁴⁹ This is because a rise in taxes on oil production would make the economic recovery more difficult than before and jeopardise existing and future jobs.⁵⁰
- **Change in Alaska’s election policies (Ballot Measure 2).** This measure calls to bring about changes in the state’s election policies by requiring people or entities that contribute more than \$2000, were derived from donations or gifts, to disclose the true sources of the political contributions. Other such actions include establishing a ranked-choice voting for general elections, including the presidential election, in which voters would rank candidates instead of simply picking one.⁵¹
- **Black Lives Matter.** Following the death of George Floyd, massive protests have been held across Alaska against police brutality and racism. These protests have been mostly peaceful. Protestors at the Anchorage protests have demanded police reforms that would require police officers to go through mandatory intensive mental health training.⁵²

ARKANSAS



Source - Nations Online⁵³

A SNAPSHOT

The state of Arkansas is located in the central region of the US and shares the border with six other states including Missouri in the north, Louisiana to the south, Texas to the southwest and Oklahoma in the west.

CAPITAL LITTLE ROCK	POPULATION (ESTIMATED 2019) 3,017,804	INDIAN-AMERICAN POPULATION 10,498	ELECTORAL VOTES 6
--------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Arkansas (in 2018-20)⁵⁴



**Number of
Indian companies
in Arkansas**

8



**Total volume of investment
by Indian companies⁵⁵
Approximately**

\$392 million

(1.734% of total Indian investments
in the US, i.e. \$22.6 billion)



**Number of jobs created
due to Indian investment
in Arkansas⁵⁶**

2,619



**Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Arkansas⁵⁷**

\$323.7 million



Jobs supported by exports
to India in Arkansas⁵⁸

2,201



Indian Companies
in Arkansas
Sector Diversification⁶¹

Information Technology and
Telecommunications

75%

Automotive

25%



Indian visitor spending
in Arkansas⁵⁹

\$83.9 million



Economic contribution of Indian
international students
in Arkansas⁶⁰

\$32.5 million

Key personalities



Gayatri Agnew: During the 2018 midterm elections, she ran for election to the Arkansas House of Representatives from District 93 but lost to the Republican Jim Dotson.⁶² She has also previously worked in the campaign and administration of former Washington state governor Christine Gregoire. She is a senior director at Walmart and leads the company's corporate and social impact strategy.⁶³



Gayatri Agnew: A member of the Democratic Party, Desai ran in the 2018 elections for a seat at the House to represent Arkansas' 1st Congressional District; he lost to the Republican Rick Crawford by a considerable margin.⁶⁴ His campaign in 2018 focused on the issues of poverty, healthcare, education, "common sense gun legislation", and climate change.⁶⁵

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)⁶⁶



COVID-19 has had a relatively moderate impact in the state in terms of total number of cases and deaths. In April, the state governor, Asa Hutchinson defended his decision to not issue a statewide 'stay-at-home' order, arguing that it was not necessary as the state has low population density.⁶⁷ However, in July, Arkansas figured among the 21 states considered to be in the red zone for COVID-19 cases. In the latter half of July, the state issued a mask mandate through an executive order.⁶⁸

Economic impact

State GDP	\$114 billion GDP per capita - \$37,930
Pillar industry: Manufacturing	Manufacturing industry's contribution to the state GDP - \$19.3 billion

A diversified industry has resulted in strong economic growth in the state, led by manufacturing, professional and business services, agriculture, distribution and logistics, and educational services.⁶⁹ Due to the central location of Arkansas and its favourable transportation infrastructure, the distribution and logistics industry is among the largest industries in the state—it employs more than 85,000 at 80 distribution centres among 22 major trucking companies.⁷⁰

Another key industry for Arkansas is agriculture. Arkansas is a major exporter of commodities like rice,

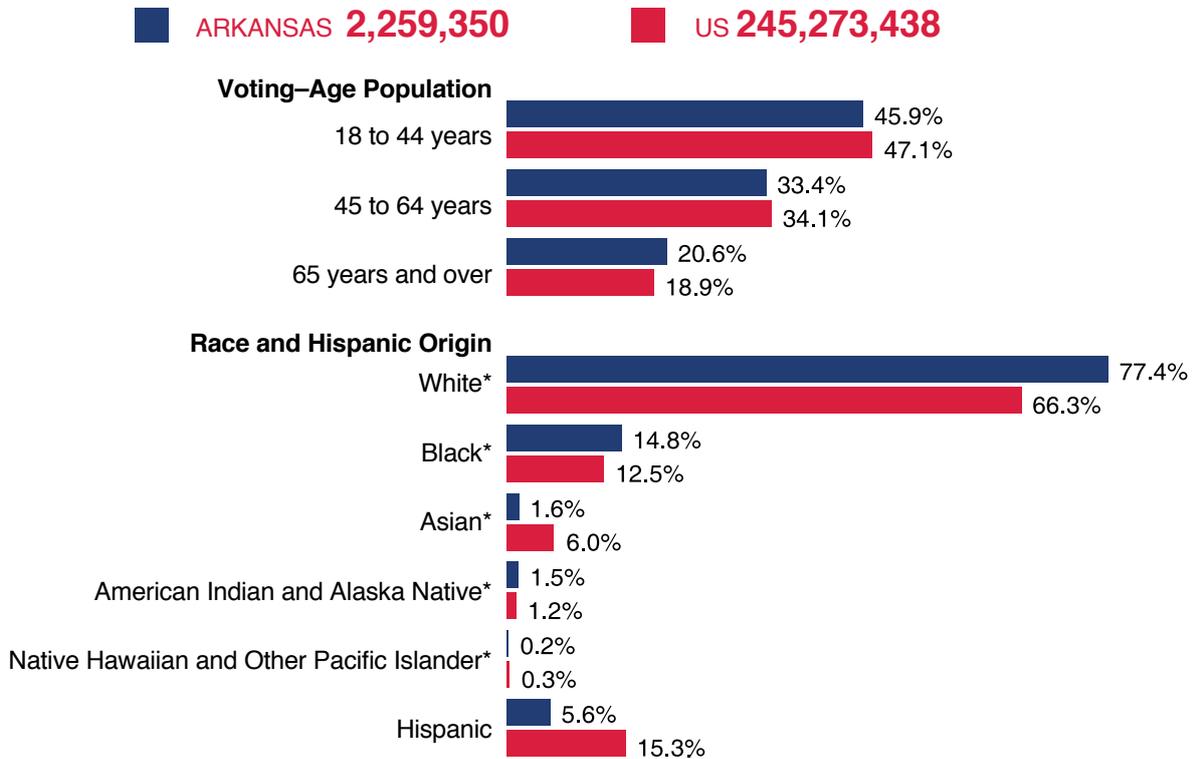
soybeans, cotton, poultry, and feed grains. Out of approximately 49,346 farms, 97 percent are family-owned and 16 percent of these farms account for almost 92 percent of production.⁷¹

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on almost all the industries. As most of the states, including Arkansas, started to announce stay-at-home orders, manufacturing was brought to a halt. Consumer demand for services was heavily affected.⁷²

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state's eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau⁷³

The number of eligible AAPI voters in Arkansas has grown by 29 percent in the last decade, i.e., more than nine times faster than the statewide voting population.⁷⁴

During the midterm elections in 2018, Indian-Americans were the largest ethnic group among the AAPI community. However, since the AAPI share of the electorate in the state is only 1.2 percent of the total vote, Indian-Americans are not likely to play a significant role in determining the outcome of the presidential election in November.

At 46 percent of the state's population, Evangelical Protestants form the largest religious community in Arkansas, and are likely to lean Republican and significantly influence the outcome.⁷⁵

Religious composition of adults in Arkansas⁷⁶

Christian	79%
Evangelical Protestant	46%
Mainline Protestant	16%
Historically Black Protestant	8%
Catholic	8%
Mormon	1%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	<1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	3%
Unaffiliated	18%
Don't Know	<1%

ELECTORAL HISTORY

The Democratic Party was at the helm in Arkansas for a number of years.⁷⁷ However, since the election of George W. Bush as president in 2000, the state has been voting Republican. In the 2016 general elections, Trump commanded a 60.6-percent share of the vote.⁷⁸

According to poll predictions by *The Economist* (as of 5 October), the Republicans will take Arkansas again in 2020, with Trump likely to command 55-65 percent of the popular vote share, and Biden to receive 35-46 percent.⁷⁹ The latest polls by FiveThirtyEight also predicts a win for Trump with a 56-percent share of vote, against Biden's 39.7 percent.⁸⁰

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Term limits (Ballot measure - Issue 2).**⁸¹ This measure seeks to reform Arkansas' term limits. At present, the limit on state legislators is that state senators and state representatives are allowed to serve up to 16 years in the Arkansas General Assembly. This measure, if this, will impose a term limit of 12 consecutive years for state legislators, with the opportunity to return after a four-year break.⁸²
- **Direct democracy and State legislatures (Ballot measure - Issue 3).**⁸³ This measure calls to change the requirements for citizen initiatives and the requirement of votes for legislative ballot issues proposals. If this is passed, it would require that a petition contain valid signatures equaling at least a certain percentage of signatures from each of the 45 counties instead of the current requirement of 15 counties.⁸⁴
- **Black Lives Matter.** Following the death of George Floyd, the State Capitol building in Little Rock organised the first large demonstration in the city. In order to make a bigger statement, protestors gathered near the ramp to interstate 630, a historic African-American district from the 1960s. When local media started to gather at the site, the police intervened, and a protest that started out peacefully was portrayed as violent. A majority of Black Lives Matter protests in Little Rock have been peaceful.⁸⁵

IDAHO



Source - Nations Online⁸⁶

A SNAPSHOT

Idaho is a landlocked mountainous state in the Pacific northwest region of the US and shares a border with Wyoming in the southwest, Nevada and Utah in the south, Washington and Oregon in the west, and the Canadian province of British Columbia in the north.

CAPITAL
BOISE

POPULATION
(ESTIMATED 2019)
1,787,065

INDIAN-AMERICAN
POPULATION
2,890

ELECTORAL
VOTES
4

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Idaho (in 2018-20)⁸⁷



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Idaho
\$75.8 million



Jobs supported by exports to
India in Idaho⁸⁸
591



Indian visitor spending
in Idaho⁸⁹
\$30.8 million



Economic contribution
of Indian international students
in Idaho⁹⁰
\$3.4 million

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)⁹¹



Idaho has been moderately affected by COVID-19 in comparison to other states in the US and has one of the lowest number of casualties. Soon after the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in the state, governor Brad Little issued a stay-at-home order in an attempt to curb the spread of the pandemic. Restaurants were temporarily closed, although drive-through and delivery was still allowed; and childcare, auto repair shops and grocery stores were allowed to remain open.⁹² In July, a group of doctors from Harvard University recommended that Idaho reinstate lockdown. However, the state governor was not in favour of the idea and extended only stage-4 of the lockdown so the state could focus on economic recovery.⁹³ Idaho is one of the states where a statewide mask mandate was not announced; specific cities, however, like Ada County in Southern Idaho and the City of Moscow in Northern Idaho did announce a citywide mandate on wearing masks in public spaces.⁹⁴

Economic impact

State GDP	\$67 billion GDP per capita - \$39,032
Pillar Industries: Real Estate, Manufacturing and, professional and business services	Real estate contributes approximately \$10.7 billion to state GDP; other big earners are manufacturing (\$8.6 billion), and professional and business services (\$8 billion)

Idaho’s economy is driven mainly by industries such as real estate, manufacturing, agriculture, and professional and business services.⁹⁵ Electrical equipment and food processing are two of the leading products for the manufacturing industry.⁹⁶

third-largest cheese producer in the country.⁹⁷

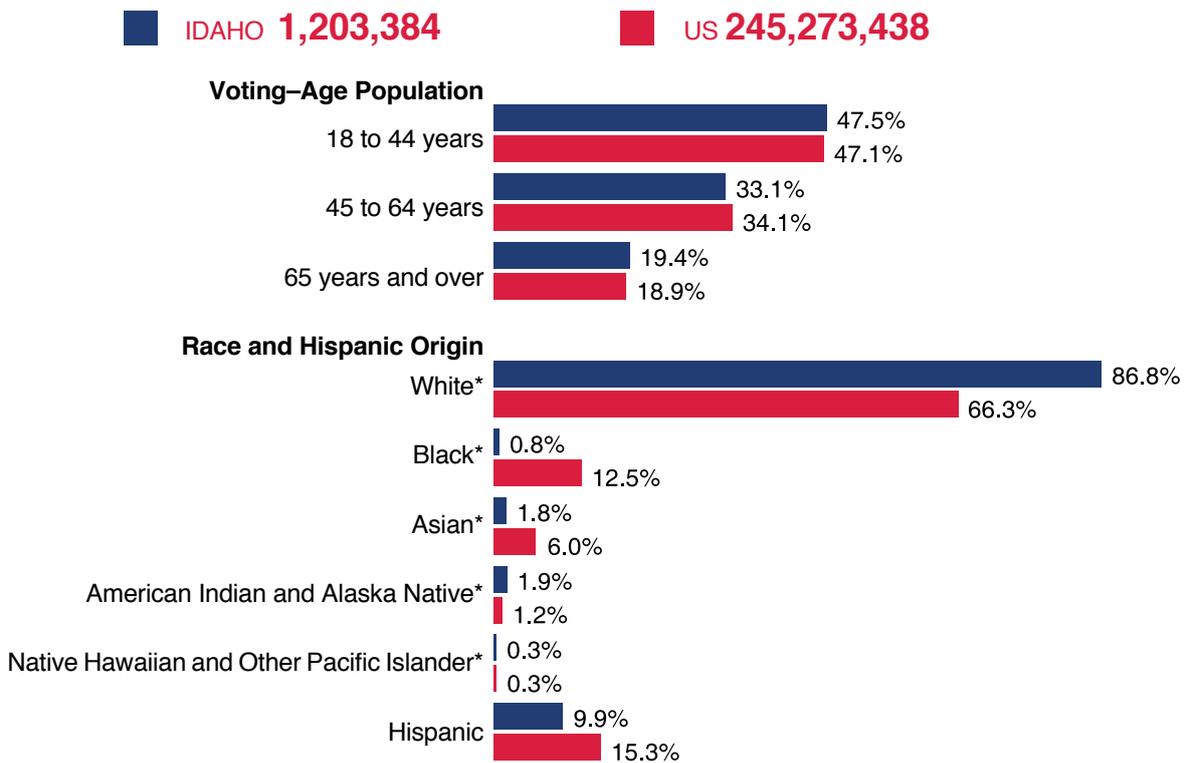
Agriculture is another leading industry in Idaho. The state is widely known for producing tomatoes and accounts for nearly one-third of all US production. It is also the largest producer of hard white wheat, the top producer of barley, and accounts for 20 percent of all US sugar beet production. Dairy farms churn out over 13 million pounds of milk a year, making Idaho the

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of workers quickly lost their jobs and the unemployment-related benefits programme—last used during the recession in 2009—had to go into effect. The programme added weekly unemployment payments of up to 13 weeks of additional unemployment insurance beyond the normal 20-week maximum period for payments. For the extended payments, the \$2-trillion COVID-19 rescue package authorised by Congress will be used by the state government.⁹⁸

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state’s eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau⁹⁹

Idaho's demographic is largely White American. The Hispanic population accounts for the largest minority group.

During the 2016 elections, the share of votes by Asians accounted for only 1.8 percent, which was well below the national average.¹⁰⁰ Moreover, the share of the Indian-American population in the overall population is too low to play any pivotal role in the upcoming elections.¹⁰¹

The state has a large share of Evangelical Protestants (21 percent) who traditionally support the Republican Party, and Mormons (19 percent) who are overwhelmingly Republican as well (61 percent supported Trump in the 2016 election).¹⁰²

Religious composition of adults in Idaho¹⁰³

Christian	67%
Evangelical Protestant	21%
Mainline Protestant	16%
Historically Black Protestant	<1%
Catholic	10%
Mormon	19%
Orthodox Christian	1%
Jehovah's Witness	<1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	4%
Unaffiliated	27%
Don't Know	1%

ELECTORAL HISTORY

The last time Idaho voted for a Democrat candidate in the presidential elections was in 1964. Since then, Idaho has become one of the most prominent red states in the country. In the 2016 elections, Trump emerged as a clear winner with 59.3 percent of the vote, against Clinton's 27.5 percent.¹⁰⁴ Even though the Republicans were the favourites in the state for most of the 20th century, the Democrats still managed to put up a competition. However, from the early '90s, Idaho began receiving migrants from places like Washington, Oregon and California. The Idaho population grew by 25 percent between only 1990 and 2000. With those who moved being largely conservative, Idaho's Republican status has been reinforced and the trend is expected to continue.¹⁰⁵

According to poll predictions by *The Economist* (as of 5 October), the Republicans will take Idaho again in 2020, with Trump likely to command 58-69 percent of the popular vote share, and Biden, 32-42 percent.¹⁰⁶ The latest polls by FiveThirtyEight predicts a win for Trump with 60.1 percent, against Biden's 35.7 percent.¹⁰⁷

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **State legislature measures.** Only one statewide ballot measure will appear in the upcoming elections and calls for a reform that would require the legislature to consist of 35 districts. The number of legislative districts is determined by a state statute, which means state legislation can vote to adjust the number anywhere between 30 and 35.¹⁰⁸
- **Special session bill for voters.** During the special session in August, the Idaho Legislature passed two election-related bills which were then signed into law by the governor. This bill will only be relevant for the November 2020 elections, as the pandemic urged everyone to adopt smooth voting for both citizens and clerks' offices. The first bill provisions in-person voting options, but polling locations will have to be chosen carefully where social-distancing guidelines can be effective. The second bill, meanwhile, aims to give county clerks more time to process the expected high volume of absentee ballots.¹⁰⁹
- **Black Lives Matter.** Large-scale protests have been organised across the prominent cities of Idaho. In the city of Boise, a major gathering was organised on 31 May, around the area of the Idaho State Capitol Building.¹¹⁰
- **Education.** Surveys conducted by the School of Public Service at Boise State University identified education as a primary challenge for the state, above other issues like healthcare, budget and taxes, criminal justice, and the environment. The people of Idaho believe that the state economy is on the right path, but education requires higher state funding.¹¹¹

INDIANA

Source - Nations Online¹¹²

A SNAPSHOT

Indiana is located at the 'Crossroads of America' in Midwestern US, with a short coastline at Lake Michigan in the northwest.

CAPITAL INDIANAPOLIS	POPULATION (ESTIMATED 2019) 6,732,219	INDIAN-AMERICAN POPULATION 36,539	ELECTORAL VOTES 11
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THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Indiana (in 2018-20)¹¹³



**Number of
Indian companies
in Indiana¹¹⁴**

9



**Total volume of investments
by Indian companies¹¹⁵
Approximately**

\$565.5 million

**(0.025% of total Indian investments
in the US, i.e. \$22.6 billion)**



**Number of jobs created
due to Indian investments
in Indiana¹¹⁶**

2,336



**Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Indiana¹¹⁷**

\$517.5 million



**Jobs supported by exports
to India in Indiana¹¹⁸**

3,883



**Indian Companies
in Indiana
Sector Diversification¹²¹**

**Information Technology and
Telecommunications**

66.67%

Manufacturing

22.22%

Automotive

11.11%



**Indian visitor spending
in Indiana¹¹⁹**

\$194.9 million



**Economic contribution
of Indian international students
in Indiana¹²⁰**

\$192.7 million

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)¹²²



Indiana reported its first COVID-19 case on 6 March 2020.¹²³ According to a study conducted by Indiana University, the infection-fatality rate for COVID-19 in Indiana was an estimated 0.58 percent.¹²⁴ The first response by Governor Eric Holcomb—to suspend schools and colleges—was initiated only on 19 March, followed by an order for shelter-in-place, prohibition of in-person dining, and suspension of all non-essential businesses starting 25 March.¹²⁵ On 4 May, the state started re-opening gradually, except for some counties which were still under strict lockdowns. At the time of publication of this report, almost all essential and non-essential businesses and commercial activities were still being allowed to run but with necessary restrictions until 25 September 2020.¹²⁶ The state is still under a mask mandate. However, Indiana remains one of five US states which have still not made arrangements to allow all voters to conduct vote-by-mail.¹²⁷

Economic impact¹²⁸

State GDP	\$321.1 billion GDP per capita - \$48,170
Pillar Industry: Manufacturing	The industry's GDP contribution is \$100.7 billion (26.9% of the state total)

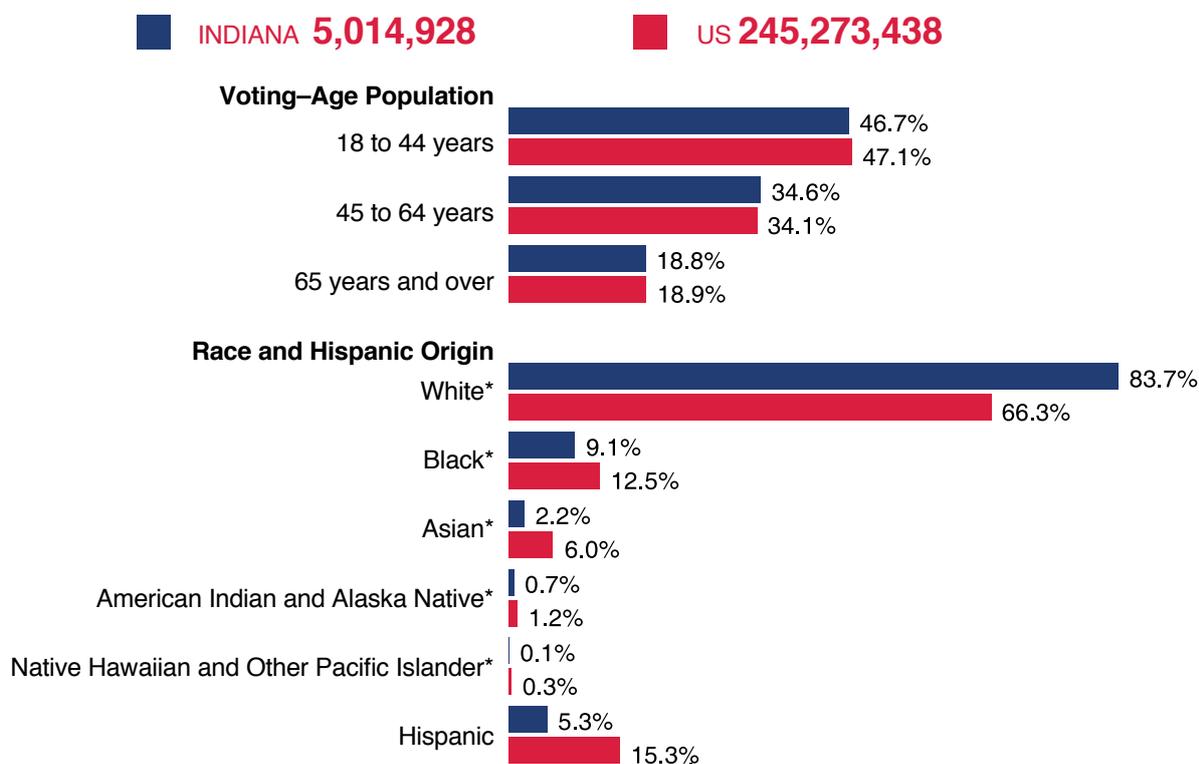
Even as the key industry in Indiana is manufacturing (the state is a leading chemical and transportation equipment manufacturer), it depends on services for a substantial proportion of its revenue. Long before the first COVID-19 case was reported from the state, the manufacturing industry, especially the pharmaceutical and chemical manufacturing industry, had already felt the tremors of the pandemic.¹²⁹ Unable to source key inputs from one of its largest exporters, China, the manufacturing industry began to suffer. Employment in the manufacturing sector fell sharply between March and April, even with the continuation of essential businesses and production.¹³⁰

According to Dr. Micah Pollak, an associate professor of Economics at Indiana University Northwest, a significant share of the pandemic's impact on Indiana's economy is self-inflicted, owing to the strict lockdown measures.¹³¹ Unemployment has been rife in the private sector, with the suspension of businesses prompting many small businesses to shut down altogether. However, revenue shortfalls and increased expenditure are likely to affect public sector employment as well.¹³²

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

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Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau¹³³

Although Indian-Americans comprise a small section of the voting-age population in Indiana, the state's economic prospects are largely dependent on its relationship with India. Indian tech giants like Wipro and Infosys have made significant new investments in the state, generating a large number of jobs.¹³⁴

Indiana is also 31-percent evangelical protestant—a community that has traditionally voted Republican. Their community will likely be influential for the election.

Religious composition of adults in Indiana¹³⁵

Christian	72%
Evangelical Protestant	31%
Mainline Protestant	16%
Historically Black Protestant	5%
Catholic	18%
Mormon	1%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	<1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	2%
Unaffiliated	26%
Don't Know	<1%

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Indiana has historically been a red state and has invariably voted for a Republican candidate in all presidential elections since 1972, except for the 2008 polls which Barack Obama swept in the state.¹³⁶ Based on the 2012 and 2016 presidential elections, the state has been rated R+9 on the Cook Partisan Voting Index.¹³⁷

According to poll predictions by *The Economist* as of 5 October, the Republicans will take Indiana in 2020, with Trump likely to command 53-63 percent of the popular vote share, and Biden, 37-47 percent.¹³⁸ The latest polls by FiveThirtyEight as of 5 October predicts a win for Trump with 53.1 percent share of vote, against Biden's 40.7 percent.¹³⁹

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Potential of India-US trade cooperation.** According to political scientist Sumit Ganguly of Indiana University, the elections could be a key factor in the state's international trade with India. Indiana is a major trading partner for India and exports goods worth approximately \$300 million to India annually. Indiana has substantial capacity in pharmaceuticals and this could be part of a broader strategy to ensure access to vaccines to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁴⁰ Greater cooperation with India—considered the 'pharmacy of the world'—would generate economic benefits for those engaged in the pharmaceutical industry in the state.
- **Socio-Economic Issues.** Indiana's voters identified improving the public education system, ensuring affordable healthcare for all, and protecting and conserving the natural environment as the top three key priorities for the governor and legislature to address.¹⁴¹ According to a poll conducted by the

Arizona State University on behalf of the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, the share of the top three issues were 28 percent, 26 percent and 14 percent, respectively.¹⁴² Comparatively, lowering taxes, immigrant policy and public safety were mentioned as top priorities by 7 and 5 percent of respondents, respectively.

- **Gun violence.** Death by firearms per 100,000 population is at 12.6 in Indiana, placing the state among the top 20 states in the incidence of gun-related violence in the US. Yet, in 2019 Republican Governor Holcomb passed a new law allowing guns to be carried inside places of worship that have an attached school or daycare centre, if that house of worship does not have any posted rules against carrying firearms. The law also reduced and eliminated certain fees on gun licenses and granted immunity from civil penalties for someone who shoots another person in a "justifiable" shooting.¹⁴³

IOWA



Source - Nations Online¹⁴⁴

A SNAPSHOT

Iowa is located in the mid-west region of the United States.

CAPITAL DES MOINES	POPULATION (ESTIMATED 2019) 3,155,070	INDIAN-AMERICAN POPULATION 14,271	ELECTORAL VOTES 6
-------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Iowa (in 2018-20)¹⁴⁵



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Iowa¹⁴⁶

\$163.8 million



Jobs supported by exports
to India in Iowa¹⁴⁷

1,181



Indian visitor spending
in Iowa¹⁴⁸

\$67.9 million



Economic contribution
of Indian international students
in Iowa¹⁴⁹

\$27.2 million

Key personalities



Swati Dandekar:¹⁵⁰ Former member of the Iowa House of Representatives from the 36th District (2003-2009) and the Iowa Senate from 18th District (2009-2011), Democrat Dandekar has also previously served as the US Executive Director of the Asian Development Bank.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)¹⁵¹



Iowa is one of the few states in the country that have not announced a mask mandate, as of the time of publishing this report. During the initial days of the outbreak in the US, Iowa state governor Kim Reynolds insisted on controlling the pandemic without significant preventive measures in place. Although she did declare a public health disaster and announced the closure of a number of businesses, no stay-at-home order was issued by the state. The White House Coronavirus Task Force recently announced Iowa as the state with the highest rate of infections and has recommended the closure of bars in the state.¹⁵²

Economic impact

State GDP	\$169.2 billion GDP per capita - \$53,798
Pillar Industries: Manufacturing and Finance & Insurance	Manufacturing contributes approximately \$33.6 billion, and Finance & Insurance industry contributes \$25.9 billion to state GDP

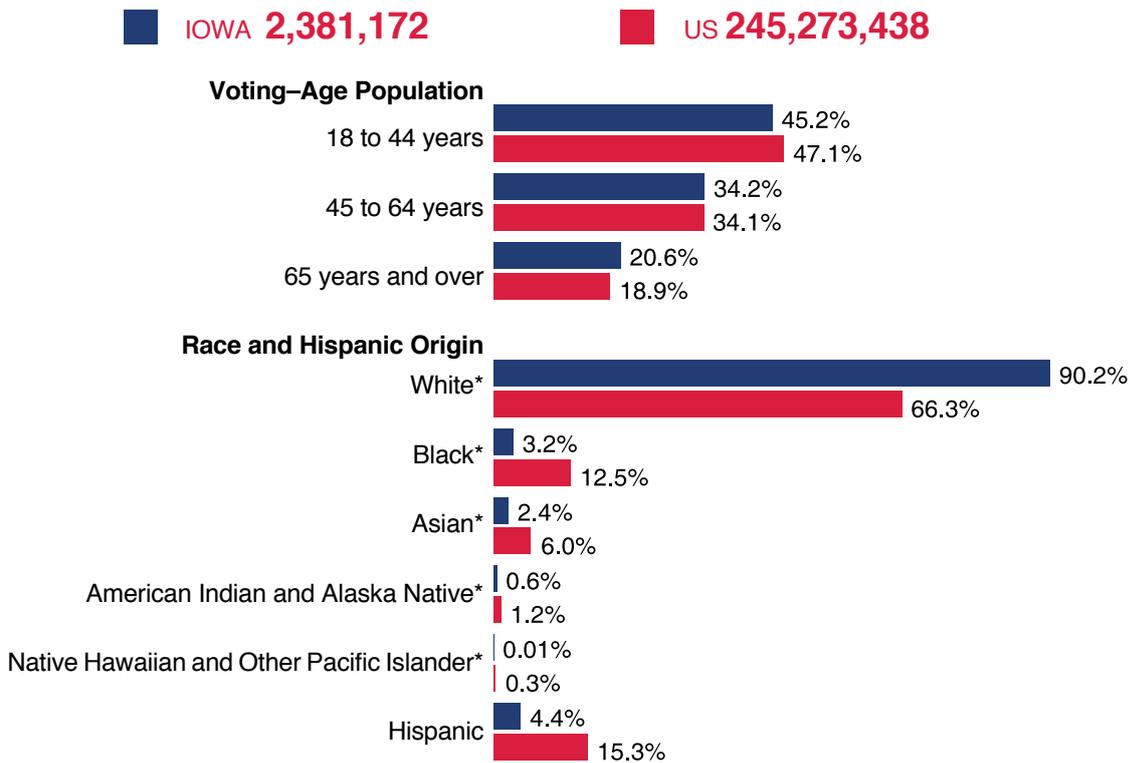
Iowa has a diverse industrial base that includes finance and insurance, bioscience, manufacturing, and agriculture as some of the leading industries.¹⁵³ Iowa is home to more than 80 insurance companies. The manufacturing industry is a significant contributor to mass employment; in 2018 this industry accounted for 222,586 jobs, almost 14 percent of total employment in the state. Moreover, the manufacturing industry supports 350,000 indirect jobs across the state.¹⁵⁴ Since over 90 percent of the land is used for agriculture, Iowa ranks second in the nation for total output from agriculture. The leading products of the agricultural industry include corn, soybeans and eggs.¹⁵⁵

Due to the pandemic, a study conducted by the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development at Iowa State University has observed, the state’s agriculture sector has lost approximately \$6 billion. Besides, the unemployment rate for April hovered between 13-16 percent across Iowa.¹⁵⁶ Other than that, as a result of the US-China trade war, the prices for agriculture products such as corn, soybean and pork have plummeted. Therefore, due to the combined impact of COVID-19 and the current trade tensions, the revival of Iowa’s agriculture industry will be an important issue in the near future.¹⁵⁷

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state’s eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau¹⁵⁸

Although the Indian-American community makes up only one percent of the state's population, it has the potential to be more influential in future US elections. Indeed, the Indian community in Eastern Iowa has grown over the years, and there are plans for a new Hindu temple in Robins city.¹⁶⁰

The Evangelical Protestant community (28 percent) which traditionally leans Republican, is also a significantly influential vote base in the state.

Religious composition of adults in Iowa¹⁶¹

Christian	77%
Evangelical Protestant	28%
Mainline Protestant	30%
Historically Black Protestant	2%
Catholic	18%
Mormon	<1%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	<1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	1%
Unaffiliated	21%
Don't Know	1%

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Iowa has traditionally been a red state, where the Republicans currently hold a Trifecta at the state level. In 2016, Trump won the state by a margin of 9.5 percent, in comparison to Obama's winning margin of 5.8 percent in 2012.¹⁶²

The Economist (as of 5 October) predicts no clear winner in Iowa. The latest polls by FiveThirtyEight predicts a close race—Trump will receive a 47.4-percent share of the vote, while Biden, 46.2 percent.¹⁶⁴

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Constitutional Convention.** Voters will determine whether Iowa will hold a Constitutional convention through a ballot measure in this election. The question has been pertinent in the state since 1970.¹⁶⁵
- **Electoral reforms and ballot administration.** Indian-American voters, among others, were disappointed with technical glitches in the Iowa Democratic caucuses where they had made efforts to turn up in large numbers to vote and even volunteer.¹⁶⁶

KANSAS



Source - Nations Online¹⁶⁷

A SNAPSHOT

Kansas is located in the central region of the United States and shares a border with Nebraska to the north, Missouri to the east, Oklahoma to the south, and Colorado to the west. .

CAPITAL
TOPEKA

POPULATION
(ESTIMATED 2019)
2,913,314

INDIAN-AMERICAN
POPULATION
16,519

ELECTORAL
VOTES
6

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Kansas (in 2018-20)¹⁶⁸



**Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Kansas¹⁶⁹**

\$158.1 million



**Jobs supported by exports
to India in Kansas¹⁷⁰**

1,209



**Indian visitor spending
in Kansas¹⁷¹**

\$61.8 million



**Economic contribution
of Indian international students
in Kansas¹⁷²**

\$17.7 million

Key personalities



Rajeev Goyle:¹⁷³ The Indian-American Democratic politician is a former member of the Kansas House of Representatives from the 87th District (2007-2011).

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)¹⁷⁴



Kansas has been moderately affected by COVID-19, with a strong recovery rate across the state. Having issued a stay-at-home order in March for about three weeks, it became one of 20 states to allow people to conduct only essential businesses.¹⁷⁵ These orders were extended until early May to further curb the spread of COVID-19. Thereafter, retailers, dine-in restaurants and offices were allowed to reopen in some parts of the state as part of the first step towards reopening the state economy.¹⁷⁶ Additionally, a mask mandate was issued across the state in the beginning of July and has been extended three times so far, at the time of publication—with the current extension set to last till 15 October.¹⁷⁷

Economic impact

State GDP	\$148.5 billion GDP per capita - \$50,970
Pillar Industry: Manufacturing	Manufacturing contributes approximately \$7.6 billion to state GDP

Kansas’ top industries include manufacturing, real estate, agriculture, and professional and business services.¹⁷⁸ Due to the presence of a highly skilled labour force, manufacturing is a leading industry in the state – it contributes 11 percent of total employment in the state, with approximately 165,700 workers across all manufacturing sectors.¹⁷⁹

The agriculture industry covers nearly 45 million acres of farmland, that includes 58,560 farms in the state.¹⁸⁰ Kansas is a leader in the production of wheat, grain sorghum and beef. It is ranked as the number one producer of wheat and sorghum, and produces nearly 20 percent of all wheat grown across the country.¹⁸¹

Kansas manufacturers have fared better than those in other states during the pandemic—however, the

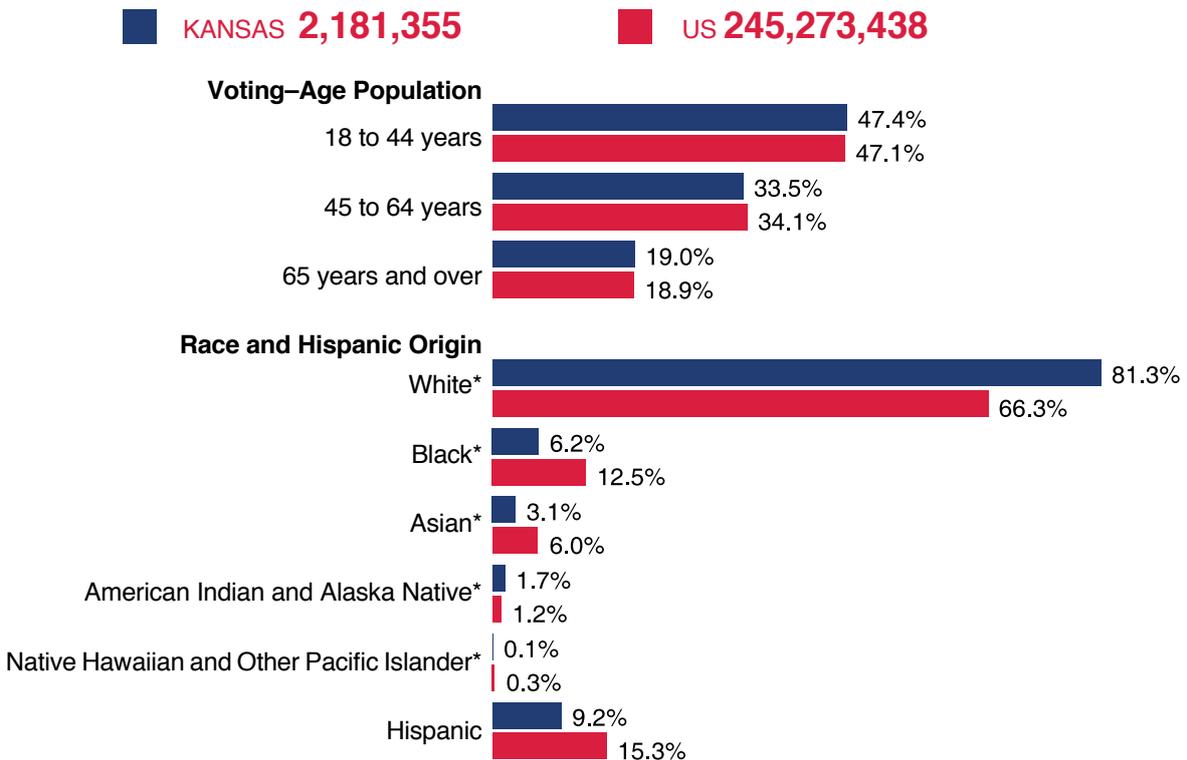
impact of COVID-19 has played out differently for each sector. Manufacturing in food production, plastics and machinery was relatively more stable; meanwhile, manufacturers in aerospace, and the oil and gas sectors, were heavily affected. An interesting shift to undertake new opportunities to manufacture COVID-19-related products was observed in this industry. For instance, breweries shifted their focus to manufacture hand sanitisers; whereas, oil and gas industry manufacturers started producing ventilators under the guidance of the medical equipment sector.¹⁸²

The unemployment rates across the state were at their peak during April, at 11.9 percent, moving up from 3.1 percent in March.¹⁸³

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state’s eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau¹⁸⁴

The Indian-American population accounts for 0.5 percent of the total population in Kansas. The Asian community comprises 3.1 percent of voters in Kansas. Even as the Indian-American population has been growing across the state over the years, they are not expected to play a significant role in influencing the results of the November elections.¹⁸⁵

The Kansas population is mostly White American. Evangelical Protestants—comprising a strong vote base for the Republican Party—constitute 31 percent of the electorate in the state and will play a significant role in November.

Religious composition of adults in Kansas¹⁸⁶

Christian	76%
Evangelical Protestant	31%
Mainline Protestant	24%
Historically Black Protestant	2%
Catholic	18%
Mormon	1%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	4%
Unaffiliated	20%
Don't Know	<1%

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Kansas is a strong Republican state. The last time the state voted Democrat was in 1964. In the 2016 elections, Trump received a 57-percent vote share, against Clinton's 36 percent.¹⁸⁷ Despite being a staunchly red state, however, Kansas has seen some power shifts too. The 2018 midterm elections witnessed the House of Representatives being won by the Democrats, while the Senate was retained by the Republicans and Democrat Laura Kelly won the governorship over Kris Kobach, who was the former secretary of state.¹⁸⁸ Therefore, at present, Kansas has a veto-proof legislature in the state dominated by the Republicans, and a Democrat governor.

According to poll predictions by *The Economist* as of 5 October, the Republicans will take Kansas again in 2020, with Trump likely to command 51-61 percent of the popular vote share, and Biden, 39-49 percent.¹⁸⁹ Additionally, the latest polls by FiveThirtyEight predicts a win for Trump with a 50.4-percent share of votes, against Biden's 42.9 percent.¹⁹⁰

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Ballot drop boxes.** Kansas has offered each of the 105 counties up to two drop-off boxes for mail-in ballots, in order to smoothen the voting process for the November elections. This decision is a result of public uproar caused by recent mail operation changes and delivery delays.¹⁹¹ Gov. Kelly believes that the use of ballot drop boxes will lower public health risks that could arise from waiting in long lines at the polling stations. Meanwhile, Trump has expressed his dismay at the use of ballot drop boxes and has filed a suit over what he alleged was the fraudulent use of drop boxes in Pennsylvania. Kansas lawmakers support the idea of using ballot drop boxes for mail-in ballots.¹⁹²
- **Black Lives Matter.** The Black Lives Matter movement in Topeka is raising awareness on police reforms, after the killing of George Floyd by the Minneapolis police. Moreover, they have raised a number of demands, including a ban on chokeholds, prohibition of racial profiling, and establishing a registry of police misconduct. The BLM-Topeka is not only looking to end police brutality but wants to achieve equality in all other areas of life including healthcare, housing and education.¹⁹³
- **Racial violence.** The shooting of Srinivas Kuchibhotla, an Indian-American, in Kansas in 2017 put the community on edge and provoked widespread outrage. It is likely to influence the way Indian-Americans vote in November.¹⁹⁴

KENTUCKY

Source - Nations Online¹⁹⁵

A SNAPSHOT

The Commonwealth of Kentucky is located in the southern region of the United States.

CAPITAL FRANKFORT	POPULATION (ESTIMATED 2019) 4,467,673	INDIAN-AMERICAN POPULATION 14,780	ELECTORAL VOTES 8
------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Kentucky (in 2018-20)¹⁹⁶



Number of
Indian companies
in Kentucky¹⁹⁷

10



Total volume of investments
by Indian companies¹⁹⁸
Approximately

\$529.9 million

(2.34% of total Indian investments in the US,
i.e. \$22.6 billion)



Number of jobs created
due to Indian investments
in Kentucky¹⁹⁹

951



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Kentucky²⁰⁰

\$269.1 million



**Jobs supported by exports
to India in Kentucky²⁰¹**

1,812



**Indian visitor spending
in Kentucky²⁰²**

\$88.4 million



**Economic contribution
of Indian international students
in Kentucky²⁰³**

\$32.4 million



**Indian Companies
in Kentucky
Sector Diversification²⁰⁴**

**Information Technology and
Telecommunications**

50%

Manufacturing

30%

**Life Sciences, Pharmaceuticals
and Healthcare**

20%

Key personalities



Nima Kulkarni:²⁰⁵ Democrat Kulkarni is a member of the Kentucky House of Representatives from District 40 since January 2019. An immigrant lawyer by profession, she is also the first Indian-American to occupy an elected position in the state.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)²⁰⁶

Total Cases

72,617

Active Cases

59,287

Total Deaths

1,209

Recovered

12,121

Kentucky has seen more deaths from COVID-19 than the national average. It was one of the states to issue a 'Healthy at Home order' back in March, instead of the 'Stay at Home' orders of most other states. In addition, the state governor, Andy Beshear, announced the closure of all non-essential businesses.²⁰⁷

As part of attempts to restart the economy, businesses including manufacturing, construction, vehicle and boat dealerships, and a few others were allowed to open from early May with certain guidelines to ensure safety. Subsequently, restaurants were allowed to reopen from 22 May 22 at 33-percent capacity and outdoor seating, and bars were not allowed to reopen until 1 July.²⁰⁸ However, after another surge in COVID-19 cases in July, bars were made to close their businesses for a second time and restaurants had to reduce their seating capacity to 25 percent.²⁰⁹ Kentucky is one of the states where masks have been made mandatory. The executive order for a statewide mask mandate was announced in early July, and by early August, the incidence of COVID-19 infection in the state started to plateau.²¹⁰

Economic impact

State GDP

\$184.7 billion

GDP per capita - \$41,463

Pillar Industry: Manufacturing

The industry's GDP contribution is \$37.7 billion

Kentucky has a diverse industrial base that drives the state’s economy and provides employment to a large number of people.

Due to Kentucky’s strategic location, skilled workforce and business-friendly environment, it is considered an ideal location for multinational companies to establish their manufacturing factories.²¹¹ Bourbon, for one, is generally associated with Kentucky—this is because 95 percent of the world’s bourbon supply is distilled within the state. Overall, food and beverage is another key industry for Kentucky—the state has some 350 facilities that employ over 52,000 people.²¹²

In Kentucky, 5.1 percent of the population do not have health insurance. Ambulatory healthcare services is among the leading industry in Kentucky and plays a significant role in contributing to GDP and employment.²¹³ Other important industries are agriculture, logistics, chemicals, and food and beverage.²¹⁴

In a fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, Kentucky lost almost 15.5 percent of its jobs in April. Among the industries, the hotels, restaurants, and manufacturing were hit hardest.²¹⁵

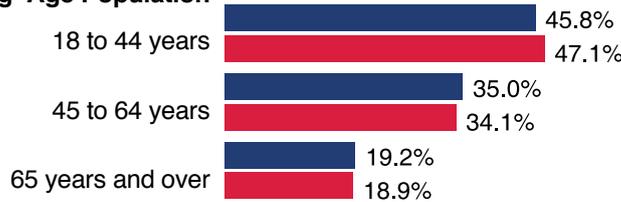
ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

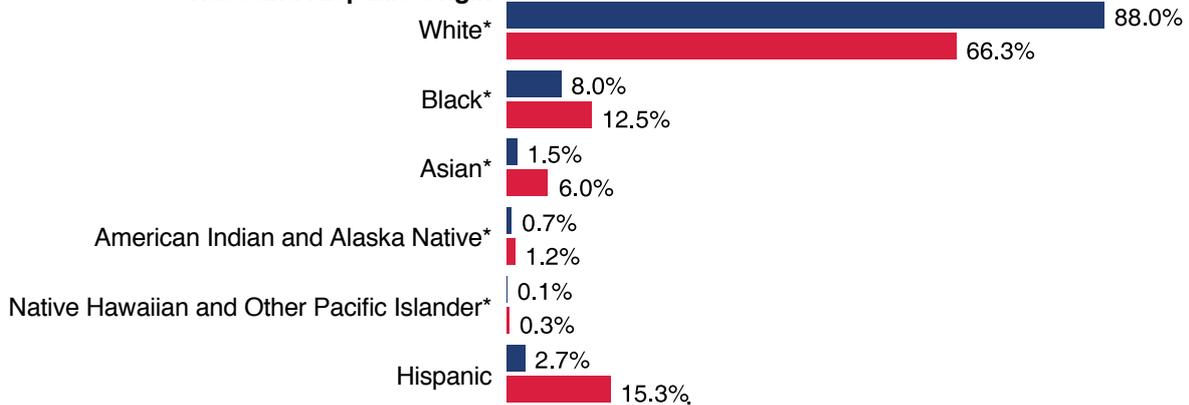
Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population

KENTUCKY 3,400,843 **US 245,273,438**

Voting-Age Population



Race and Hispanic Origin



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state’s eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau²¹⁶

Religious composition of adults in Kentucky²¹⁷

Christian	76%
Evangelical Protestant	49%
Mainline Protestant	11%
Historically Black Protestant	5%
Catholic	10%
Mormon	<1%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	<1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	2%
Unaffiliated	22%
Don't Know	<1%

The share of Asian voters is only 1.5 percent of total. The Indian-American population accounts for only 0.3 percent of the population in the state—the community is not expected to play a significant role in the 2020 presidential elections.²¹⁸

Evangelical protestants comprise 49 percent of state population. Leaning traditionally Republican, their vote in November will be crucial.

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Despite a recent landmark win for Democrat governor Andy Beshear, Republicans have been dominating the presidential elections from Kentucky in the last five elections. In addition, the gap between share of votes has been increasing from 56.5 percent in 2000 to 62.5 percent in 2016 in favour of a Republican presidential candidate.²¹⁹

The Economist predicts that the Republicans will take Kentucky again in 2020, with Trump likely to command 56-67 percent of the popular vote share, and Biden, 33-44 percent.²²⁰ FiveThirtyEight polls shows Trump currently ahead in Kentucky with a 57.1-percent approval rate, against Biden's 38.5 percent.²²¹

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Voters to show a government-issued photo ID.** Kentucky's legislature, which is dominated by the Republican party, was able to override Democratic Governor Andy Beshear's veto and passed a bill that would require voters to show a government-issued photo ID. Such strict photo ID laws are prevalent in other Republican-controlled states, and they are seen as especially targeting students, low-income individuals, and non-White American voters, who are generally inclined to vote liberal. Those in favour of the bill argue that it is meant to combat voter fraud.²²²
- **Marsy's Law Crime Victims Rights Amendment.** This measure is one of the two statewide ballot measures up for vote in the upcoming elections. It aims to add Marsy's Law to the Kentucky Constitution that would give crime victims the same rights as the accused. In 2018, this constitutional amendment was approved by the voters, with 63 percent support. However, the Kentucky Supreme Court voided the amendment on the ground of failing to inform the electorate of its substance. If Kentucky passes the law, it would be the 15th state to do so.²²³

LOUISIANA

Source - Nations Online²²⁴

A SNAPSHOT

Louisiana is a state in the deep south region of the United States.

CAPITAL	POPULATION (ESTIMATED 2019)	INDIAN-AMERICAN POPULATION	ELECTORAL VOTES
BATON ROUGE	4,648,794	11,857	8

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Louisiana (in 2018-20)²²⁵



Number of
Indian companies
in Louisiana²²⁶

5



Total volume of investments
by Indian companies²²⁷
Approximately

\$63 million

(0.28% of total Indian investments in the US,
i.e. \$22.6 billion)



Number of jobs created
due to Indian investments
in Louisiana²²⁸

328



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Louisiana²²⁹

\$734.7 million



**Jobs supported by exports
to India in Louisiana²³⁰**

3,605



**Indian Companies in Louisiana
Sector Diversification²³³**

**Information Technology and
Telecommunications**

80%



**Indian visitor spending
in Louisiana²³¹**

\$135.8 million

**Life Sciences, Pharmaceuticals
and Healthcare**

20%



**Economic contribution
of Indian international students
in Louisiana²³²**

\$24 million

Key personalities



Piyush “Bobby” Jindal: Republican Jindal served as the 55th Governor of Louisiana (2008-2016) and has also been a member of the US House of Representatives and chairperson of the Republican Governors Association. Under President George W. Bush, he was appointed Principal Adviser to the US Secretary of Health and Human Services. He has expressed that he no longer wishes to be referred to as “Indian-American”, but simply “American”.²³⁴

COVID-19 PANDEMIC’S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)²³⁵



The state has a sprawling oil refinery industry, and a booming chemical industry as well. The Covid-19 pandemic has put 287,000 jobs at risk statewide. In some major cities of the state, these numbers are: 127,000 in New Orleans, 55,000 in Baton Rouge, and 41,000 in Lafayette. With travel and tourism getting disrupted during the peak season of February through June, the hotel industry has suffered 16,631 direct job losses. The number further increased to 49,138 in

Louisiana is one among 20 states in the US with a mask mandate for everyone over eight years of age. The state has introduced election reforms to make voting easier in November– with online voter registration and early voting – which still requires photo identity as verification in order to vote.²³⁶

Economic impact

State GDP	\$226.6 billion GDP per capita - \$48,377
Pillar Industry: Manufacturing	The industry’s GDP contribution is \$52.2 billion

the first month since there were jobs lost from other local industries supporting the hotel industry.²³⁷ The impact is severe in New Orleans, which heavily relies on tourism, shipping and transportation along with the service industry and gig economy jobs. It soon became a hotspot of COVID-19 cases since there was an influx of visitors from outside the state who came to celebrate Mardi Gras in mid-February.

The economic situation was further exacerbated by a severe fall in oil prices due to lack of demand during the pandemic, compounded by current fluctuations in the international market. This harmed the local energy producers and service companies that support them in Lafayette and Houma-Thibodaux. Experts fear that long periods of such deflated figures may wipe out certain

players from the local industries leading to a negative impact on the state GDP. The year 2020 was expected to be crucial for Louisiana’s economy, with emergence from two years of slowed progress due to slowdowns in energy and industrial construction and the strain on shipping and trade because of the US-China trade war.²³⁸

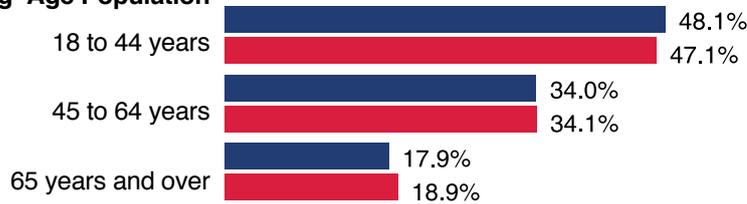
ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

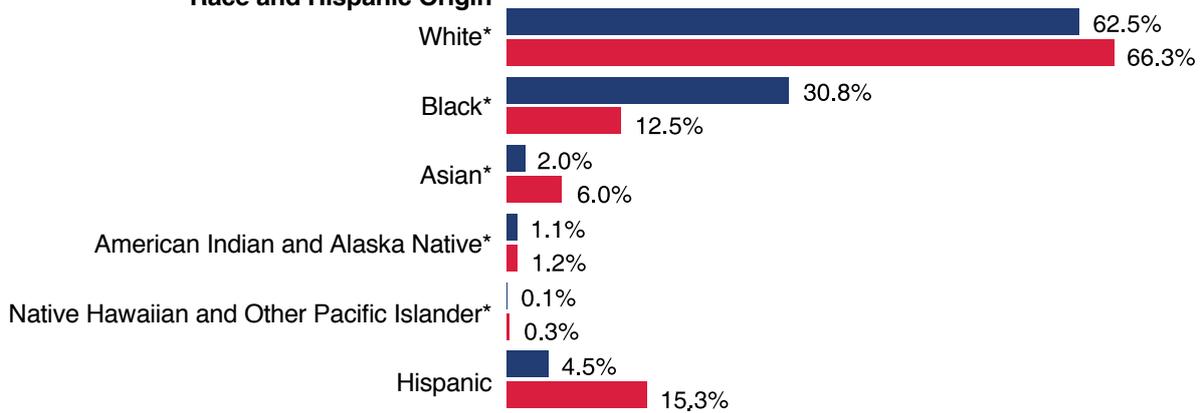
Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population

LOUISIANA 3,536,183 **US 245,273,438**

Voting-Age Population



Race and Hispanic Origin



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state’s eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau²³⁹

Religious composition of adults in Louisiana²⁴⁰

Christian	84%
Evangelical Protestant	27%
Mainline Protestant	8%
Historically Black Protestant	22%
Catholic	26%
Mormon	<1%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	1%
Other Christian	1%
Non-Christian Faiths	2%
Unaffiliated	13%
Don't Know	<1%

The state has a small immigrant population. South Asians living in the state have described their experience as “isolating” and “challenging” primarily due to the absence of support from local institutions and their own weakness in the English language.²⁴¹ The Indian-American population is relatively small—about 11,900 people—and of little influence.

ELECTORAL HISTORY

The voting landscape in Louisiana has mostly tilted Republican. White-American conservatives have shifted from Democrat to Republican. The majority is visible in both chambers of the state since 2011. Despite this, Democrats were able to prevent a supermajority in the state in the 2019 Senate elections. This was a win considering that Democrat Governor John Edwards was able to retain his veto power due to this.²⁴²

The Economist predicts that the Republicans will take Louisiana again in 2020, with Trump likely to command 51-63 percent of the popular vote share, and Biden, 37-49 percent.²⁴³ FiveThirtyEight polls shows Trump currently ahead in Louisiana with a 53.9-percent approval rate against Biden's 39.6 percent.²⁴⁴

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Abortion Rights.** On 29 June 2020, the US Supreme Court struck down the Louisiana State law that prevented women from accessing safe medical abortions. The decision came as a huge win for pro-choice activists not only in Louisiana but across the country. Both Biden and Trump have abortion rights in their agenda for the 2020 elections: Biden is pro-choice and Trump is pro-life. The Republicans have proposed to eventually stop federal funding to abortion-related programmes and calls for a nationwide ban on accessible abortions.²⁴⁶
- **Tort Reforms.** The Democrats and Republicans have been at loggerheads over the reforms for

costly auto insurance premiums in the state which make it unattractive to new business. The state also has the country's highest claims-to-litigation ratio, indicating increasing scams.²⁴⁷ The Civil Justice Reform Act of 2020 was signed by the Democrat state Governor on 13 July 2020; it aims to reduce the burden on insurance companies and lower the cost of insurance policies. The Act represents a partisan compromise which hopes to curb the skyrocketing legal costs in Louisiana's insurance market.²⁴⁸ Prior to this law, the Republican legislature in May 2020 tried to pass a similar one with more far-reaching reforms. It was vetoed by the governor.²⁴⁹

MISSISSIPPI

Source - Nations Online²⁵⁰

A SNAPSHOT

Mississippi is situated in the southern and Midwestern US and is home to the great Mississippi river, after which it is named.

CAPITAL
JACKSON

POPULATION
(ESTIMATED 2019)
2,976,149

INDIAN-AMERICAN
POPULATION
6,921

ELECTORAL
VOTES
6

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Mississippi (in 2018-20)²⁵¹



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Mississippi²⁵²
\$150.3 million



Jobs supported by exports
to India in Mississippi²⁵³
1,042



Indian visitor spending
in Mississippi²⁵⁴
\$53.5 million



Economic contribution
of Indian international students
in Mississippi²⁵⁵
\$15.8 million

Key personalities



Dr. Sampath Shivangi: Dr. Shivangi is a lifelong member of the Republican Party, and has been re-elected for the fifth time as a delegate to the Republican National Convention.²⁵⁶ He is also the national President of the Indian-American Forum for Political Education. He has been part of the Bush administration as an adviser to US Health and Human Services.²⁵⁷ Having already served as chair and vice-chair of the Mississippi State Board of Mental Health, he was invited in 2019 by the Trump administration to serve on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Centre for Mental Health Services National Advisory Council.²⁵⁸

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)²⁵⁹



The first COVID-19 case in the state was reported on 12 March 2020.²⁶⁰ Two days later, Governor Tate Reeves declared a state of emergency, allowing for restricted public movement. A stay-at-home order was issued only on 1 April, requiring all non-essential businesses to be suspended.²⁶¹ The hospitalisation rate was significantly high and by 31 July, the state was at 83-percent ICU capacity.²⁶² Several of its counties were, and are still under a mask mandate at the time of writing this report.²⁶³ Mississippi does not allow early voting for elections and, while several states across the country have provided for an early voting period and/or broad absentee vote-by-mail provision, Mississippi has chosen to stick to its conventional election provisions, only with a minor tweak to the criteria to be eligible for absentee voting. Appeals have been lodged to the higher courts.²⁶⁴

Economic impact

State GDP	\$100.1 billion GDP per capita - \$33,558
Pillar Industry: Manufacturing	The industry's GDP contribution is \$18.8 billion)

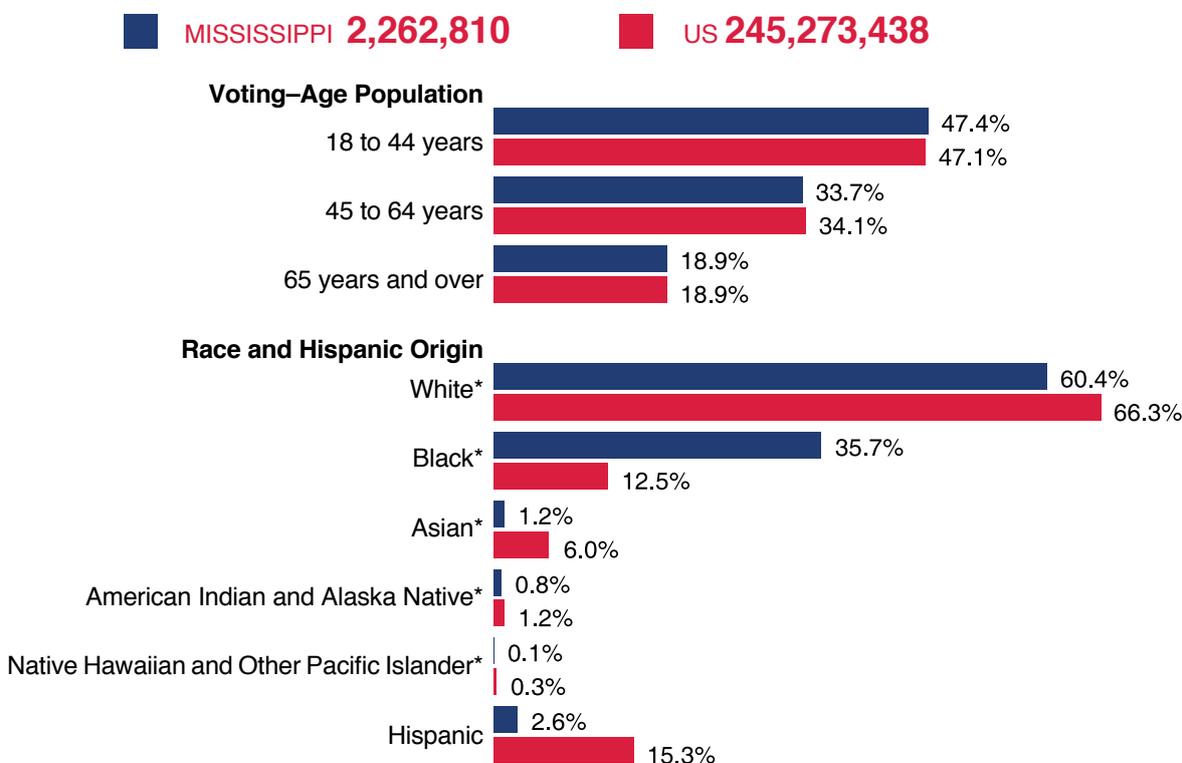
The state has a strong agricultural sector. The hospitality and leisure industry is one of the largest employers in the state, with 11.6 percent of the total workforce.²⁶⁵ The hospitality industry has been facing a serious crisis since the onset of the pandemic as there has been a decline in both travel and tourism. Many hotels and lounges have had to lay off large numbers of their staff. The automotive industry is also heavily affected, with factory shutdowns such as the Nissan plant in Canton and the Toyota plant in Blue Springs.²⁶⁶

A survey has found that among more than 1,000 respondents, 47 percent of the businesses reported employment cuts or staff rearrangements.²⁶⁷ According to state economist Darrin Webb, the State can lose an expected \$1.2 billion in tax revenue by mid-2021. The federal governments assistance and the State’s response including an increase in unemployment benefits has helped maintain income levels to some extent, and yet, the economy is not expected to recover fully until 2023 or later.²⁶⁸

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state’s eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau²⁶⁹

Religious composition of adults in Mississippi²⁷⁰

Christian	83%
Evangelical Protestant	41%
Mainline Protestant	12%
Historically Black Protestant	24%
Catholic	4%
Mormon	1%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	<1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	2%
Unaffiliated	14%
Don't Know	1%

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Mississippi is a red state, voting Republican in all presidential elections since the 1980s.²⁷² The Republican Party has attained victory in the state by large margins, although the gap declined slightly during the 2008 and 2012 presidential elections. In 2016, Trump won the state by a considerably large margin, garnering 58 percent of the votes against Clinton's 40 percent. Even for the US Senate and Governors, Mississippi has consistently voted Republican.

The share of Indian-Americans in the state's population is low and is not expected to significantly affect the voting pattern. Still, their role is critical since a higher percentage of them tend to support the Democrats over the Republicans. Recently, Indian-American physician from Mississippi and Trump's delegate at the Republican National Convention Sampat Shivangi, remarked that Biden's selection of Kamala Harris as his running mate will most likely affect voting patterns.²⁷¹

Comprising 41 percent of the state population, Evangelical protestants are an electorally influential community in Mississippi for the Republican Party. Smaller—constituting 24 percent of the electorate—but nonetheless influential, the historically African-American Protestant community in the state is a key voting constituency for the Democratic Party.

According to projections by *The Economist*, Trump will sweep the 2020 election in Mississippi with 50-62 percent of the popular vote share, and Biden will receive 38-50 percent.²⁷³ FiveThirtyEight polls shows Trump ahead in Mississippi with a 53.1-percent approval rate, against Biden's 40.6 percent.²⁷⁴

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Legalisation of Marijuana.** Mississippi is among the five states that will be taking the issue of marijuana legislation to the ballot in November.²⁷⁵ In Mississippi there are two competing measures to the legalisation of marijuana. Initiative 65, a citizen initiative, would allow physicians to recommend medical cannabis for patients with any of 22 qualifying conditions such as cancer, multiple sclerosis, and post-traumatic stress disorder. The constitutional amendment would establish a regulatory program for businesses to grow and sell medical cannabis and for the products to be taxed at a seven-percent rate. The other measure, Initiative 65A led by legislators, allows the smoking of medical cannabis only for people who are terminally ill, and leaves the future creation of rules and a regulatory framework up to the legislature.²⁷⁶
- **Healthcare expansion.** According to the Mississippi State Department of Health, the state ranks last across the country in almost every leading health outcome. Both in Mississippi and across the country, these disparities are worse for those who have faced obstacles to health due to their socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, geographic location and other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion.²⁷⁷ This makes healthcare a major issue in the 2020 Senate elections from Mississippi between Republican Cindy Hyde-Smith and Democrat Mike Espy. The latter has endorsed Medicaid expansion as one of his central agendas,²⁷⁸ but his counterpart has been critical of the Affordable Care Act.²⁷⁹

MISSOURI



Source - Nations Online²⁸⁰

A SNAPSHOT

Missouri is in the Midwest of the United States.

CAPITAL JEFFERSON CITY	POPULATION (ESTIMATED 2019) 6,137,428	INDIAN-AMERICAN POPULATION 27,418	ELECTORAL VOTES 10
-----------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Missouri (in 2018-20)²⁸¹



**Number of
Indian companies
in Missouri²⁸²**

7



**Total volume of investments
by Indian companies²⁸³
Approximately**

\$595 million

(2.633% of total Indian investments in the US,
i.e. \$22.6 billion)



**Number of jobs created
due to Indian investments
in Missouri²⁸⁴**

1,101



**Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Missouri²⁸⁵**

\$392.4 million



**Jobs supported by exports
to India in Missouri²⁸⁶**

3,413



**Indian Companies
in Missouri
Sector Diversification²⁸⁹**

**Information Technology and
Telecommunications**

85.71%



**Indian visitor spending
in Missouri²⁸⁷**

\$205.3 million

**Life Sciences, Pharmaceuticals
and Healthcare**

14.29%



**Economic contribution
of Indian international students
in Missouri²⁸⁸**

\$208.3 million

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)²⁹⁰



Missouri has decided to provide around 25,000 disposable masks to polling sites throughout the state to make voting safer in November. Already, there have been three elections during the pandemic, so Missouri has gained considerable experience in handling polling events.²⁹¹

Economic impact

State GDP	\$275.6 billion GDP per capita - \$45,076
Pillar Industry: Professional and business services	The industry's GDP contribution is \$42.3 billion

Manufacturing is the second largest industry in the state, especially aerospace and transportation. Agriculture is also an important industry.

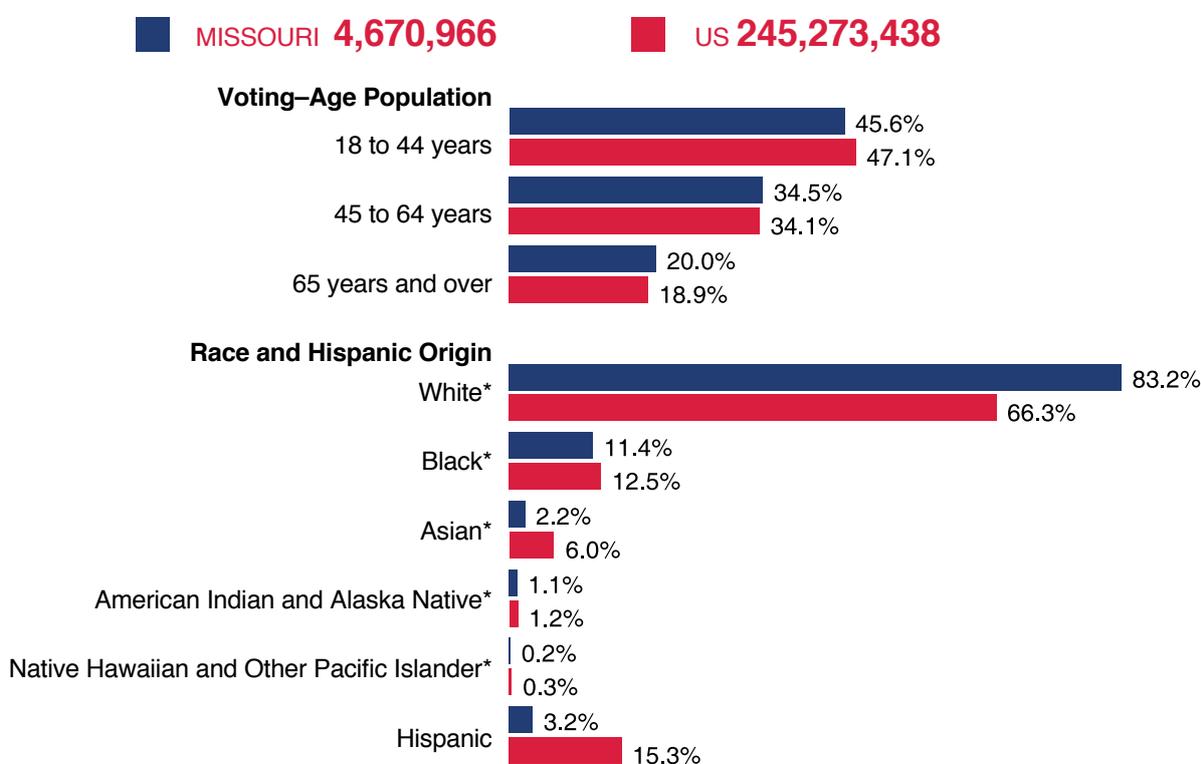
Unemployment levels in Missouri have reached levels similar to those before the Second World War. The low-income jobs have suffered most since they are usually in the hospitality sector—including restaurants, tourism, transportation and retail.²⁹³ There was debate over whether a Wayfair Tax should be introduced in Missouri since the state believes that the revenue generated from these taxes could aid the economy in many ways.²⁹⁴

Hospitals are responsible for a large proportion of the state’s GDP. Some of the largest hospitals in the country are in Missouri. Since over 100,000 people have been infected by COVID-19 in the state, the need for healthcare and nursing facilities has only increased.²⁹²

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state’s eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau²⁹⁵

Religious composition of adults in Missouri²⁹⁶

Christian	77%
Evangelical Protestant	36%
Mainline Protestant	16%
Historically Black Protestant	6%
Catholic	16%
Mormon	1%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	<1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	3%
Unaffiliated	20%
Don't Know	<1%

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Missouri used to be known as a bellwether state since it often voted for the candidate who eventually became president. For the past five elections, it has voted Republican, despite the fact that they have overall voted Democratic 10 more times than they voted Republican (29-19).²⁹⁹

Evangelical protestants in the state comprise 36 percent of the population and will be an important electoral constituency for the Republican Party.

A little over 12,000 Indian-Americans reside in Missouri. In St. Louis, Missouri, Indian-Americans are now the largest foreign-born population, along with 14 other cities within Missouri as well. Around 15,000 residents who were born in India currently live in the region of St. Louis.

Indian-Americans in Missouri hold significant influence over the outcome of the polls but cannot swing the state.²⁹⁷ This is because Indian-Americans constitute about seven percent of the immigrant population in Missouri, and the total immigrant population in the state is only four percent of the electorate. The winning margin for the Republicans has been much wider—18.5 percent in the 2016 elections, and 9.4 percent in 2012.²⁹⁸

The Economist model predicts that Trump will win Missouri in 2020, with Biden likely to command 39-50 percent of the popular vote share and Trump, 50-61 percent.³⁰⁰ FiveThirtyEight polls shows Trump ahead in Missouri with a 51-percent approval rate, against Biden's 44.8 percent.³⁰¹

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Gun Violence.** The Governor of Missouri, Mike Parson, spoke on the issue of gun violence and was in favour of conducting stricter background checks before an individual is allowed to purchase a gun. The issue is extremely important to the people of Missouri since there have been several school shootings of children in St. Louis in the recent past. In Columbia, Missouri, Parson backed the idea of limiting access to guns for young people, those who are accused of committing domestic violence, and prior offenders.³⁰²
- **Infrastructure.** Governor Mike Parson has succeeded in convincing the legislature to issue \$301 million in bonds so that over 200 bridges across the state could be repaired. However, this was not enough for the people of Missouri since this was only fixing a fraction of the problem, and also ignoring other forms of infrastructure such as roads. The idea of raising taxes was unpopular amidst voters and they criticised multiple schemes where infrastructure was funded through higher taxes.³⁰³
- **Healthcare.** In a study conducted by the University of Chicago, out of the 1,891 voters in Missouri, about half believe that healthcare is the most pressing issue at the moment. Two-thirds of the voters said that they would be in favour of a government-run health care system.³⁰⁴

MONTANA



Source - Nations Online³⁰⁵

A SNAPSHOT

Montana is located in the Northwest of the United States.

CAPITAL
HELENA

POPULATION
(ESTIMATED 2019)
1,068,778

INDIAN-AMERICAN
POPULATION
842

ELECTORAL
VOTES
3

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Montana (in 2018-20)³⁰⁶



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Montana³⁰⁷

\$48.3 million



Jobs supported
by exports to India
in Montana³⁰⁸

477



Indian visitor spending
in Montana³⁰⁹

\$24.9 million



Economic contribution
of Indian international students
in Montana³¹⁰

\$1.9 million

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)³¹¹



Montana has a low infection rate. Still, a mask mandate exists. Governor Steve Bullock allowed all Montana counties to hold the general election by mail-ballots. When Montana held a mail-ballot primary election, the turnout was higher than in any other year.³¹² COVID-19 has also become an issue within Montana jails due to overcrowding—30 Yellowstone County inmates tested positive for COVID-19 and were, consequently, moved to a jail isolation area.³¹³

Economic impact

State GDP	\$44.4 billion GDP per capita - \$42,276
Pillar Industry: Real estate, rental and leasing	The industry's GDP contribution is \$7.1 billion

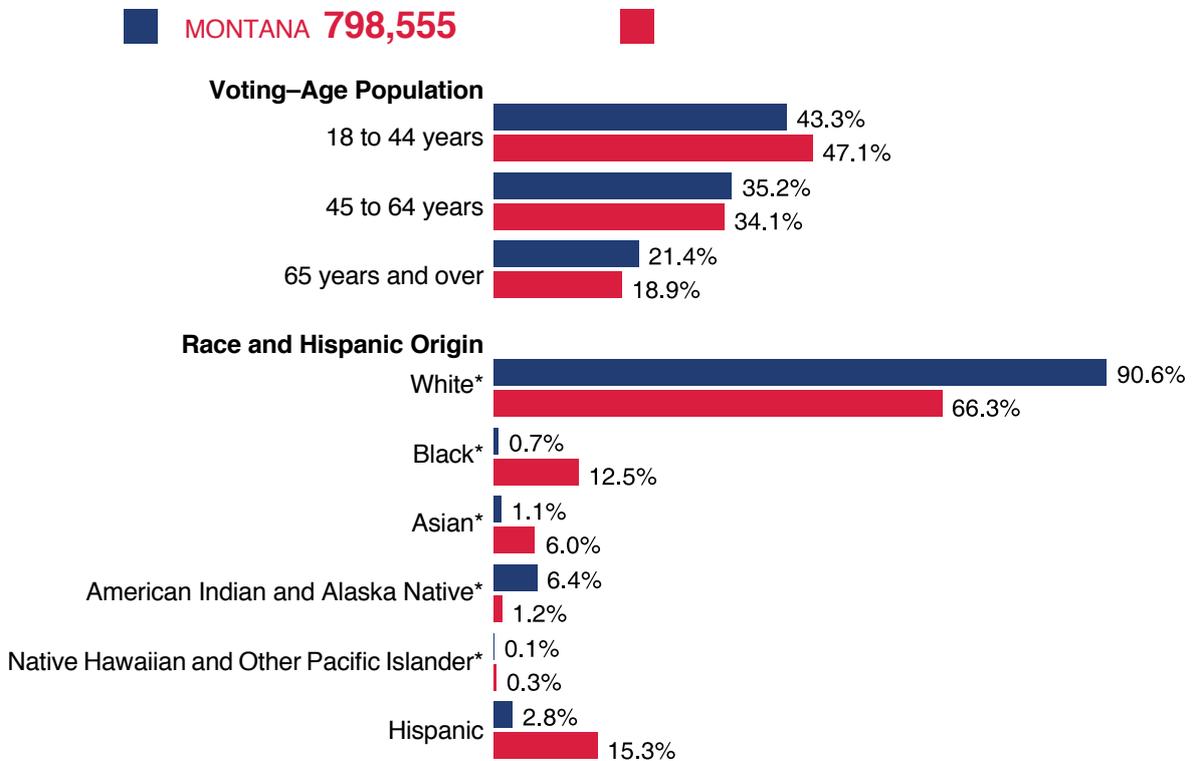
Montana has a diverse industrial base, with livestock and agriculture being important sources of revenue. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a detrimental impact on the economy of the state. In April 2020, there were already 50,000 jobs that had been lost and personal income had decreased by around \$4 billion. It is predicted that 75,000 jobs will be lost over the entirety of 2020 – especially in transportation and agriculture. Personal income is also expected to fall by 11.7 percent (\$6.4 billion) in Montana by the end of 2020.³¹⁴

Under the CARES Act, small businesses can apply for a loan to retain their employees and pay their operating expenses for eight weeks.³¹⁵ The federal government has also set up a grant where meat processing businesses are given \$2 million in financial aid. Each business can receive up to \$150,000 to expand their physical infrastructure.³¹⁶

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state's eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau³¹⁷

Religious composition of adults in Montana³¹⁸

Christian	65%
Evangelical Protestant	28%
Mainline Protestant	14%
Historically Black Protestant	<1%
Catholic	17%
Mormon	4%
Orthodox Christian	1%
Jehovah's Witness	1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	5%
Unaffiliated	30%
Don't Know	<1%

Montana has the second smallest Indian-American population in the country – with 842 people.³¹⁹ Its demographic is mostly White American, and the Republican-leaning Evangelical Protestant community is among the most influential voting constituencies in the state.

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Montana is a bellwether state—it has a history of voting for the winning presidential candidate. In the State Senate, there are 30 Republicans and 20 Democrats.³²⁰ Montana has also voted Republican every election cycle since 1968, with the exception of 1992.

The Economist predicts that the Republican party will take Montana in 2020, with Trump to command 51-62 percent of the popular vote share, and Biden, 38-49 percent. There is a 99-percent chance of Trump winning the most votes.³²¹ FiveThirtyEight polls shows Trump currently ahead in Montana with a 51-percent approval rate against Biden's 43 percent.³²²

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Jobs.** Since Montana is experiencing an extreme recession, there has been a large decline in jobs. Starting from April, a large number of people have been unemployed across sectors.³²³

NEBRASKA



Source - Nations Online³²⁴

A SNAPSHOT

Nebraska is located in the Great Plains and Midwestern United States.

CAPITAL
LINCOLN

POPULATION
(ESTIMATED 2019)
1,934,408

INDIAN-AMERICAN
POPULATION
6,862

ELECTORAL
VOTES
3

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Nebraska (in 2018-20)³²⁵



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Nebraska³²⁶

\$77.8 million



Jobs supported
by exports to India
in Nebraska³²⁷

646



Indian visitor spending
in Nebraska³²⁸

\$34.6 million



Economic contribution
of Indian international students
in Nebraska³²⁹

\$16.4 million

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)³³⁰



There has been a mask mandate in Lincoln, Nebraska since 20 July. However, there is no mask mandate in the Douglas County. This is because of the legal challenges and logistical hurdles that are associated with issuing a mask mandate in Omaha city. Nevertheless, people are being encouraged to wear their masks to arrest the spread of COVID-19.³³¹

Economic impact³³²

State GDP	\$111.5 billion GDP per capita- \$58,053
Pillar Industry: Manufacturing	The industry's GDP contribution is \$13.5 billion

The economy of Nebraska has lost over \$1.5 billion due to the pandemic. Nebraska also records a high unemployment rate of 8.3 percent—over 92,000 jobs were lost and \$497 million was lost in wages. However, in comparison to other states, the impact on the economy has not been as drastic. Nebraska still has the 3rd lowest unemployment rate in the country.³³³

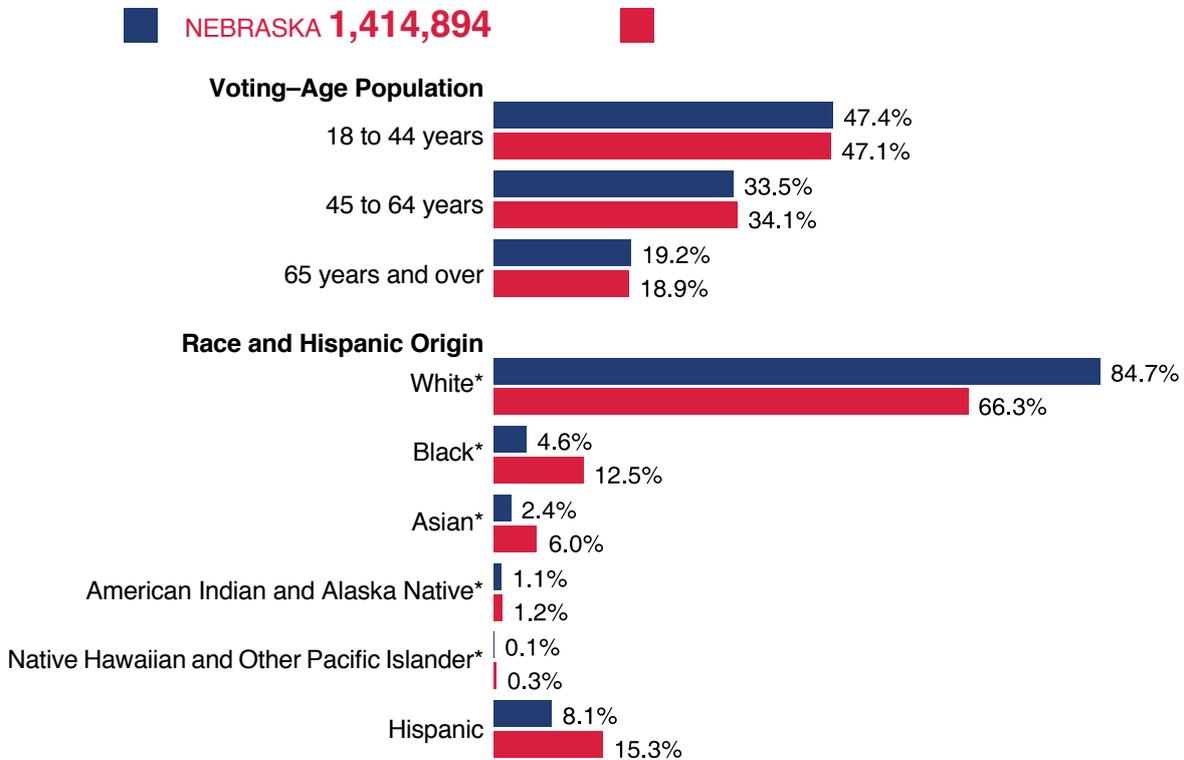
is also a large ethanol producer. A drop in worldwide agricultural prices also had a consequent effect on the economy of Nebraska. For example, the price of corn was around 25 percent less than it was at the beginning of the year. This drop in prices of agricultural goods led to the closure of many food packaging facilities across the state. It has also led to a sharp decline in ethanol production, since there was now a reduced demand for transportation fuel.³³⁴

Nebraska’s economy is heavily dependent on agriculture. It is the leading producer of corn in the country. It

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state’s eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau³³⁵

Religious composition of adults in Nebraska³³⁶

Christian	75%
Evangelical Protestant	25%
Mainline Protestant	24%
Historically Black Protestant	2%
Catholic	23%
Mormon	1%
Orthodox Christian	1%
Jehovah's Witness	<1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	4%
Unaffiliated	20%
Don't Know	1%

There is no significant Indian-American population in Nebraska—they constitute only about five percent of immigrants in the state (which, overall, comprise seven percent of the state's population).³³⁷ The state has a sizeable, mostly Republican-leaning Evangelical Protestant community, comprising 25 percent of the electorate.

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Nebraska is seen as a red state since they have voted for the Republican party in most election cycles. Its rural population has not grown as rapidly as some of the other states in the country, and therefore it has lost some of their electoral influence. This is validated by the fact that they previously had eight electoral votes but now, only five.³³⁸

The Economist predicts that the Republican Party will take Nebraska in 2020, with Trump commanding 54-66 percent of the popular vote share, and Biden, 35-46 percent.³³⁹ FiveThirtyEight polls shows Trump ahead in Nebraska with a 53-percent approval rate, and Biden's is 47 percent.³⁴⁰

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Healthcare.** In a survey including 740 voters and 163 non-voters from Nebraska, 26 percent said that healthcare was a key issue in the election.³⁴¹ Especially during the pandemic, voters believe that the Nebraska hospitals require federal relief. There has been a large drop in hospital revenues since they have to deal with drug shortage expenses, uncompensated care costs and capital costs. The Nebraska Hospital Association (NHA) is urging Congress to provide additional support to frontline healthcare workers and increase health benefits for those who are uninsured.³⁴²
- **Taxes.** Nebraska will be considering a constitutional amendment which would expand the availability of tax increment financing. The residents are keen to enable casino gambling in Nebraska and “all forms of games of chance” at (licensed) horse-racing tracks. Alongside, a gambling tax would also be imposed that would be hypothecated into state property tax credits.³⁴³ The residents believe that enabling casinos in Nebraska would help the economy and government through high tax revenues.

NORTH DAKOTA



Source - Nations Online³⁴⁴

A SNAPSHOT

North Dakota is in the midwestern and northern region of the US.

CAPITAL
BISMARCK

POPULATION
(ESTIMATED 2019)
762,062

INDIAN-AMERICAN
POPULATION
2,322

ELECTORAL
VOTES
3

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to North Dakota (in 2018-20)³⁴⁵



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from North Dakota³⁴⁶

\$74 million



Jobs supported
by exports to India
in North Dakota³⁴⁷

551



Indian visitor spending
in North Dakota³⁴⁸

\$14.2 million



Economic contribution
of Indian international students
in North Dakota³⁴⁹

\$5.3 million

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)³⁵⁰



The Governor of North Dakota, Doug Burgum, has not issued a mask mandate despite the rise in COVID-19 cases. Also, the pandemic plan in North Dakota allows schools to make decisions regarding public awareness of positive COVID-19 cases.³⁵¹

Economic impact³⁵²

State GDP	\$50.8billion GDP per capita -\$67,244
Pillar Industry: Oil and gas extraction	The industry's GDP contribution is \$6.7 billion

Agriculture is also an important industry in the state, with other top employers being education, finance, and transportation.

the numbers for August are expected to be rising as well.³⁵³

The pandemic has largely affected the oil and gas extraction industry. Despite a decrease in oil production during the initial months of the pandemic, the oil output from North Dakota rose by 20 percent in July. However,

There has also been a drastic change in the labour market. There have been overall reductions in wages, declining participation of the labour force, and higher levels of unemployment. The level of unemployment is currently projected to reach 20 percent by the end of 2020.³⁵⁴

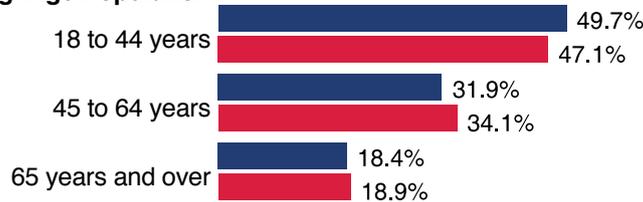
ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

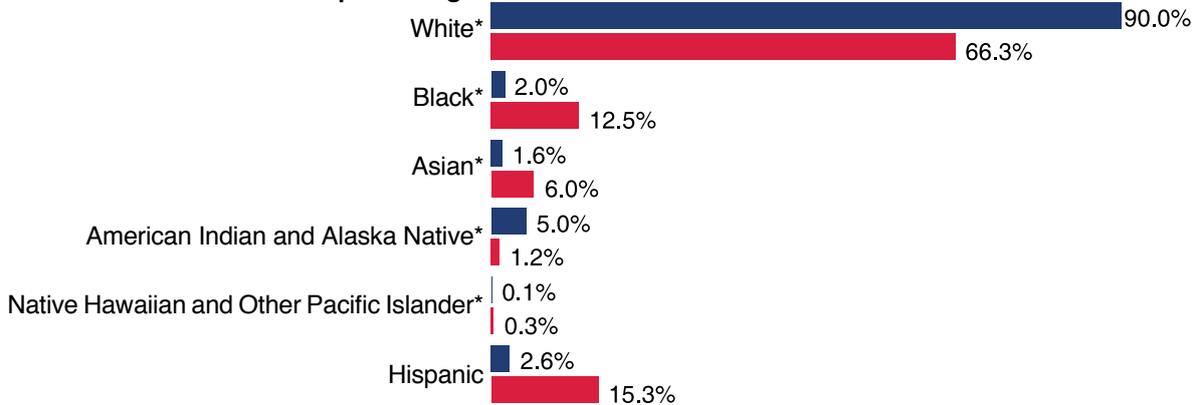
Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population

NORTH DAKOTA 570,955 **US 245,273,438**

Voting-Age Population



Race and Hispanic Origin



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state's eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau³⁵⁵

Religious composition of adults in North Dakota³⁵⁶

Christian	77%
Evangelical Protestant	22%
Mainline Protestant	28%
Historically Black Protestant	1%
Catholic	26%
Mormon	<1%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	<1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	3%
Unaffiliated	20%
Don't Know	<1%

Rajan Zed (a spiritual leader) had performed a Hindu opening prayer in North Dakota's Legislature in 2019.³⁵⁷ Overall, there is a small population of Indian-Americans in North Dakota - 2322 people, even though there has been an 88-percent increase in the Indian population in the state from 2000 to 2010.³⁵⁸

ELECTORAL HISTORY

North Dakota has voted Republican in 26 out of 32 presidential elections, and in 2016 Trump won in the state with a 63-percent margin. However, North Dakota has only three electoral votes, so they have less influence on the election outcome.³⁵⁹

The Economist model predicts that Trump will win North Dakota in 2020 with 59-70 percent of votes, against Biden's 31-41 percent.³⁶⁰ FiveThirtyEight polls shows Trump currently ahead in North Dakota with a 58.1-percent approval rate, and Biden's is 35.8 percent.³⁶¹

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Trade Policy.** The trade war between China and the US has had a negative impact on the farmers of North Dakota. The farmers that produce soybeans in North Dakota have particularly suffered since the volume of soybean exports have decreased significantly. The residents of North Dakota also hope for reductions in federal regulations so they can restore the previous state of their economy.³⁶²
- **Oil prices.** North Dakota's largest industry is oil and gas extraction. The state is accountable for

two percent of the US' natural gas reserves.³⁶³ The oil price crash in April 2020 has had an extremely negative impact on the oil production in North Dakota since they were no longer producing as much as they did prior to the pandemic. Currently, the price of crude produced in the Bakken is \$33 a barrel – which is almost half of the price before the pandemic (\$66 a barrel). This has led to a loss of jobs; therefore, this issue is of concern to all who work in the particular industry.³⁶⁴

OKLAHOMA



Source - Nations Online³⁶⁵

A SNAPSHOT

Oklahoma is located in the South-Central region of the US.

CAPITAL OKLAHOMA CITY	POPULATION (ESTIMATED 2019) 3,956,971	INDIAN-AMERICAN POPULATION 13,810	ELECTORAL VOTES 7
----------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Oklahoma (in 2018-20)³⁶⁶



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Oklahoma³⁶⁷

\$200.8 million



Jobs supported
by exports to India
in Oklahoma³⁶⁸

1,539



Indian visitor spending
in Oklahoma³⁶⁹

\$96.2 million



Economic contribution
of Indian international students
in Oklahoma³⁷⁰

\$37.8 million

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)³⁷¹



On 20 August, Oklahoma was placed in the 'red zone' as it recorded more than 100 COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people. It was also ranked 15th across the US in terms of COVID-19 case count. Governor Kevin Stitt has publicly rejected the idea of a state-wide mask mandate and has yet to issue any stay-at-home orders. He believes that these restrictions will only cause more harm to the economy during the pandemic.³⁷²

Economic impact

State GDP	\$190.9 billion GDP per capita is \$48,569
Pillar Industry: Mining, Quarrying & Oil and Gas Extraction	The industry's GDP contribution is \$29.3 billion

The oil and gas industries in Oklahoma have suffered critically due to the pandemic. The oil and gas drilling activities have decreased substantially since the state currently has only 10 active rigs, in comparison to the 100 prior to the pandemic.³⁷³

there may be an estimated loss of 21,826 jobs and a decrease of \$529 million in total income. However, there is an increased demand for food products that are in the food retail sector (especially through online sales and home delivery).³⁷⁴

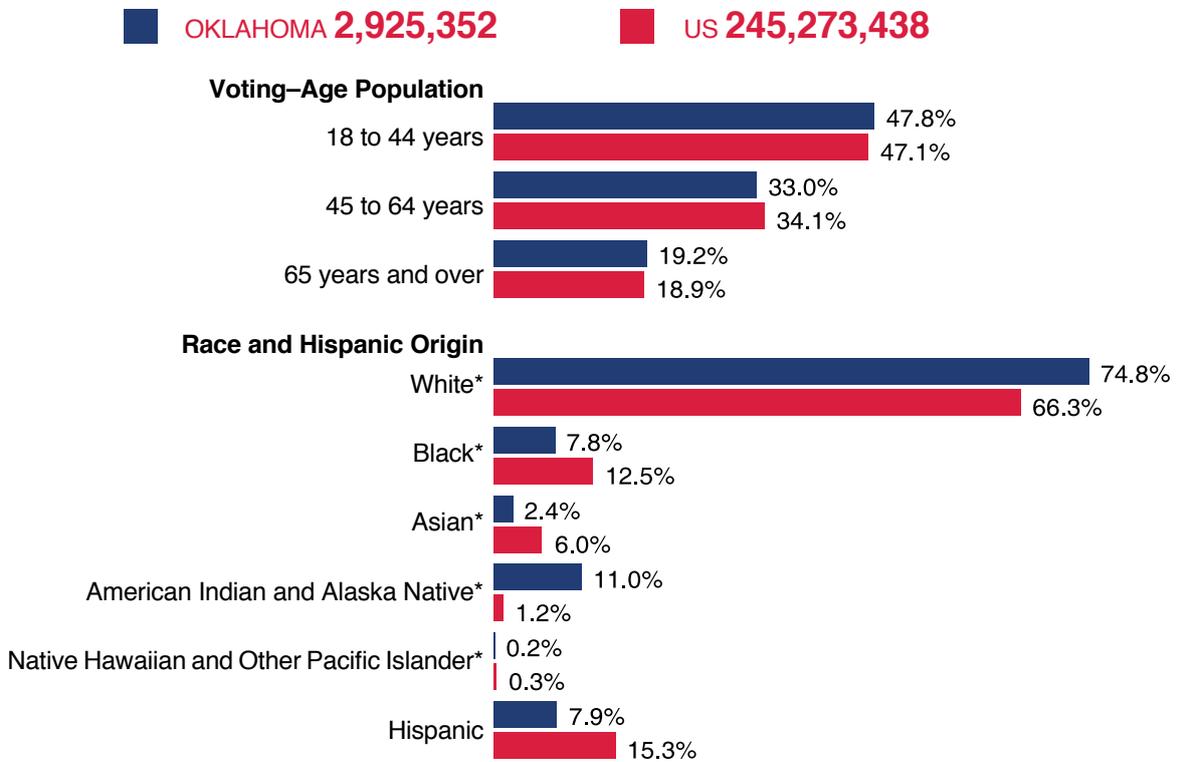
There has also been an impact on the food processing sector in Oklahoma. It is speculated that up to 3,650 jobs in the food processing industry may be lost as a result of the pandemic. In the food service industry,

The tourism and hospitality industry in Oklahoma lost 23,671 direct jobs due to the pandemic and an additional 47,487 jobs in supporting industries.³⁷⁵

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state's eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau³⁷⁶

Religious composition of adults in Oklahoma³⁷⁷

Christian	79%
Evangelical Protestant	47%
Mainline Protestant	18%
Historically Black Protestant	4%
Catholic	8%
Mormon	1%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	<1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	2%
Unaffiliated	18%

Asians constitute about 2.4 percent of the state's population;³⁷⁸ of them, Indians constitute a sizeable majority. There is a considerable Indian-American population in Oklahoma, about 13,000 strong. While their numbers make it unlikely for them to be able to swing the election, Indians are poised to be a significant voter base for the Democratic Party in the state. Indian-Americans in Oklahoma are inclined to lean Blue.³⁷⁹

There is also a large Evangelical Protestant community in the state—comprising 47 percent of the electorate—which traditionally leans Republican.

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Oklahoma is categorised as a conservative state since the majority of its federal and statewide offices are held by the Republican Party, which also holds a majority in both chambers of the state legislature. Oklahoma used to be a swing state; since 1968, however, it has voted Republican in every presidential election.³⁸⁰

The Economist predicts that Trump is likely to win the vote of Oklahoma with 59-69 percent of votes, against Biden's 31-41 percent.³⁸¹ The FiveThirtyEight polls also projects a Republican win, as Trump leads with 58.9 percent and Biden, 34.8 percent.³⁸²

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **The Economy.** COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the economy of Oklahoma. A Pew Research Center survey in August found that 79 percent of voters in the state said that the economy will be an important factor in their decision for November.³⁸³ The state's gross tax collections are down by 14 percent in May 2020, in comparison to the past year. Many of the smaller businesses have been forced to shut down.
- **Violent Crime.** The same Pew survey found 59 percent of respondents saying that violent crime is an important issue.³⁸⁴ The rate of violent crime in Oklahoma is above the national average. For the crimes of murder, rape, property crime and aggravated assault, for example, Oklahoma ranks higher than the US average. The people of Oklahoma blame the rate of crime on the high rates of poverty and low social capital.³⁸⁵
- **Healthcare.** More than six of every ten of respondents (62 percent) in the August survey by Pew Research Center said that healthcare is an issue that will influence their voting decision.³⁸⁶ At present, Oklahoma has the second highest rate of uninsured people at one in every seven people. One solution would be to increase the availability of short-term insurance and Association Health Plans (AHPs); however, this is unlikely to be a long-term solution as these plans mislead buyers into paying for coverage that does not necessarily protect them during a health crisis.³⁸⁷

SOUTH CAROLINA



Source - Nations Online³⁸⁸

A SNAPSHOT

The Commonwealth of South Carolina is located in the Southeast of the United States.

CAPITAL COLUMBIA	POPULATION (ESTIMATED 2019) 5,148,714	INDIAN-AMERICAN POPULATION 87,483	ELECTORAL VOTES 9
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THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to South Carolina (in 2018-20)³⁸⁹



**Number of
Indian companies
in South Carolina³⁹⁰**

9



**Total volume of investments
by Indian companies³⁹¹
Approximately**

\$75.22 million

**(0.33 % of total Indian investments in the US,
i.e. \$22.6 billion)**



**Number of jobs created
due to Indian investments
in South Carolina³⁹²**

264



**Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from South Carolina³⁹³**

\$507.9 million



**Jobs supported
by exports to India
in South Carolina³⁹⁴**

3,133



**Indian visitor spending
in South Carolina³⁹⁵**

\$101.7 million



**Economic contribution
of Indian international students
in South Carolina³⁹⁶**

\$21 million



**Indian Companies
in South Carolina
Sector Diversification³⁹⁷**

Manufacturing

44.44%

**Information Technology and
Telecommunications**

44.44%

Food and Agriculture

11.11%

Key personalities



Nikki Haley: A politician, entrepreneur and diplomat, Haley served as the 116th Governor of the state of South Carolina (2011-2017) and as the US Ambassador to the United Nations under President Donald Trump (2017-2018). She advocates for better India-US relations, and in particular, the promotion of the welfare of the Indian diaspora in the US. Haley is a staunch Republican.³⁹⁸

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)³⁹⁹



In June 2020, the Republican Governor of South Carolina expanded absentee voting in the wake of COVID-19. All South Carolina voters regardless of age or disability can cast an absentee ballot for the November election.⁴⁰⁰

Economic impact

State GDP	\$199.3 billion GDP per capita - \$39,673
Pillar industry: Manufacturing	The Industry's GDP contribution is \$38.4 billion

In April 2020, the state’s revenue projections from July onwards for the fiscal year were scaled down by \$507 million. The state will have to bank on its surplus of \$2 billion from previous years to tide the pandemic over.⁴⁰¹

annual wages and salaries. Due to the pandemic, the state is projecting a loss of approximately 3,700 jobs in these industries, representing a \$125-million drop in wages and salaries.⁴⁰²

The tourism and hospitality industry in the state creates nearly 11,000 jobs locally, generating \$286 million in

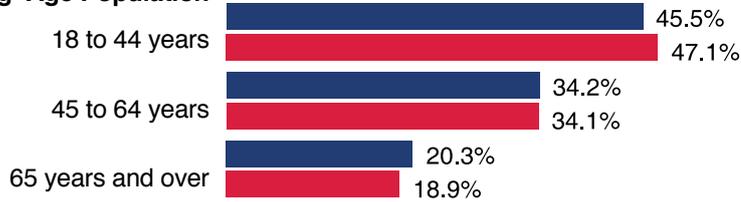
ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

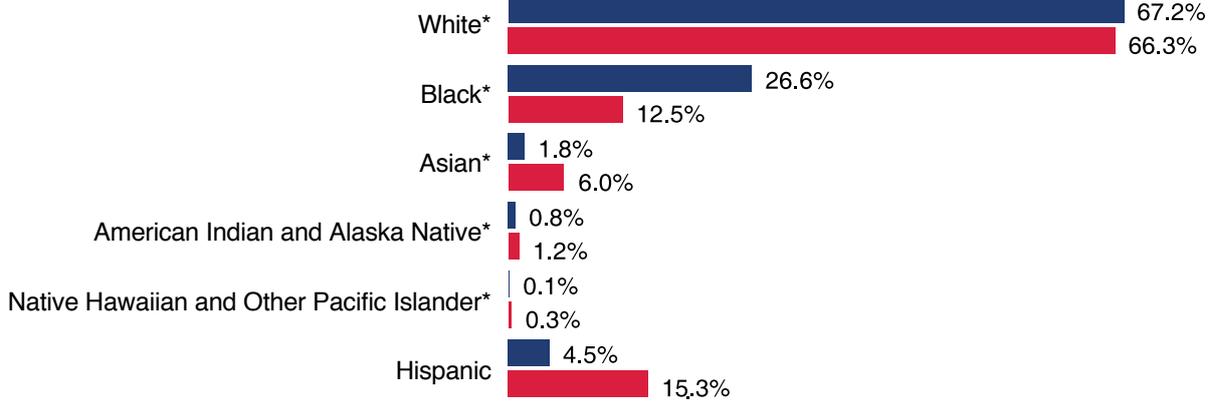
Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population

SOUTH CAROLINA 3,747,734 **US 245,273,438**

Voting-Age Population



Race and Hispanic Origin



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state’s eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau⁴⁰³

Religious composition of adults in South Carolina⁴⁰⁴

Christian	78%
Evangelical Protestant	35%
Mainline Protestant	16%
Historically Black Protestant	15%
Catholic	10%
Mormon	1%
Orthodox Christian	1%
Jehovah's Witness	1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	3%
Unaffiliated	19%

ELECTORAL HISTORY

The state has historically voted Republican since the presidential elections in 1980; its State Houses have been Republican-dominated since the past decade. South Carolina has held on to a Republican State Triumvirate since 2003 and is considered more than likely to vote Republican in the 2020 elections. The Democratic Party—which has scored some small wins in the state—will likely focus on African-American voters in the suburbs of Columbia and Charleston. They can still sway the state if the turnout of the college-educated, African-American voters can be boosted.⁴⁰⁸

Indian-Americans constitute the largest group of Asian people living in South Carolina, according to a 2014 report from the Migration Policy Institute. However, with Asians constituting only about 1.8 percent of the state's population⁴⁰⁵ they are unlikely to be a significant voter base for the elections.⁴⁰⁶

Other influential voter bases in the state are African-American voters, which constitute 26.6 percent of the state's electorate, and tend to lean Democrat (Biden received almost two-thirds of the African-American vote in the state in the primaries).⁴⁰⁷ The Evangelical Protestant community—comprising about 35 percent of the state's electorate and mostly Republican—is also likely to play a significant role in the outcome of the November polls.

The Economist predicts that the Republicans will take South Carolina in the 2020 elections, with Trump to command 49-59 percent of the popular vote share, and Biden, 41-52 percent.⁴⁰⁹ FiveThirtyEight polls shows similar numbers, projecting a Trump victory with 50.1 percent of votes against Biden's 44.6 percent.⁴¹⁰

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Education System.** Policies such as a second year of significant hikes in teachers' salaries and the expansion of state-sponsored kindergartens for four-year-olds across the state have been promised by the governor. The move is seen as essential as it would help manage the shortage of teachers in the state.⁴¹¹
- **Police Reform.** The Republican Senator Tim Scott introduced a law enforcement reform bill called the JUSTICE Act, as a response to country-wide protests against police brutality triggered by the killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. The bill aims to ban chokeholds, force police officers to report use of force, and prohibit no-knock warrants. It will make lynching a federal crime.⁴¹²

SOUTH DAKOTA



Source - Nations Online⁴¹³

A SNAPSHOT

Located in the Great Plains region of the US mainland, South Dakota is a landlocked Midwestern state.

CAPITAL
PIERRE

POPULATION
(ESTIMATED 2019)
884,659

INDIAN-AMERICAN
POPULATION
1,319

ELECTORAL
VOTES
3

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to South Dakota (in 2018-20)⁴¹⁴



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from South Dakota⁴¹⁵

\$25.8 million



Jobs supported
by exports to India
in South Dakota⁴¹⁶

219



Indian visitor spending
in South Dakota⁴¹⁷

\$14.7 million



Economic contribution
of Indian international students
in South Dakota⁴¹⁸

\$6.2 million

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)⁴¹⁹



South Dakota reported its first five cases of COVID-19 on 10 March 2020.⁴²⁰ No other cases were reported until 9 April, following which there was a steep rise in the total cases.⁴²¹ On 13 March, Governor Kristi Noem declared a state of emergency, schools were suspended, and public gatherings were limited to 10 people.⁴²² On 11 May, unlike most other states, the governor lifted an April 6 stay-at-home order for persons aged 65 years and above.⁴²³ South Dakota had the second lowest per capita new cases in the country by September 2020.⁴²⁴

Economic impact

State GDP	\$45.4 billion GDP per capita - \$52,240
Pillar Industry: Mining, Quarrying & Oil and Gas Extraction	The industry's GDP contribution is \$8.1 billion

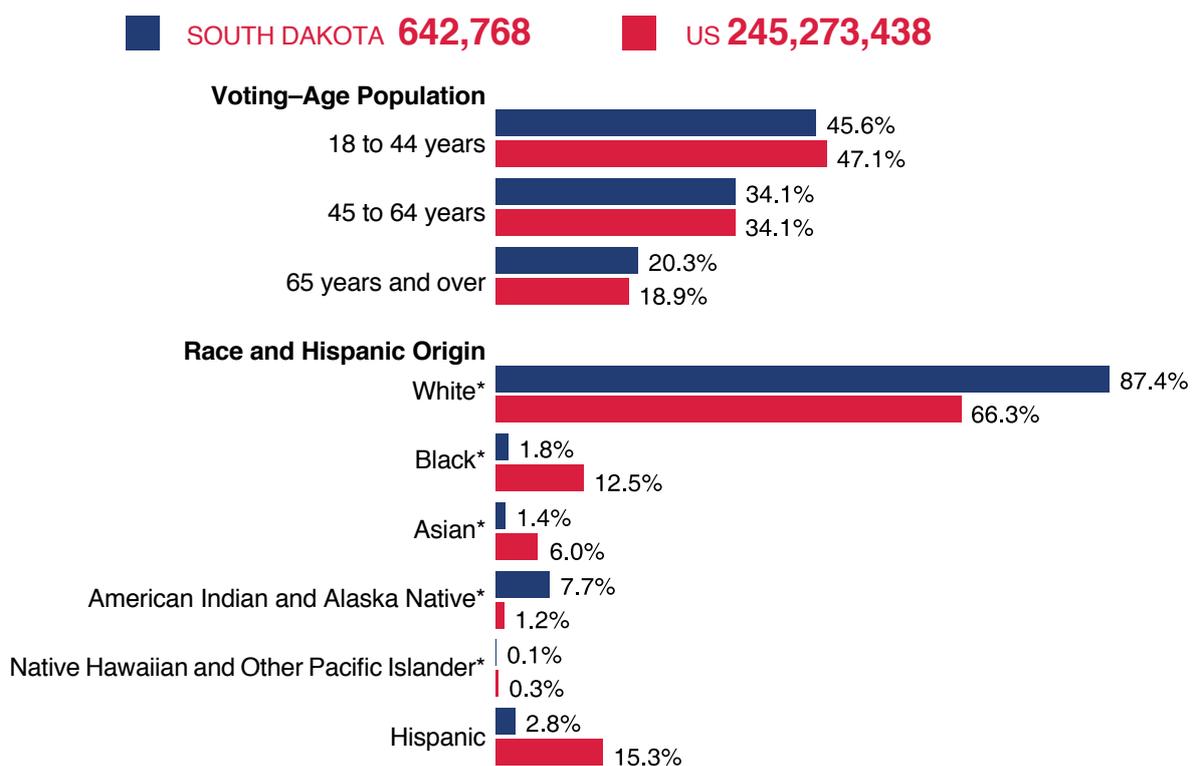
Tourism comprises a key sector in South Dakota's economy, contributing 5.5 percent to state GDP and supporting nearly 55,000 jobs.⁴²⁵ With the cancellation of a large number of popular events scheduled in the summer months due to the pandemic, the tourism industry is likely to suffer heavy losses. The state's tourism department secretary Jim Hagen estimated a 70-percent drop in the industry's revenues, with hotel occupancy rates dipping to 15-30 percent.⁴²⁶ The tourism industry also contributes a large share to the state's sales tax revenue.

During the first quarter of 2020, South Dakota's economy contracted by 2.2 percent.⁴²⁷ One of the state's largest sectors, agriculture, was especially hard-hit.⁴²⁸ With the manufacturing sector's input requirements lower than usual and export markets declining as well, price instability in agricultural markets and a decline in farmers' incomes have become key issues. South Dakota's unemployment rate for the month of April spiked to 10 percent, as compared to an average of 3-4 percent before the pandemic. However, by the end of August, unemployment rates were back to 4.8 percent and by mid-September, unemployment claims were almost equalling pre-pandemic levels.⁴²⁹

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state's eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau⁴³⁰

Religious composition of adults in South Dakota⁴³¹

Christian	79%
Evangelical Protestant	25%
Mainline Protestant	32%
Historically Black Protestant	<1%
Catholic	22%
Mormon	<1%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	<1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	3%
Unaffiliated	18%

According to the US Census Bureau, only 1.4 percent of the total voting-age population is Asian⁴³² and they are not likely to affect voting outcomes for the state. The large Evangelical Protestant community in the state (25 percent) is likely to be a key voting constituency for the Republican Party.

ELECTORAL HISTORY

While South Dakota has produced some of the most influential Democrats in the country—for example, Tom Daschle, former US Senator (1987-2003)—the state has voted Republican in all presidential elections in recent history. The victory margin increased drastically in the 2000 presidential elections to 22 percent, from three percent in 1996, although it declined slightly during the 2008 and 2012 elections. In 2016, Trump won the state by a large margin of 30 percent. All State Governors have been elected from the Republican Party as well.⁴³³

The Economist predicts that the Republicans will take South Dakota, with Trump commanding 55-66 percent of the popular vote share, and Biden, 34-45 percent.⁴³⁴ FiveThirtyEight polls also predict that Trump will hold approximately 59 percent of the state votes against Biden's 38 percent.⁴³⁵

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Legalising recreational and medicinal Marijuana.** Marijuana is illegal in South Dakota and this would be the first time a state will be voting for the legalisation of marijuana for both medicinal and recreational purposes. Although polls suggest that a majority of voters in South Dakota are in favour of legalising marijuana,⁴³⁶ many do not understand the difference between the two legislations: Initiated Measure 26 would legalise marijuana for medicinal purposes; and Constitutional Amendment A would legalise the possession and recreational use of marijuana for adults age 21 and over in South Dakota.⁴³⁷
- **Healthcare.** Republican Senator Mike Rounds, running for re-election for a second term, has healthcare reform and the repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act as his primary goals for a second term.^{438,439} His counterpart, Democrat Daniel Ahlers, has been a supporter of the Act, and favours increased government intervention in the healthcare sector.⁴⁴⁰ In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, healthcare issues are likely to be a major factor to influence voting patterns in November 2020.
- **Unemployment.** New claims for unemployment relief have declined during recent weeks at the time of publication of this report. However, there are still thousands of people who remain out of work due to the pandemic. Under such circumstances, the unemployed were upset over Republican Governor Kristi Noem's rejection of a \$300 per week enhanced federal unemployment insurance benefit, authorised by President Trump.⁴⁴¹ Even as unemployment rates in the state are among the lowest in the country (at 7.2 percent), they are still significantly higher than last year's levels, and food pantry giveaways are still drawing twice as many people.⁴⁴² In light of this, the creation of new jobs and expansion of unemployment benefits will be important issues for November.

TENNESSEE

Source - Nations Online⁴⁴³

A SNAPSHOT

Tennessee is a landlocked state situated in the central-southeastern part of the United States.

CAPITAL
NASHVILLE
-DAVIDSON

POPULATION
(ESTIMATED 2019)
6,829,174

INDIAN-AMERICAN
POPULATION
28,175

ELECTORAL
VOTES
11

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Tennessee (in 2018-20)⁴⁴⁴



Number of
Indian companies
in Tennessee⁴⁴⁵

8



Total volume of investments
by Indian companies⁴⁴⁶
Approximately

\$123.9 million

(0.006% of total Indian investments in the
US, i.e. \$22.6 billion)



Number of jobs created
due to Indian investments
in Tennessee⁴⁴⁷

574



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Tennessee⁴⁴⁸

\$504.6 million



**Jobs supported
by exports to India
in Tennessee⁴⁴⁹**

3,651



**Indian Companies
in Tennessee
Sector Diversification⁴⁵²**

**Information Technology and
Telecommunications**

50%



**Indian visitor spending
in Tennessee⁴⁵⁰**

\$161.3 million

**Life Sciences, Pharmaceuticals
and Healthcare**

25%



**Economic contribution
of Indian international students
in Tennessee⁴⁵¹**

\$16.6 million

Manufacturing

12.5%

Automotive

12.5%

Key personalities



Dr. Manish Kumar Sethi: Dr. Sethi ran for election to the US Senate to represent Tennessee but lost to Bill Haggerty in the Republican primary. He has been a critic of the Affordable Care Act (also called Obamacare) and an ardent supporter of Trump's proposal to build a wall along the Southern border with Mexico to prevent the influx of immigrants.⁴⁵³ The trauma surgeon is also a supporter of 2nd Amendment rights and his candidacy was supported by the Gun Owners of America, a non-profit lobby for the preservation and defense of the rights of gun owners in the US.⁴⁵⁴

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)⁴⁵⁵



The first confirmed case of COVID-19 in the state was reported on 5 March and on 12 March, Governor Bill Lee declared a state-wide emergency⁴⁵⁶ and asked for schools to be closed by 20 March.⁴⁵⁷ In the following months, various restrictions were put in place to contain the spread of the virus. After the governor's executive order on 3 July, several counties in the state issued a mask mandate.⁴⁵⁸ With a gradual lifting of restrictions on business, Tennessee finally decided to open schools on 29 July. Tennessee has decided to restrict the vote-by-mail option for its voters. Amidst rising apprehensions about contracting an infection, there is a high chance of voter drop-out as well as difficulty in voter access.⁴⁵⁹

Economic impact

State GDP	\$315.1 billion GDP per capita - \$46,925
Pillar industry: Manufacturing	The industry's GDP contribution is \$55 billion

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely hit the state’s agriculture and livestock sector in all aspects—distribution, prices, and farmers’ incomes. These effects are likely to be felt for the rest of the year. Even with the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program started by the Federal Government, there will be an estimated loss of \$43.7 million in farmers’ incomes. With supply and demand disruptions arising across the world, Tennessee’s forest exports businesses have also suffered significantly.⁴⁶⁰

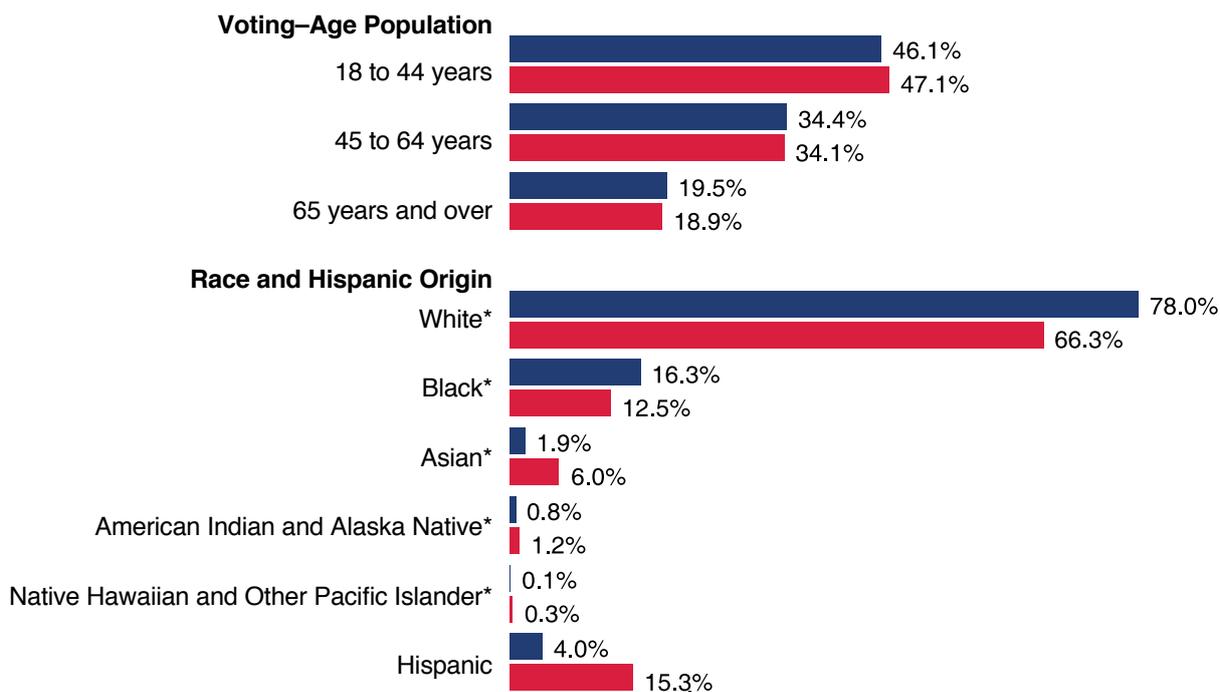
During the early months of the pandemic, unemployment rates in the state rose to a high of approximately 15.5 percent in April 2020, dipping to around 8.5 percent in August 2020. Out of a total of 840,626 unemployment claims filed in mid-March 2020, only 264,202 have been paid, amounting to a total of \$141 million approximately.⁴⁶¹ The hospitality, manufacturing and professional/business services sectors have also suffered huge job losses.⁴⁶² The hotel and tourism industry suffered 28,288 direct job losses and the number becomes higher, approximately 72, 632 if the supporting industries are included in the count.⁴⁶³

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population

TENNESSEE 5,054,826 **US 245,273,438**



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state’s eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau⁴⁶⁴

Religious composition of adults in Tennessee⁴⁶⁵

Christian	81%
Evangelical Protestant	52%
Mainline Protestant	13%
Historically Black Protestant	8%
Catholic	6%
Mormon	1%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	3%
Unaffiliated	14%

ELECTORAL HISTORY

In the past, Tennessee was a staunchly blue state, but, like in many other southern states there was a gradual transformation and it is now a stronghold of the Republican Party. In the last two decades, the Republicans have managed to win the state in every presidential election. Even for the US Senate elections and the gubernatorial elections, the state has mostly voted Republican, except for the years 2002 and 2006 when Democrat Phil Bredesen won.⁴⁶⁹

Between 2000 and 2010, there was a 86.2-percent jump in the number of Indians in Tennessee.⁴⁶⁶ However, the Asian population constitutes only about 1.7-2 percent of the state's population⁴⁶⁷ and as a result, their significance in the electorate has also declined. However, this year, for the primary elections, orthopaedic surgeon Manish Kumar Sethi gave a close fight to Bill Hagerty, who was backed by Trump.⁴⁶⁸ While he ultimately lost the primary, the support that he garnered indicated that the Indian-American population still has some influence in the state, even though it is not nearly enough to swing the state.

The state also hosts a large Evangelical Protestant community—constituting 52 percent of the electorate—which is likely to lean Republican and influence the state's voting patterns significantly.

According to *The Economist's* model, the Republicans will take Tennessee again in 2020, with Trump likely to command 54-64 percent of the popular vote share, and Biden, 36-46 percent.⁴⁷⁰ FiveThirtyEight Polls also predicts that Trump will get 54.8 percent of the votes, against Biden's 40.6 percent.⁴⁷¹

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Gun violence and Gun rights.** Tennessee has been grappling with the issue of gun violence for long. According to reports by the Safe Tennessee project, an average of 3.4 Tennesseans are killed with guns each day. The report also finds that the average rate of gun death in Tennessee is higher than the national average.⁴⁷² Despite such alarming figures, top contenders from the Republican Party, in a predominantly red state, have been supporting the right to carry arms and consider the 2nd Amendment to be one of the most important constitutional rights of the people.
- **Environment and clean energy.** In a surprise win, Marquita Bradshaw, a social justice and environmental activist won the Democrat primaries for the US Senate to represent Tennessee. This puts her in an uphill contest against Republican Bill Haggerty.⁴⁷³ One of their key contentious issues is energy. Haggerty has opposed the Green New Deal and is against the excessive environmental regulations on development of new resources and supports the exploration and development of fossil fuels.⁴⁷⁴ Democrat Bradshaw, for her part, is a strong supporter of the Green New Deal and has built her career working in the environmental justice space, and wants to build or retrofit manufacturing plants.⁴⁷⁵

UTAH

Source - Nations Online⁴⁷⁶

A SNAPSHOT

The Commonwealth of Utah is located in the western region of the US.

CAPITAL SALT LAKE CITY	POPULATION (ESTIMATED 2019) 32,05,958	INDIAN-AMERICAN POPULATION 8,695	ELECTORAL VOTES 6
-----------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Utah (in 2018-20)⁴⁷⁷



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Utah⁴⁷⁸

\$324.2 million



Jobs supported
by exports to India
in Utah⁴⁷⁹

1,964



Indian visitor spending
in Utah⁴⁸⁰

\$89.8 million



Economic contribution
of Indian international students
in Utah⁴⁸¹

\$18.6 million

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)⁴⁸²



Utah's caution regarding COVID-19 is backed by governmental enforcement. Some measures that have already been adopted include online voter registration, Election Day voter registration, mail ballots sent to every active registered voter, no notary or witness requirement for return of mail ballot, and no ID requirement to vote by mail.⁴⁸³ The Utah government has also passed some bills related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including approving new aid measures and making adjustments for the upcoming election.⁴⁸⁴

Economic impact

State GDP	\$1550.1 billion GDP per capita - \$48,376
Pillar industry: Real estate, rental and leasing	The Industry's GDP contribution is \$24.4 billion

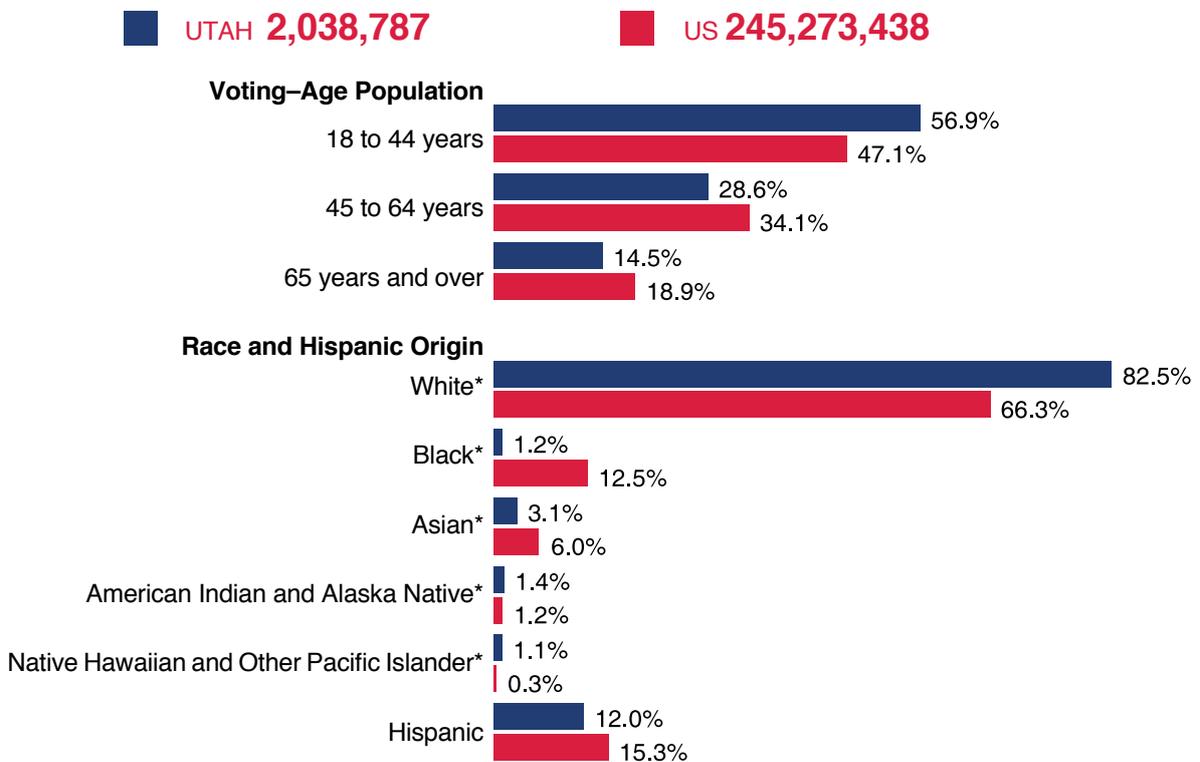
COVID-19 has severely affected Utah’s economy, in particular the non-agricultural jobs. Before the pandemic, it was expected that Utah’s GDP would grow by 5.9 percent, but there is a GDP shrink by 5.4 percent, a blow of almost \$16 billion. Similarly, what was an expected increase of 42,000 jobs is likely to become a loss of 31,000 jobs in the post-COVID-19 scenario.⁴⁸⁵ The hospitality and hotel industry in the state has suffered huge losses: 16,113 direct hotel-related jobs, with the number increasing to 38,908 taking into account the supporting industries.⁴⁸⁶

The economic forecast assumes that the recovery of the state will begin in the second half of 2020. In spite of this, the pandemic has reduced the state’s expected growth in total personal income by 50 percent and doubled its anticipated unemployment rates. In an unexpected turn of events, the pandemic has brightened the prospects for one part of Utah’s economy—the retail sector. While restaurants and retail stores have suffered because of the public health emergency, shopping is still common for groceries and essentials. Consumer spending on home and garden products has also increased—convenience stores have in fact struggled to keep up with demand.⁴⁸⁷

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state’s eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau⁴⁸⁸

Religious composition of adults in Utah⁴⁸⁹

Christian	73%
Evangelical Protestant	7%
Mainline Protestant	6%
Historically Black Protestant	<1%
Catholic	5%
Mormon	55%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	<1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	4%
Unaffiliated	22%

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Utahans voted for Democrat Franklin Roosevelt four times (1932 through 1944) and for his successor Harry S. Truman in 1948. Aside from that period, the state has only voted for Democrats twice, the last time in 1964 when Lyndon Johnson won a landslide victory over Barry Goldwater. While Trump won in 2016, he failed to receive a majority of votes, winning with 45.5 percent to the 27.5 percent of Clinton's. Trump enjoyed less support than prior Republicans with the state's large Mormon population.⁴⁹²

Utah has a small Indian-American population of 8,000—statistically insignificant for the elections.

Indian companies such as Tata Chemicals, Associated Capsule Group, and Sami Labs have significant operations in Utah that have helped in creating jobs and boosting the local economy. The IT and healthcare sectors, in particular, have strengthened linkages between the state and India, and there is a growing Indian community in the Salt Lake region. There has also been an agreement signed between Rajasthan's Energy Department and Utah Governor's Office to bolster the best practices that support the development of the energy sector.⁴⁹⁰

Utah also has the largest Mormon community in the United States, constituting 55 percent of the state's electorate. The Mormons lean overwhelmingly red (70 percent of Mormons in the US lean Republican, according to the Pew Research Centre⁴⁹¹) and are therefore a key vote base for the Republican Party.

The Economist predicts that the Republicans will take Utah in 2020. Trump is likely to command 55-66 percent of the popular vote share, and Biden, 35-45 percent.⁴⁹³ The FiveThirtyEight polls also predicts a Republican win for the state, with Trump leading with 52 percent of votes against Biden's 38.7 percent.⁴⁹⁴

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Education.** One of the biggest issues that Utah faces is the preparation of youth for employment, which could be resolved through systemic changes in the education system. Education funding, adequate development of skills that are compatible with the job market, and the pedagogy of niche fields can help upgrade and modernise the economic structure of Utah, which has been the most popular demand of the citizens.
- **Environment and air quality.** The degradation of Utah's air quality has affected citizens' health and increased their awareness on environmental issues. Positive steps are being taken, and the air quality has shown signs of improvement especially in the face of rapid growth in vehicular emissions and increased economic activity. Smoke from wildfires in surrounding states has been the major problem in Utah, which might also be a key political issue in the November elections.
- **Use of Income Tax and Property Tax to support Children and Individuals with Disabilities.** This issue will be voted during the state's General Elections in November 2020 as Amendment G. Prior to this, the taxes could only be used to fund education in the state. Introduced by Republican senators, the measure will amend Section 5 of Article XIII of the Utah Constitution and bring to effect the State House Bill 357, called the Public Education Funding Stabilization. It is being supported by major public institutions of the state and has not faced any significant opposition.⁴⁹⁵
- **Removal of Slavery as Punishment for Crime.** The issue is up for voting in the state for the November 2020 elections as Amendment C. Upon approval, the measure will remove the use of slavery and involuntary servitude as criminal punishments without affecting the Court's ability to sentence criminals to prison or mandate participation in prison work. The state currently allows for slavery and involuntary servitude in cases of criminal punishment.

WEST VIRGINIA



Source - Nations Online⁴⁹⁶

A SNAPSHOT

The only state situated entirely within the Appalachian Mountain region, West Virginia is a landlocked US state in the central-eastern US mainland.

CAPITAL CHARLESTON	POPULATION (ESTIMATED 2019) 1,792,147	INDIAN-AMERICAN POPULATION 3,624	ELECTORAL VOTES 5
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THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to West Virginia (in 2018-20)⁴⁹⁷



**Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from West Virginia⁴⁹⁸**

\$272.3 million



**Jobs supported
by exports to India
in West Virginia⁴⁹⁹**

1,245



**Indian visitor spending
in West Virginia⁵⁰⁰**

\$39.4 million



**Economic contribution
of Indian international students
in West Virginia⁵⁰¹**

\$11.3 million

Key personalities



Asra Quratulain Nomani: A former professor at Georgetown University and a *Wall Street Journal* correspondent, Asra is an Indian Muslim raised in West Virginia. She writes for *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *Slate*, *The American Prospect*, and *Time*, and shares her views on CNN, PBS, NPR, and the BBC. Nomani is also the author of two books, “Standing Alone: An American Woman’s Struggle for the Soul of Islam” and “Tantrika: Traveling the Road of Divine Love.”⁵⁰² Her success in securing women-led prayer led to open discussion and debate about the role of women in Muslim society. Nomani has also been vocal about her support for Trump ever since he came to office.⁵⁰³

COVID-19 PANDEMIC’S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)⁵⁰⁴



West Virginia was the last state in the US to report its first COVID-19 case—it was on 17 March 2020. Following other states, West Virginia also introduced restrictions on public gatherings, lockdown of schools and offices, and other relevant social-distancing regulations. However, its strategy for a return to normalcy has been rather ambiguous, reflecting a trial-and-error method.

West Virginia has made arrangements to allow for in-person and by-mail voting in November.⁵⁰⁵ Their primary polls were among the safest in the nation with zero reported cases as the clerks, poll workers, and voters effectively followed guidelines, wore protective gear, and practiced social distancing.⁵⁰⁶

Economic impact

State GDP	\$70.6 billion GDP per capita - \$38,860
Pillar Industries: Educational Services, Healthcare & Social assistance, and Manufacturing	GDP contribution: \$8.6 billion and \$8.1 billion

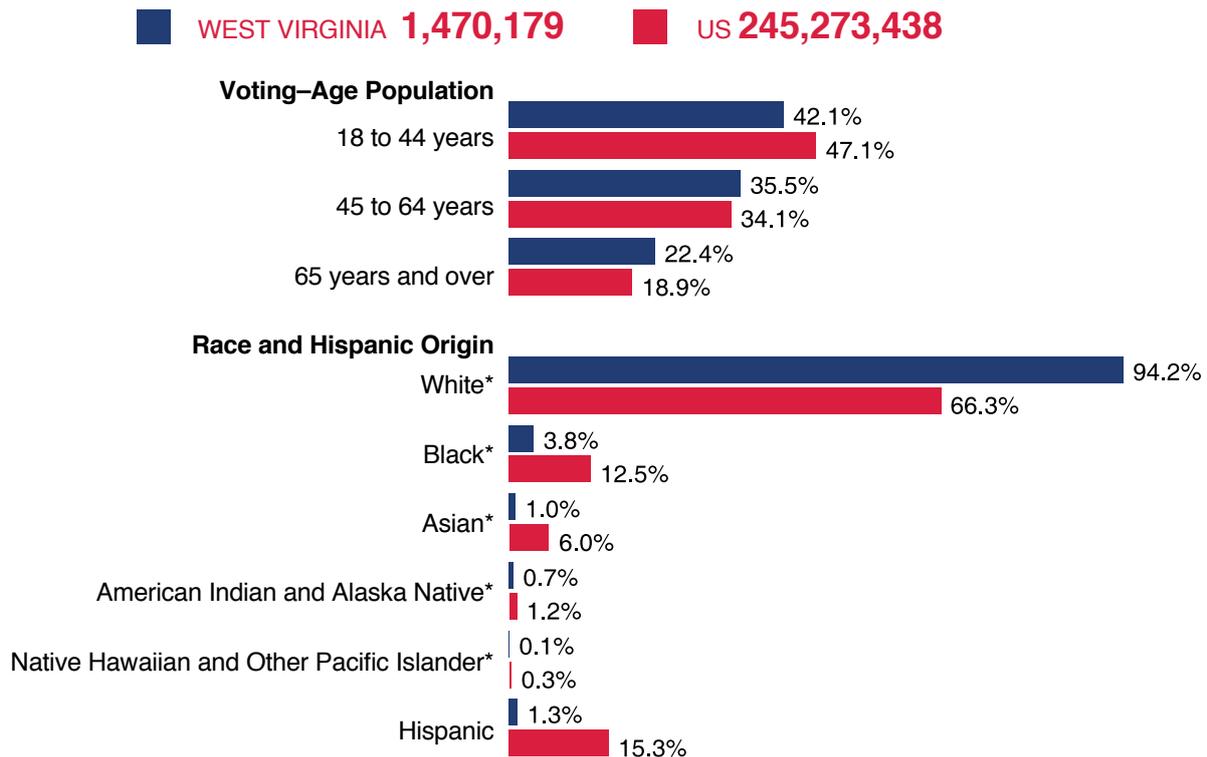
Following the initiation of “stay-at-home” measures effective 24 March 2020, the state suspended all non-essential business. This severely affected the mining industry in the state. Electricity demand reduced to nearly 33-40 percent of the usual level as production

came to a halt.⁵⁰⁷ Also severely affected were the hotels, with approximately 8,898 direct hotel-related jobs losses and 13,801 total jobs lost in supporting industries by the end of April 2020.⁵⁰⁸

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state's eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau⁵⁰⁹

Religious composition of adults in West Virginia⁵¹⁰

Christian	78%
Evangelical Protestant	39%
Mainline Protestant	29%
Historically Black Protestant	2%
Catholic	6%
Mormon	2%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	<1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	34%
Unaffiliated	18%

The minuscule Indian-American population in West Virginia is unlikely to have a considerable influence on election outcomes this year. The Evangelical Protestant community—which leans Red traditionally—constitutes 39 percent of the electorate.

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Through the 1990s, the politics of West Virginia was largely dominated by the Democratic Party. West Virginia is now a heavily Republican state, with three consecutive victories in the 2008, 2012 and 2016 elections.

The Economist predicts that the Republicans will take West Virginia, with Trump garnering 62-72 percent of the popular vote share, and Biden, 28-38 percent.⁵¹² FiveThirtyEight polls shows Trump's lead with a 63.3-percent share against Biden's 33.3 percent.⁵¹³

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Development of extraction industries and diversification of jobs.** Energy resources produced affordable, dependable energy for the people and stable, high-paying jobs for the state over the years. However, more recently, the common sentiment has been to diversify its manufacturing base and attract investments so as to provide more stable employment opportunities to the youth. West Virginia's energy policy, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regulations, must also balance environmental protection with economic growth in order to encourage innovation, discovery, and prosperity.⁵¹⁴
- **Drug Abuse and Population decline.** Opioid abuse has been a longstanding issue in the state. The Jobs & Hope West Virginia Program offers support through a statewide collaboration of agencies that provide recovery, rehabilitation, and job training to those seeking to treat their addiction and transition into secure meaningful employment. It has become a model recognised nationally for its successes.⁵¹⁵
- **Educational Reform Bill 2019.** This bill took up efforts for the largest back-to-back pay raises for teachers in the history of West Virginia. Changes made are expected to be effective, though they need time to be implemented and evaluated properly. An amount of \$30.5 million is to be funded for much-needed support services such as for social workers, psychologists, and counsellors for schools.⁵¹⁶

WYOMING



Source - Nations Online⁵¹⁷

A SNAPSHOT

The Commonwealth of Wyoming is a landlocked state in the Western region of the United States.

CAPITAL CHEYENNE	POPULATION (ESTIMATED 2019) 5,78,759	INDIAN-AMERICAN POPULATION 683	ELECTORAL VOTES 3
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THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Wyoming (in 2018-20)⁵¹⁸



**Number of
Indian companies
in Wyoming⁵¹⁹**

9



**Total volume of investments
by Indian companies⁵²⁰
Approximately**

\$171 million
(0.757 % of total Indian investments
in the US, i.e. \$22.6 billion)



**Number of jobs created
due to Indian investments
in Wyoming⁵²¹**

553



**Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Wyoming⁵²²**

\$23.9 million



Jobs supported by exports
to India in Wyoming⁵²³

186



Indian Companies
in Wyoming
Sector Diversification⁵²⁶

Information Technology and
Telecommunications

66.67%

Mining and Materials

33.33%



Indian visitor spending
in Wyoming⁵²⁴

\$10.1 million



Economic contribution
of Indian international students
in Wyoming⁵²⁵

\$2 million

Key personalities



Nimi McConigley: McConigley served in the Wyoming state Legislature from 1994 to 1996. A member of the Republican Party, she is acknowledged as the first ever Indian-origin woman to work in a state legislature in the US. She has contributed greatly in helping women of colour to exercise their right to vote as well as increase their participation in politics.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)⁵²⁷



The number of COVID-19 cases in Wyoming is low, as compared to the rest of the country. There has been suspension of in-person canvassing and most public gatherings stand cancelled. This has affected the registration of voters and dampened turnout.⁵²⁸ Wyoming is encouraging people to vote early by mail.⁵²⁹

Economic impact¹²⁸

State GDP	\$38.7 billion GDP per capita - \$66,776
Pillar Industry: Mining, Quarrying and Oil & Gas extraction	The Industry's GDP contribution is \$7.5 billion

A survey by the Wyoming Business Alliance has found that 88.5 percent of the state’s businesses are anticipating revenue losses due to the pandemic. Workers in the state filed for 30,000 more unemployment claims above the usual season numbers. Almost 11 percent of Wyoming’s⁵³⁰ workforce have lost their jobs due to the pandemic. It is expected that the recovery will be particularly slow for the state’s manufacturing sector due to disrupted international supply chains which will only recover in phases. The Legislative Service Office of the state⁵³¹ projected that the state’s revenue will fall by up to \$555.8 million to \$2.8 billion by the end of 2022.

Wyoming has been adversely affected by the oil price war between Saudi Arabia and Russia that has thrown their oil prices into a slump. According to projections,

the slump will hit projected revenues hard, likely to drop from \$494 million to a little over \$1 billion by end of fiscal year 2022.⁵³²

The state’s coal production has experienced a drastic fall, dropping by 34 percent statewide. Wyoming’s Powder River Basin is one of the country’s leading coal producers. But due to decline in the demand for coal, the mining companies across the state laid off some 500 employees between March to July 2020. The income from Coal tax is expected to go down by \$203 million to \$437 million. In addition, the state lost 7,714 direct tourism and hotel related jobs and 13,975 jobs were lost from supporting industries.

⁵³³534535

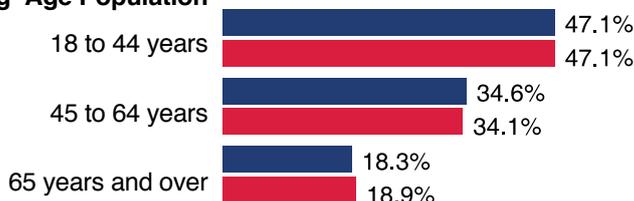
ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

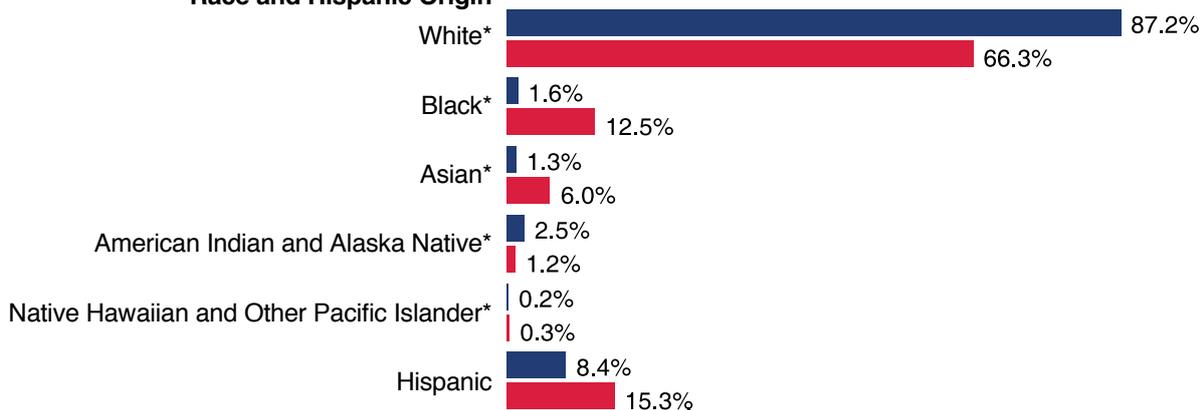
Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population

WYOMING 445,830 **US 245,273,438**

Voting-Age Population



Race and Hispanic Origin



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state’s eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey <www.census.gov/acs>

Source - data: US Census Bureau⁵³⁶

Religious composition of adults in Wyoming⁵³⁷

Christian	71%
Evangelical Protestant	27%
Mainline Protestant	16%
Historically Black Protestant	<1%
Catholic	14%
Mormon	9%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	3%
Other Christian	1%
Non-Christian Faiths	3%
Unaffiliated	26%

The Indian-American population of Wyoming is not electorally significant. The total Asian population is only between 0.8 - 1.1 percent of the total population.⁵³⁸

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Wyoming is the state with the smallest population in the US and has always been a Republican stronghold in previous presidential elections. Wyoming has voted for the Democratic Party only once since 1952 (in the landslide victory of Lyndon Johnson in 1964). In the presidential elections of 2016, Trump beat Clinton by a margin of 46 percent, the widest margin of the Republicans' victory in any state.⁵³⁹

The Economist predicts that the Republicans will again take Wyoming in 2020, with Trump commanding 66-75 percent of the popular vote share, and Biden, 25-34 percent.⁵⁴⁰ The FiveThirtyEight polls shows Trump will command roughly 60 percent of the popular approval.⁵⁴¹

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- Economy.** The economy of Wyoming is the issue of most significant concern, in particular, the energy industry. A survey conducted especially to identify the major issues for the November election found that most citizens of Wyoming believed that the weak economy resulted in a lack of tax revenue.⁵⁴²
- Local community problems.** The spending on healthcare and environmental issues has also been identified as a persistent problem. Local community problems such as cost of housing, drug and alcohol abuse and high infrastructure costs have been the main grievances of the people from Wyoming.⁵⁴³

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BLUE STATES

These states are predicted to vote for the Democratic Party in the 2020 elections.

CALIFORNIA

Source - Nations Online¹

A SNAPSHOT

California is the third-largest state in the US and is bounded by the Pacific Ocean on the west and shares its domestic borders with Oregon, Nevada and Arizona; and shares its international borders with Mexico in the South.

CAPITAL SACRAMENTO	POPULATION (ESTIMATED 2019) 39,512,223	INDIAN-AMERICAN POPULATION 584,432	ELECTORAL VOTES 55
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THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to California (in 2018-20)²



Number of
Indian companies
in California³

34



Total volume of investment
by Indian companies⁴
Approximately

\$858 million

(3.796% of total Indian investment in the US,
i.e. \$22.6 billion)



Number of jobs created
due to Indian investment
in California⁵

8,271



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from California⁶

\$7.5 billion



Jobs supported by exports
to India in California⁷

52,504



Indian visitor spending
in California⁸

\$1.6 billion



Economic contribution of Indian
international students
in California⁹

\$659.4 million



Indian Companies
in California:
Sector Diversification¹⁰

Information Technology and
Telecommunications

58.82%

Manufacturing

8.82%

Life Sciences, Pharmaceuticals
and Healthcare

8.82%

Design and Engineering

5.88%

Financial Services

5.88%

Food and Agriculture

5.88%

Tourism and Hospitality

2.94%

Automotive

2.94%

Key personalities



Kamala Harris: She is running as the Democratic Party's vice-presidential candidate in the 2020 elections. She was elected to the US Senate in 2016. She is the first Indian-American, and the second African-American woman to serve as a US Senator. She has also served as Attorney General of California.¹¹



Rohit Khanna: Khanna is a member of the US House of Representatives from California's 17th district. He earlier served as Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Department of Commerce under President Barack Obama for two years. He has a strong stance on issues of education, environment, and immigration. He is of the view that because politicians are indebted to big business for their election to office, it creates conflicts of interest in their functioning as members of Congress. He wants to bring institutional term limits for both the Houses and the Senate.¹²

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)¹³



At the time of writing this report, California had the highest total number of COVID-19 cases across all the states. A law was passed in June that made masks mandatory in public spaces. It was followed by the announcement of the state's strategy for restarting the economy and getting people back to work.¹⁴ During the lockdown in the state, indoor dining, gyms and churches were closed. Indoor dining has since been allowed at 25-percent or 50-percent capacity, depending on the local restrictions across the state. Additionally, school campuses will not be allowed to reopen until at least November. For students requiring special assistance, 10 percent of the school body is allowed to be on campus to provide in-person classes.¹⁵

Economic impact

State GDP	\$2.6 trillion GDP per capita - \$65,160
Pillar Industries: Real estate, professional and business services, and manufacturing	Real estate contributes approximately \$504 billion to state GDP; other big earners are professional and business services (\$397.3 billion) and manufacturing (\$287.8 billion).

California's economy is the largest for any state and is supported by a range of diverse industries, from manufacturing to agriculture. California is home to a majority of the leading tech firms in the world, being the location for either the head offices or regional offices of these firms. As a result, a majority of the manufacturing industries in California are technology-intensive. Moreover, the manufacture of aerospace products and parts has been recognised as one of the significant areas for job growth in the coming years.¹⁶ Another significant industry for California is agriculture: over one-third of the country's vegetables and two-thirds of fruits and nuts are grown in the state. Among the top producing commodities—dairy products, almonds, grapes, cattle and calves, and strawberries bring most of the revenue.¹⁷

The impact of COVID-19 has been felt strongly in the US electronics manufacturing industry. Since California leads the country in this industry, it is facing massive challenges because of the pandemic, including

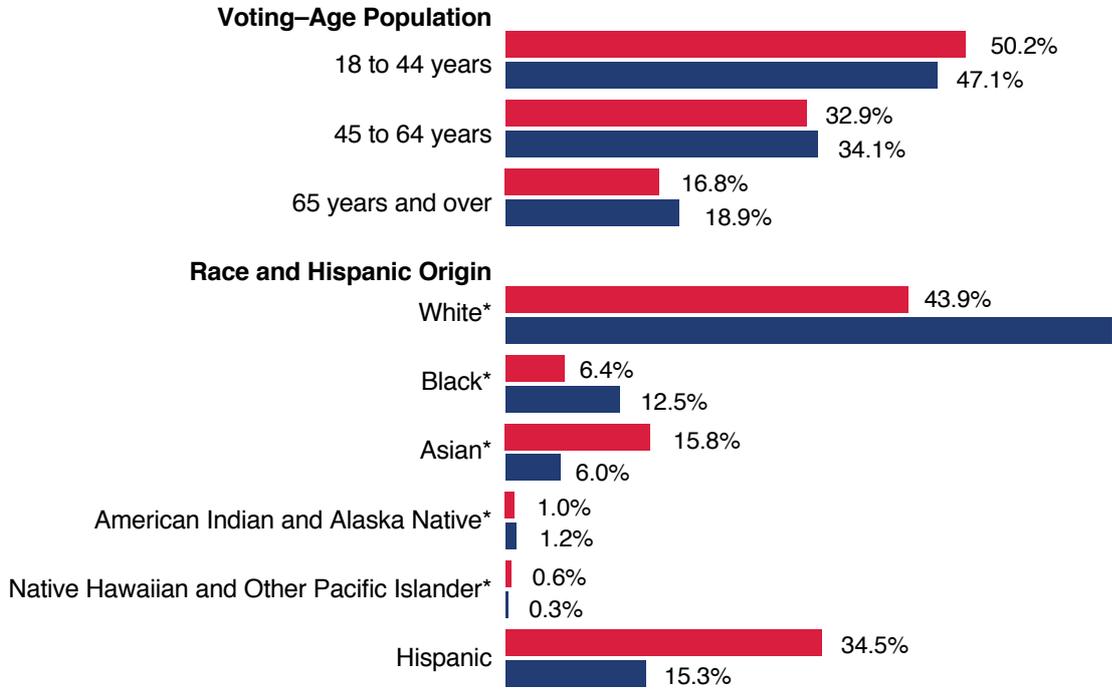
unclear and evolving operating restrictions, changing demand patterns, and abnormalities in the supply chain. Moreover, the tech industry is at the heart of a number of products and sectors that support other jobs; COVID-19 has resulted in a weakened demand, and supply chain abnormalities have affected other jobs across different industries.¹⁸ Meanwhile, no other state relies upon agricultural labour more than California. When the stay-at-home order was issued in March 2020 in the state, farm workers were deemed essential and expected to continue working. Since June is generally the month when employment peaks, uncertainties related to the pandemic sparked fears of unemployment and lower supply of farm workers. Moreover, due to excessive supply of dairy products and milk, coupled with lower exports to Mexico and Asia—the prices of dairy products fell by more than one-third. This was deemed unsustainable economically, even for the most efficient dairy farms in California.¹⁹

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population

CALIFORNIA 29,649,348 **US 245,273,438**



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state's eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey, www.census.gov/acs.

Source - data: US Census Bureau.²⁰

Religious composition of adults in California²¹

Christian	63%
Evangelical Protestant	20%
Mainline Protestant	10%
Historically Black Protestant	2%
Catholic	28%
Mormon	1%
Orthodox Christian	1%
Jehovah's Witness	1%
Other Christian	1%
Non-Christian Faiths	9%
Unaffiliated	27%
Don't Know	1%

California is home to the largest Indian-American population in the US. Between 2010-2017, this population grew by 38 percent. During the 2016 elections, Indian-Americans were key to Democrat Clinton's victory in the state. Harris, running as the Democratic Party's vice-presidential candidate in the November polls, is expected to play an influential role among the fast-growing Indian-American population in the state.²²

The evangelical protestant community (20 percent of the electorate) has also played an important role in the presidential elections in the past; they have mostly voted Republican.²³

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Since Bill Clinton's presidential win in 1992, California has been dominated by Democratic Party candidates winning decisively in every election by capturing the most populous areas. This goes back to the 1990s, when Latino and Asian populations were growing rapidly across the state. Due to the Republican Party's hard stance on immigration, the immigrant segment of voters became inclined towards the Democratic Party. During the 2016 general elections, Hillary Clinton won a higher percentage of votes in the state than any other candidate since Franklin D. Roosevelt.²⁴

According to predictions by *The Economist* as of 11 October, the Democratic Party will take California again in 2020, with Biden commanding 63-72 percent of the popular vote share, and Trump, 28-37 percent.²⁵ Latest polls by FiveThirtyEight as of 10 October predicts a win for Biden with a 62.2-percent share of votes, against Trump's 30.9 percent.²⁶

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Property Taxes (Ballot proposition).** This proposition (no. 15) would raise taxes on many businesses by taxing property based on its market value instead of the purchase price. This would mean more resources to fund local governments and schools.²⁷ The proposition has come from the citizens themselves, backed by the California Teachers Association and the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative. In 1978, Proposition 13 was passed, placing a cap on property taxes. Today the tax payments are still tied to the original price of the property and is generous to the owners who were lucky enough to buy cheap real estate decades ago.²⁸
- **Higher Education (Ballot proposition).** This proposition (no. 16), if approved, could overhaul higher education admissions throughout the state. The proposition would repeal California's ban on affirmative action. If it passes, it would allow colleges and public agencies to include race, among other factors, in deciding which candidates to enroll or admit.²⁹ This measure is aimed to overturn a controversial 1996 measure, proposition 209, that placed a ban on affirmative action at state institutions. Due to this ban, the number of Latinos and African-Americans enrolled at elite public universities and top schools declined.³⁰
- **App-Based Drivers as Contractors (Ballot proposition).** This proposition (no. 22) aims to alter the way app-based drivers are defined under state laws. If passed, the proposition will categorise app-based drivers as "independent contractors"; it also provides specific labour and wage policies. If the proposition fails to get approved, California Assembly Bill 5 will continue to be used to define such app-based drivers.³¹ Since a large number of app-based drivers are immigrants, this ballot proposition is of utmost importance for the Indian-American population in California.³²
- **Black Lives Matter.** According to a poll conducted by the University of California Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies, 63 percent of the state's voters support the Black Lives Matter movement, and the share of those concerned about race relations has increased from 10 percent to 49 percent in the past 10 years. Since California is home to large Hispanic and Asian-American populations, their sentiment has been clearly visible in their support for the BLM movement.³³ State Sen. Steven Bradford proposed a key police reform bill – SB 731—in July; it aims to give the public access to information related to incidents involving the use of force by the police. The bill has attracted enormous support from the public and a number of celebrities and made it through the state's Assembly. However, the bill did not reach the Senate before the deadline passed and the state failed to pass SB 731. A number of other police reform bills, however, including a ban on chokeholds have been passed.³⁴

COLORADO



Source - Nations Online³⁵

A SNAPSHOT

The state of Colorado is located in the central region of the US and shares its border with Wyoming and Nebraska in the north, Kansas in the east, Oklahoma and New Mexico in the south and Utah in the west.

CAPITAL
DENVER

POPULATION
(ESTIMATED 2019)
5,758,736

INDIAN-AMERICAN
POPULATION
27,981

ELECTORAL
VOTES
9

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Colorado (in 2018-20)³⁶



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Colorado³⁷
\$450.3 million



Jobs supported by exports
to India in Colorado³⁸
3,632



Indian visitor spending
in Colorado³⁹
\$234.4 million



Economic contribution of Indian
international students
in Colorado⁴⁰
\$54.4 million

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)⁴¹



The impact of COVID-19 on Colorado has been relatively moderate. Immediately after the first reported case of COVID-19 in March, a lockdown was imposed across the state. Beginning in early May, some counties including Denver, Adams and Arapahoe transitioned to “safer at home” orders in an attempt to kickstart the economy. For their part, the counties that were looking to further flatten the curve of COVID-19 infections extended their stay-at-home orders.⁴² In July, State governor Jared Polis announced a statewide mask mandate, requiring those 11 years and above to wear a mask in indoor public spaces. Cases of infection and hospitalisation began to decline eventually.⁴³

Economic impact

State GDP	\$323.3 billion GDP per capita - \$57,654
Pillar Industries: Real estate and professional and business services	Real estate contributes approximately \$55.2 billion to state GDP, while professional and business services contribute \$54.6 billion.

The key industries that contribute to Colorado’s economy include real estate, professional and business services, oil and gas extraction, manufacturing, and agriculture.⁴⁴ The state is home to about four percent of the country’s oil reserves and contributes to four percent of the entire US oil production.⁴⁵ The adoption of advanced manufacturing in the state has allowed Colorado’s manufacturing industry to perform extraordinarily, and has grown its presence across other sectors such as electronics, aerospace, biomedical, and

food and beverage. Due to their geographic location and extensive infrastructure, this industry plays an important role in the global supply chain and is a leader in exports to markets such as Canada, Mexico and China.⁴⁶ In terms of agriculture, almost half of all available land is used for agricultural purposes to grow crops such as wheat and field corn; apple is the leading fruit crop grown in the state. Animal rearing is also widely practiced across the state, with farmers raising animals such as emu, ostriches and bison.⁴⁷

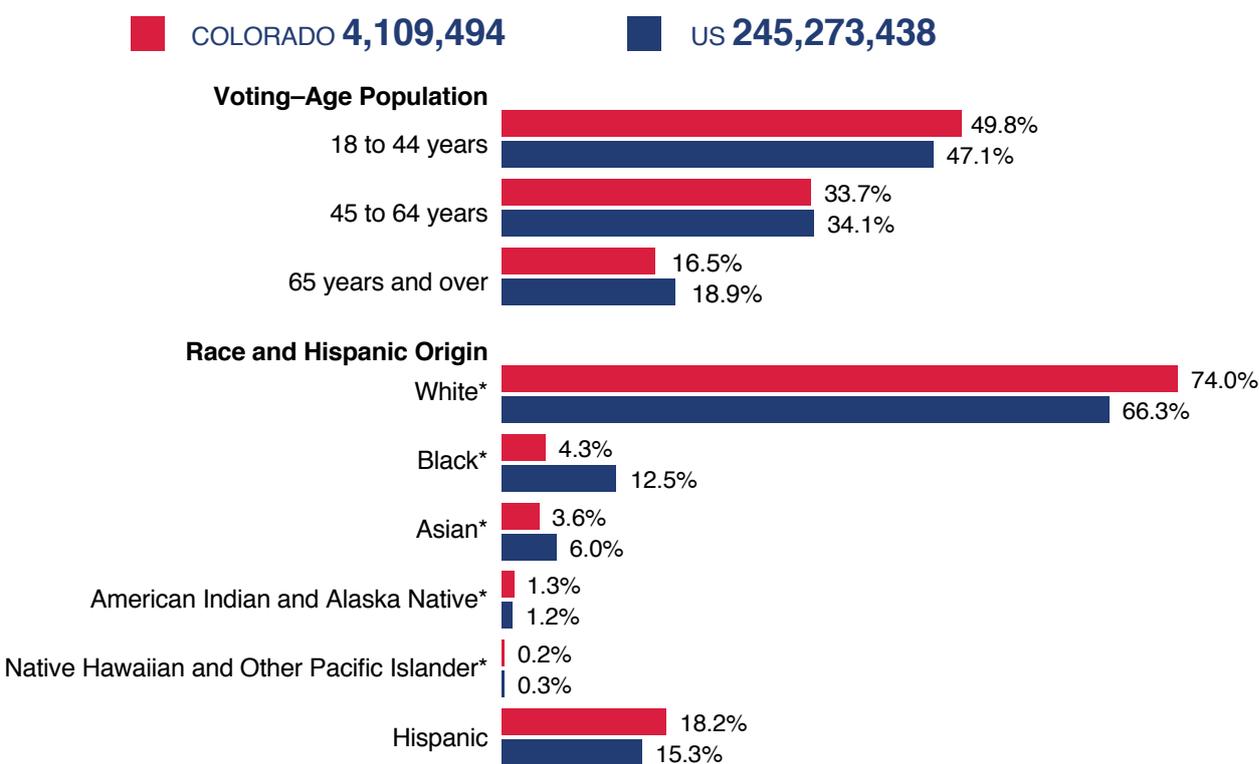
Among all the industries in Colorado that have been affected by COVID-19, oil and gas is among the most heavily hit. The pandemic reached the state at a time when it was already recovering from the impact of drop in oil prices, putting great pressure on the oil and gas industry in terms of job losses. Moreover, due to the recent oil price wars between Russia and Saudi Arabia

and a drop in demand due to travel restrictions, the oil companies are now struggling to compete for dwindling revenue inflows. According to data released by the government, the state has already lost some 650 jobs in the energy sector and the trajectory for the rest of 2020 shows further downsizing.⁴⁸

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state's eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey, www.census.gov/acs.

Source - data: US Census Bureau.⁴⁹

Religious composition of adults in Colorado⁵⁰

Christian	64%
Evangelical Protestant	26%
Mainline Protestant	15%
Historically Black Protestant	2%
Catholic	16%
Mormon	2%
Orthodox Christian	1%
Jehovah's Witness	<1%
Other Christian	1%
Non-Christian Faiths	5%
Unaffiliated	29%
Don't Know	2%

Among the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) population in Colorado, the Indian-Americans comprise the second largest ethnic group and are expected to have some degree of clout in the November elections.⁵¹ Furthermore, the growing Indian-American population has changed the ethnic constitution of minority communities, especially between 2008 and 2014, when there was a significant overall population increase in the state. A number of counties in Colorado now have Hindu temples and Indian grocery markets.⁵²

In Colorado, the religiously unaffiliated population forms the biggest chunk of the electorate, and 38 percent of Democrat voters in Colorado have no religious affiliation.⁵³

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Colorado was once a reliable Republican state in the presidential elections. However, in recent times, voting demographics have changed in favour of the Democratic Party. In the last four decades, state population increased by almost 90 percent, with majority of such growth happening in the urban areas. As a result, the gap between the percentage of rural voters and that of urban voters has widened over a period of time. In recent years, the urban population's alignment of views with the Democrats has overshadowed the rural voters' inclination for the Republicans.⁵⁴

According to predictions by *The Economist* as of 11 October, the Democratic Party is likely to win Colorado again in 2020, with Biden commanding 50-61 percent of the popular vote share, and Trump, 40-50 percent.⁵⁵ Latest polls by FiveThirtyEight as of 10 October predicts a win for Biden with 51.9-percent share of votes, against Trump's 39.9 percent.⁵⁶

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (Ballot measure - Proposition 113).**⁵⁷ The measure aims to enter Colorado among the other states in the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. At present, Colorado's nine electoral votes go to the presidential candidate receiving the most votes in Colorado. If this measure is voted, Colorado will give all its nine electoral votes to the presidential candidate winning the most votes nationwide.⁵⁸
- **22-Week Abortions Ban (Ballot measure - Proposition 115).**⁵⁹ This measure aims to prohibit abortions in Colorado once the foetus reaches the 22-week gestational age. There are no current restrictions related to gestational age at which an abortion can be performed. Only in some cases, where the physician believes it is absolutely necessary to save the life of the woman, will abortion be allowed.⁶⁰
- **Paid Medical and Family Leave (Ballot measure - Proposition 118).**⁶¹ This measure aims to establish a program where 12 weeks of paid medical and family leave will be provided in Colorado, plus an additional four weeks for any complications during pregnancy and childbirth. This will also guarantee that the workers do not get fired while they are on a leave if they have been on the job for at least 180 days.⁶² Advocates of this proposition believe that this measure will provide support to working families who need to deal with health issues, for instance. Others are of the view that this will only aggravate the economic fallout of the pandemic.⁶³
- **Police reforms.** Following the approval of the Police Reform Bill into law in June, more than 200 Colorado officers either resigned or retired from the police service. While there is no clear link between the new law and their resignation, the number of police officers who have resigned or retired have indeed been higher than usual since the police reform bill was passed. This suggests that the police officers see the law as a hindrance to the performance of their duties.⁶⁴

CONNECTICUT

Source - Nations Online⁶⁵

A SNAPSHOT

Connecticut is located in the northeastern corner of the US and shares its borders with Massachusetts in the north, Rhode Island in the east, and the State of New York in the west, and is bounded by the Long Island Sound, an inlet of the Atlantic Ocean, in the south.

CAPITAL
HARTFORD

POPULATION
(ESTIMATED 2019)
3,565,287

INDIAN-AMERICAN
POPULATION
58,207

ELECTORAL
VOTES
7

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Connecticut (in 2018-20)⁶⁶



**Number of jobs created
due to Indian investment
in Connecticut⁶⁷**

2,552



**Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Connecticut⁶⁸**

\$290.7 million



**Jobs supported by exports
to India in Connecticut⁶⁹**

2,909



**Indian visitor spending
in Connecticut⁷⁰**

\$108 million



**Economic contribution of Indian
international students
in Connecticut⁷¹**

\$117.5 million

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)⁷²



Connecticut has had a high casualty rate from COVID-19. The state was one of the first few to issue a mask mandate as early as in April.⁷³ In the beginning of May, the state looked to reopen its economy, subject to certain criteria such as a two-week decline in hospitalisations and increased availability of testing. Following an ease in lockdown restrictions, the state reopened restaurants with outdoor dining areas, hair and nail salons, and other outdoor recreational businesses.⁷⁴ Moreover, in coordination with other states, the presidential primaries were postponed from 28 April to 2 June.

Economic impact

State GDP	\$238.9 billion GDP per capita - \$66,592
Pillar Industries: Real estate, finance and insurance, and professional and business services	Real estate contributes approximately \$40 billion to state GDP; other big earners are finance and insurance (\$37.7 billion) and professional and business services (\$33.7 billion).

The economy of Connecticut is driven by a diverse range of industries including financial services, insurance, manufacturing, and bioscience and healthcare. Due to the presence of *Aetna*, headquartered in Hartford, a managed healthcare company that deals in healthcare insurance and related services—Hartford has long been known as the “insurance capital of the world.”⁷⁵ There are more than 7,000 insurance and financial services companies that call Connecticut home and they play a significant role in providing employment.⁷⁶ Manufacturing is another key industry that drives the state’s economic growth: Connecticut is the location of some 4,400 manufacturers across different sectors, from

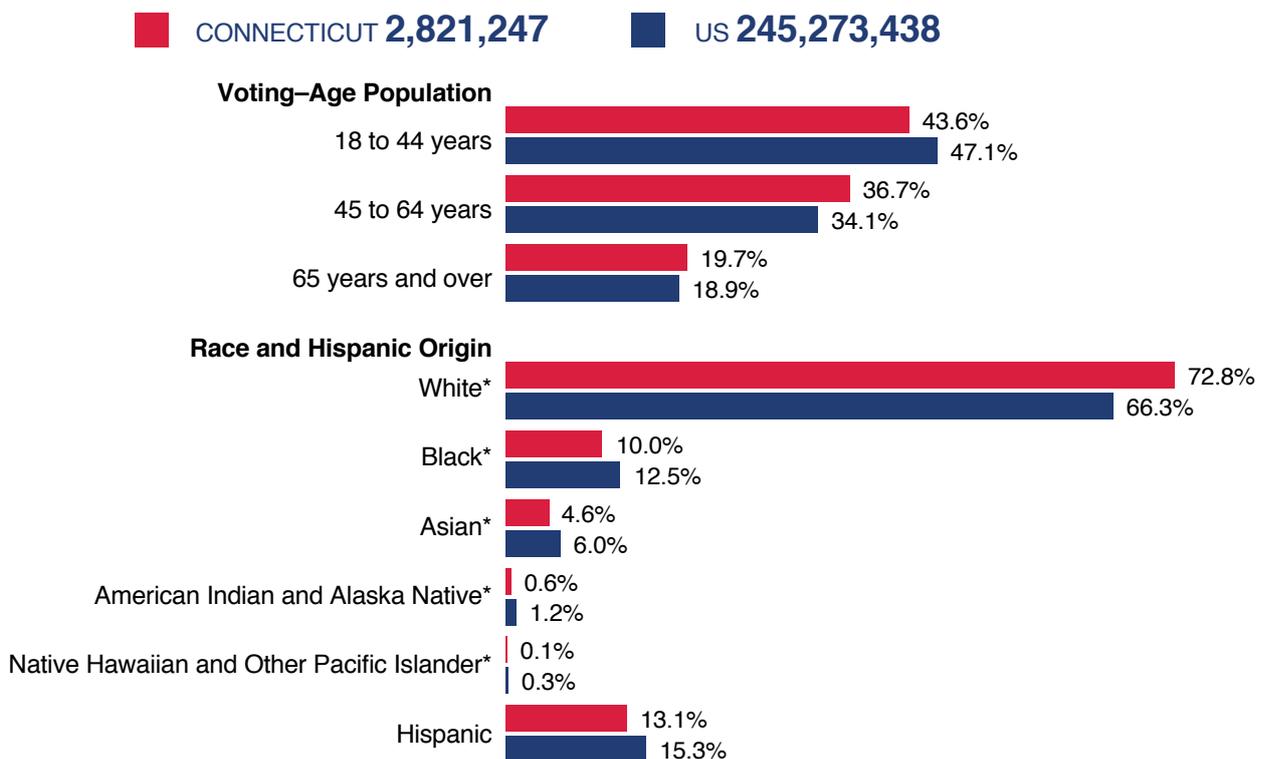
aerospace to shipbuilding. The share of manufacturing in the state’s GDP is nearly 11 percent, and has been rising continuously.⁷⁷

The economic fallout of COVID-19 on Connecticut’s economy is expected to extend into 2021. Due to the pandemic, a number of retail and other businesses have closed down, resulting in job losses of about 430,000 (nearly one-fourth of the state’s workforce). Although key industries such as insurance and financial services have not suffered high unemployment rates, industries including leisure and hospitality, retail and transportation, have witnessed job cuts.⁷⁸

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state’s eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey, www.census.gov/acs.

Source - data: US Census Bureau.⁷⁹

Religious composition of adults in Connecticut⁸⁰

Christian	70%
Evangelical Protestant	30%
Mainline Protestant	17%
Historically Black Protestant	5%
Catholic	33%
Mormon	1%
Orthodox Christian	1%
Jehovah's Witness	<1%
Other Christian	1%
Non-Christian Faiths	7%
Unaffiliated	23%
Don't Know	1%

According to a report in 2016, 14 percent of Connecticut's population was foreign-born and the largest immigrant population comes from India.⁸¹ Despite this, the Indian-American population has not played a significant role in general elections before.⁸²

The evangelical protestant community in Connecticut has a population that is lower than the national average. Catholics are the most populous in the state, and are predominantly inclined towards the Democratic Party.⁸³

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Throughout the 20th century, Connecticut went through some periods where it primarily voted Republican. The tables have since turned, and Connecticut has been voting Democrat since 1992. During the 2016 elections, Clinton won with a 54.6-percent share of votes against Trump's 40.9 percent.⁸⁴

The Economist predicts as of 11 October that the Democratic Party will take Connecticut again in 2020, with Biden commanding 55-66 percent of the popular vote share, and Trump, 35-45 percent.⁸⁵ Similarly, latest polls by FiveThirtyEight predicts a win for Biden with 58.7 percent of votes, against Trump's 34 percent.⁸⁶

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- Police reform** The state governor, Ned Lamont, has signed into the law police reform legislation to increase the accountability of law enforcement agents and improve public trust. According to Lamont, “these laws are focused on bringing real change to end the systemic discrimination that exists in our criminal justice and policing systems that have impacted minority communities for far too long.”⁸⁷ The law will include an overhaul of the state police, and the creation of an agency that will train new police officers. An Office of the Inspector General will be set up to examine the use of force. However, the chairperson of the Connecticut Republican Party, J.R. Romano, has openly expressed his views regarding the bill being ‘anti-police’. He is of the view that such kind of law will make the communities less safe in fact, as it will restrict the police officers from doing their job.⁸⁸
- Absentee ballot applications.** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, any voter will be able to cast an absentee ballot in November. In order to smoothen out the process and avoid any crowding on election day, polling places in Connecticut distributed the absentee ballot applications to every registered voter in the state (nearly two million in total). Within a week of sending out the applications, more than 32,000 Connecticut voters filed for absentee voting.⁸⁹

DELAWARE

Source - Nations Online⁹⁰

A SNAPSHOT

The state of Delaware is one of the Middle Atlantic states, located entirely on the northeastern part of the Delmarva Peninsula. It shares its border with New Jersey in the east, Maryland in the south, Pennsylvania in the north, and the Atlantic Ocean in the southeast.

CAPITAL
DOVER

POPULATION
(ESTIMATED 2019)
973,764

INDIAN-AMERICAN
POPULATION
14,681

ELECTORAL
VOTES
3

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Delaware (in 2018-20)⁹¹



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Delaware⁹²
\$92.7 million



Jobs supported by exports
to India in Delaware⁹³
605



Indian visitor spending
in Delaware⁹⁴
\$25 million



Economic contribution of Indian
international students
in Delaware⁹⁵
\$28.7 million

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)⁹⁶



Delaware is among the states that have recorded the least number of COVID-19 cases. After almost two months in lockdown, State Governor John Carney lifted the stay-at-home orders starting 1 June. This was supplemented with the reopening of many businesses and marked the end of mandatory 14-day quarantine for out-of-state travellers and prohibition of many outdoor gatherings.

The gradual reopening of the economy was a result of the lower number of hospitalisations and the doubling rate of testing. The state wanted to strike a careful balance between public health and economic survival, and the restaurants were only allowed to reopen with 30-percent capacity and following strict social-distancing guidelines.⁹⁷ When the country was placed on Level 3 “red alert” because of the pandemic, Delaware announced a statewide mask mandate.⁹⁸

Economic impact

State GDP	\$63.9 billion GDP per capita - \$66,419
Pillar Industries: Finance and insurance	The industry's contribution is approximately \$21.9 billion.

The finance and insurance industry contributes significantly to the state GDP.⁹⁹ Other industries that have supported Delaware’s economic growth include agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism. Agriculture is one of the most productive industries in Delaware and is ranked first in the nation for agricultural value sold per acre. Due to some of the most cutting-edge modern advances in food and agriculture, the state is a food production powerhouse and a leading producer of broiler chickens. It is also an important producer of soybeans, field corn, sweet corn, potatoes and watermelon (which is the leading fruit crop).¹⁰⁰ Tourism is another multibillion-dollar industry in Delaware: it is the fourth-

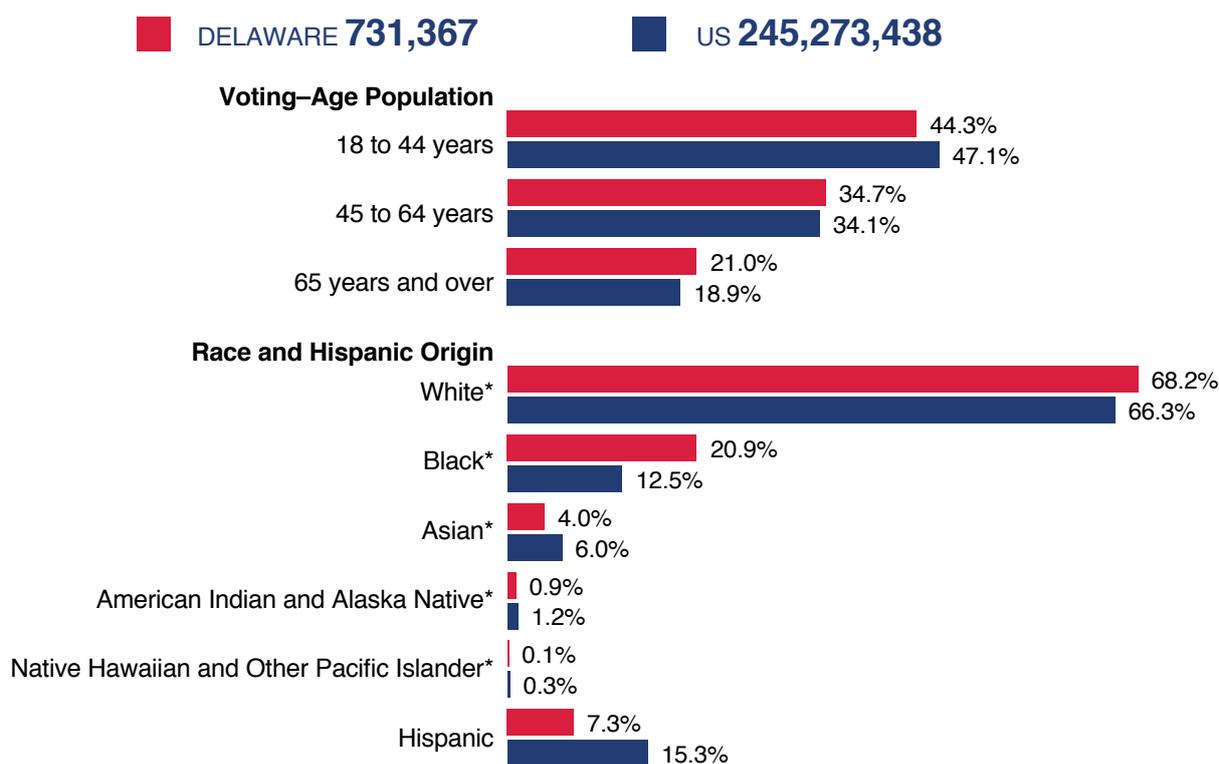
largest private employment sector, with 44,000 workers across the state.¹⁰¹

Due to the pandemic, restaurants, schools and multinational companies were either voluntarily closed or forced to close by the state. The poultry industry that employs about 20,000 people and contributes more than \$3 billion to the economy has seen troubles as well. Due to the closure of the majority of restaurants, there was a reduced demand for bulk purchases of chicken. As a result, some of the poultry farms have been forced to reduce their workforce by nearly 50 percent.¹⁰²

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state’s eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey, www.census.gov/acs.

Source - data: US Census Bureau.¹⁰³

Religious composition of adults in Delaware¹⁰⁴

Christian	69%
Evangelical Protestant	15%
Mainline Protestant	21%
Historically Black Protestant	10%
Catholic	22%
Mormon	<1%
Orthodox Christian	1%
Jehovah's Witness	<1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	6%
Unaffiliated	23%
Don't Know	1%

The Indian-American population has been growing across the state, and today there is a higher number of establishments that cater to these communities, including Hindu temples and Sikh centres. The majority of Indian-Americans live in New Castle County, with significant representations in the sciences, engineering, IT, and a range of businesses. In addition, it is the third largest ethnic group in Delaware.¹⁰⁵ However, voters of Asian descent in Delaware are expected to have little significance in the upcoming elections, if at all.¹⁰⁶

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Delaware has voted Democrat in the past seven elections. Moreover, no Republican governor has served since 1992 and both chambers of the General Assembly are controlled by Democrats. Despite Delaware's reputation of being a Blue state, it has a diverse political history. This is because Delaware was referred to as a reliable bellwether in the presidential elections and for nearly half a century, voters selected the candidate who ended up winning. The streak came to an end when Delaware voted for Al Gore over George Bush in 2000.¹⁰⁷ During the 2016 elections, Clinton emerged as a clear winner from Delaware, with a 53.4-percent share of votes against Trump's 41.9 percent.¹⁰⁸

According to predictions by *The Economist* as of 11 October, the Democratic Party will take Delaware again in 2020, with Biden commanding 55-65 percent of the popular vote share, and Trump, 35-45 percent.¹⁰⁹ The latest polls by FiveThirtyEight as of 10 October predicts a win for Biden with 58.9 percent of votes, against Trump's 34.1 percent.¹¹⁰

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Absentee ballots.** A law was signed on 1 July in Delaware allowing universal voting by mail in the November election. In August, the Republican Party filed a lawsuit arguing that lawmakers in the Democrat-controlled legislature exceeded their constitutional authority in invoking emergency powers to pass the measure. As all the polling places planned to remain open with no prohibition against in-person voting on election day, supporters of the law are of the view that allowing universal voting aligns with the “free and equal” elections guaranteed by the Constitution.¹¹¹
- **Black Lives Matter.** The protests related to race issues and police brutality have paved the way for the creation of two task forces in the state. A 27-person task force, comprising members of the Delaware Legislative Black Caucus and leaders from a number of state agencies, has been formed. It will be further divided into four sub-committees that will draft new policies in their domains: education, healthcare, housing, business and economic development, and a number of other socio-economic issues. A separate task force was also formed to focus on police accountability.¹¹²

HAWAII

Source - Nations Online¹¹³

A SNAPSHOT

The state of Hawaii is an island group located in the central Pacific Ocean, southwest of the continental United States.

CAPITAL
HONOLULU

POPULATION
(ESTIMATED 2019)
1,415,872

INDIAN-AMERICAN
POPULATION
4,504

ELECTORAL
VOTES
4

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Hawaii (in 2018-20)¹¹⁴



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Hawaii¹¹⁵
\$152.9 million



Jobs supported by exports
to India in Hawaii¹¹⁶
1,282



Indian visitor spending
in Hawaii¹¹⁷
\$130.2 million



Economic contribution of Indian
international students
in Hawaii¹¹⁸
\$0.7 million

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)¹¹⁹



Hawaii has seen one of the lowest COVID-19 infection rates across the country as of the time of writing this report. In response to the initial outbreak, Hawaii announced a statewide stay-at-home order that prohibited any gathering of more than 10 individuals. Only essential business services were allowed to remain open, including healthcare services and facilities, pharmacies, grocery stores, and other retailers of food supplies.¹²⁰ After following the national trend of gradually reopening the economy, Hawaii again announced a lockdown in the end of August to reduce the pressure on hospitals that are handling rising numbers of cases.¹²¹ Hawaii has issued one of the strictest mask mandates across the country, required face coverings almost everywhere outside the home.¹²²

Economic impact

State GDP	\$79.5 billion GDP per capita - \$55,668
Pillar Industries: Real estate and rental and leasing	The industry's GDP contribution is approximately \$18.9 billion.

Tourism is the backbone of the Hawaiian economy, and the accommodation industry is the biggest beneficiary with the large number of hotels, camps, and boarding houses.¹²³ Tourists also spend across a number of associated industries such as transportation, retail, and those that cater to the various festivals and events that run throughout the year. Due to geographical proximity and close economic ties, Japan sends the largest tourist populations to Hawaii.¹²⁴ The state government has also made efforts to reduce the dependency of the economy on tourism and diversify in defence, agriculture and fishing. Hawaii is also a critical part of the US military and has

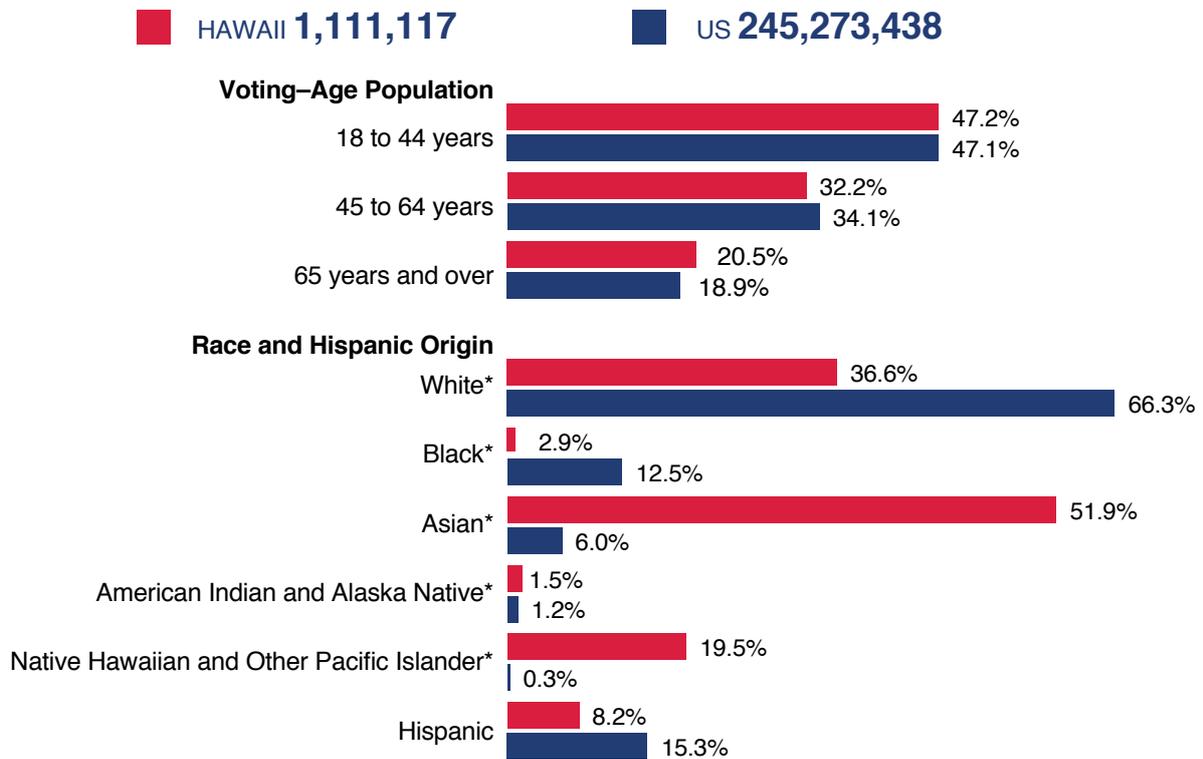
well-established forces of the Air Force, Army, National Guard, Marine, and Coast Guard. These institutions contribute significantly to the state economy in terms of GDP and employment.¹²⁵

Hawaii has recorded a low casualty rate from COVID-19, but the requirement for visitors to quarantine for 14 days was announced back in March, and the tourism industry has taken a hit. By the end of May, almost 150,000 workers in the state of 1.5 million people were out of work and the unemployment rate was 23.5 percent, nearly 10 percent above the national rate.¹²⁶

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state's eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey, www.census.gov/acs.

Source - data: US Census Bureau.¹²⁷

Religious composition of adults in Hawaii¹²⁸

Christian	63%
Evangelical Protestant	25%
Mainline Protestant	11%
Historically Black Protestant	2%
Catholic	20%
Mormon	3%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	1%
Other Christian	1%
Non-Christian Faiths	10%
Unaffiliated	26%
Don't Know	1%

The share of Asian voters across the state is higher than all other communities, with Filipinos, Japanese and Chinese representing the three biggest Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) populations.¹²⁹ Despite being the only state in the US having a majority of AAPI voters, Hawaii has a low population of Indian-Americans at 0.3 percent of the total population; they are not expected to play a significant role in the elections.¹³⁰

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Out of the 15 presidential elections that the state of Hawaii has participated in, they have voted mostly Democrat and voted Republican only twice. During the 2016 elections, Clinton won with a 61-percent share of votes against Trump's 29.4 percent.¹³¹ The reign of the Democratic Party in Hawaii stems from the strength of the labour movement in the 20th century and efforts of the Hawaii Democratic Party to push for greater inclusivity of the electoral base that was specifically aimed towards the Japanese-Americans.¹³²

According to predictions by *The Economist* as of 11 October, the Democratic Party will take Hawaii again in 2020, with Biden likely to command 64-73 percent of the popular vote share, and Trump, 27-36 percent.¹³³ Latest polls by FiveThirtyEight as of 10 October predicts a win for Biden with 62.3 percent, and Trump, 31.7 percent.¹³⁴

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Increasing jobless claims.** Since it achieved statehood in 1959, Hawaii has thrived on tourism. The impact of the pandemic on unemployment and tax revenue has been highly substantial.¹³⁵ Initially, the weekly unemployment claims were at 5,000 in the beginning of August. More recently, due to another backslide in the economy, there have been additional layoffs and more people are looking for unemployment claims. The weekly unemployment claims eventually reached 7,500. Moreover, the highest weekly claim recorded stood at 53,113 in the first week of April. A decrease in the number of hours worked and declining payrolls are consistent with a rise in unemployment benefits.¹³⁶
- **Police reforms.** A police reform bill related to making public the names of police officers suspended or fired was finally advanced by lawmakers in June. Given the current nationwide unrest provoked by incidents of police brutality, and the parallel growing demand for police accountability and transparency, the Democrat Governor David Ige will not be looking to veto the bill. However, he still has not confirmed whether he will sign the legislation.¹³⁷

ILLINOIS

Source - Nations Online¹³⁸

A SNAPSHOT

Illinois is located in the Great lakes region of the United States.

CAPITAL	POPULATION (ESTIMATED 2019)	INDIAN-AMERICAN POPULATION	ELECTORAL VOTES
SPRINGFIELD	12,671,821	229,226	20

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Illinois (in 2018-20)¹³⁹



Number of
Indian companies
in Illinois¹⁴⁰

23



Total volume of investment
by Indian companies¹⁴¹
Approximately

\$266 million

(1.18% of total Indian investments in the US,
i.e. \$22.6 billion)



Number of jobs created
due to Indian investment
in Illinois¹⁴²

3,951



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Illinois¹⁴³

\$1.4 billion



Jobs supported by exports
to India in Illinois¹⁴⁴

10,382



Indian visitor spending
in Illinois¹⁴⁵

\$502.5 million



Economic contribution of Indian
international students
in Illinois¹⁴⁶

\$372.3 million



Indian Companies
in Illinois:
Sector Diversification¹⁴⁷

Information Technology and
Telecommunications

65.22%

Financial Services

8.70%

Design and Engineering

4.35%

Manufacturing

4.35%

Life Sciences, Pharmaceuticals
and Healthcare

4.35%

Automotive

4.35%

Energy

4.35%

Food and Agriculture

4.35%

Key personalities



Neal Katyal: During the Obama Administration from 2008-12, Democrat Katyal served as Acting Solicitor General of the US (May 2010-June 2011). He had previously worked as an attorney in the Solicitor General's office and as Principal Deputy Solicitor General in the US Department of Justice (DOJ).¹⁴⁸ Born in Chicago, Illinois, he received in 2011 the Edmund Randolph Award, the highest award given to a civilian by the DOJ.¹⁴⁹ As Special Attorney for the State, he is the prosecutor in the case of the brutal killing of George Floyd in early 2020 in the hands of the Minneapolis police.¹⁵⁰



Raja Krishnamoorthi:¹⁵¹ Krishnamoorthi is a Democrat representative for the 8th Congressional District in Illinois. He was elected in 2017 and is seeking re-election in November. Krishnamoorthi works on issues such as making college education more affordable, and reforming gun ownership and immigration laws. District 8 has a high Asian population, and Krishnamoorthi is popular among the immigrant communities.



Shalabh "Shalli" Kumar: Kumar is a Chicago-based Republican-leaning industrialist of Indian origin and the founder of the Republican Hindu Coalition (RHC). He was one of the biggest donors in Trump's presidential campaign in 2016, and earlier, for Nikki Haley's first run for governor of South Carolina.¹⁵² Kumar has advocated the cutting-off of foreign funding to Pakistan following the announcement of certain evidence regarding the presence of suspected terrorists in the state. He is a staunch supporter of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.¹⁵³ He was also the member of the Asian Pacific American Advisory Committee in Trump's presidential campaign.¹⁵⁴



Jitendra Diganvker:¹⁵⁵ A Republican, Hindu Indian-American businessman, Diganvker contested in 2018 a seat in Congress for the 8th Congressional District of the state. He lost the election to then incumbent and fellow Indian-American, Democrat Krishnamoorthi.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)¹⁵⁶



Illinois is among 20 states in the US with a mask mandate. The state has permitted online registration of voters, no excuse absentee voting, in-mail voting, and early voting. It will not require any voter ID proof for voting in November.

Economic impact

State GDP	\$745.3 billion GDP per capita - \$58,217
Pillar Industries: Professional and business services, real estate and manufacturing	Professional and business services contribute approximately \$118.4 billion to state GDP; other big earners are real estate (108.9 billion) and manufacturing (\$107.7 billion).

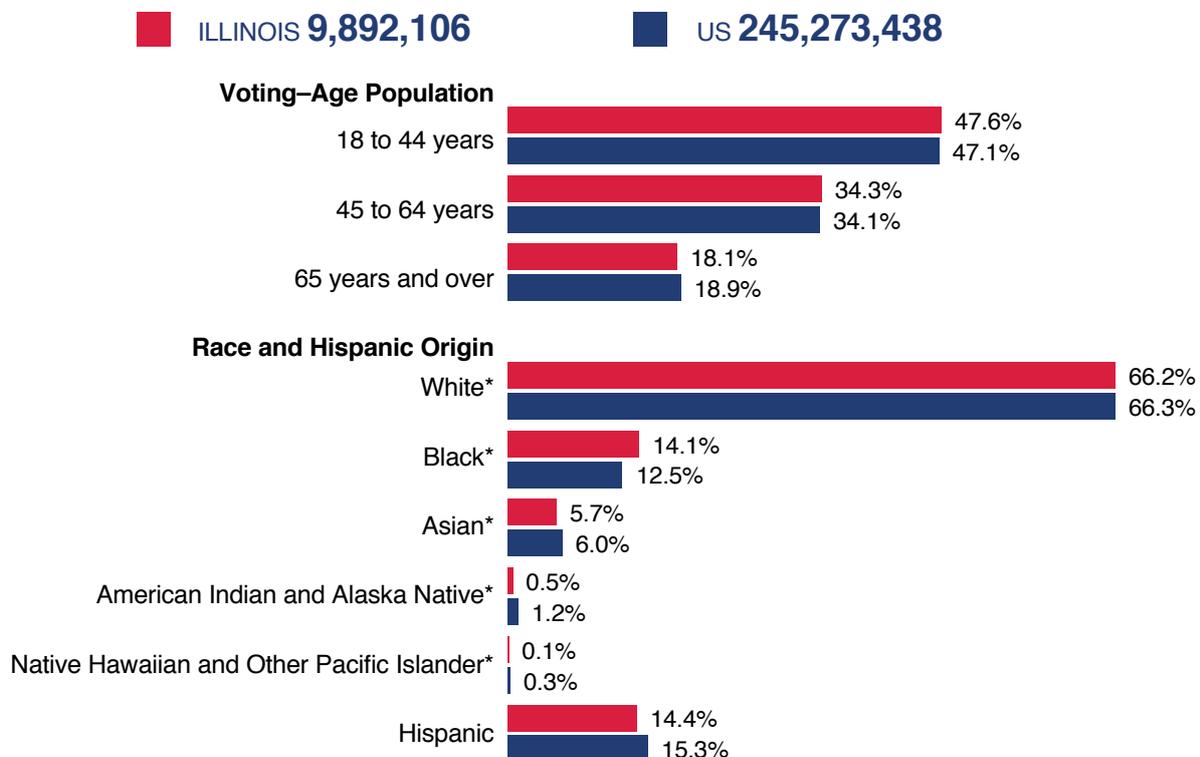
The State's biggest industries include banking and holdings, agriculture and food processing, manufacturing, and clean energy innovation.¹⁵⁷ A report by the University of Chicago predicts the loss of more than 550,000 jobs in the state by March 2021. The most aggressive cutdowns can be expected in the trade and construction, resources and service sectors, along with supporting sectors of public utilities, transportation and communication, which are all labour-intensive.

Owing to the highly interconnected economy of Illinois, it is projected that for every one job lost, another 0.38 jobs will also be lost in supporting industries. It is estimated that the state's citizens and businesses will lose about \$28.5 billion in income and \$76 billion in economic output. The construction and government sectors are likely to lose 26,000 and 30,000 jobs, respectively.¹⁵⁸ The hotels and tourism industry has already suffered 26,124 direct hotel-related job losses; the number increases to 119,408 when the supporting industries are taken into account.¹⁵⁹

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state's eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey, www.census.gov/acs.

Source - data: US Census Bureau.¹⁶⁰

Religious composition of adults in Illinois¹⁶¹

Christian	71%
Evangelical Protestant	20%
Mainline Protestant	16%
Historically Black Protestant	7%
Catholic	28%
Mormon	<1%
Orthodox Christian	1%
Jehovah's Witness	1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	6%
Unaffiliated	22%
Don't Know	1%

Indian-Americans are a key voting constituency in the state, and they largely lean Democrat. According to a 2014 study by Pew Research Center, 48 percent of adults in Illinois lean Democrat while 33 percent, Republican. The numbers have decreased for Democrats, but it is higher overall nonetheless.¹⁶² The Asian population constitutes 5.7 percent of the state population, increasing by 24 percent since 2010. It is the fastest growing ethnic group in Illinois. The growth is particularly notable in Cook county, DuPage county and Lake county.¹⁶³

Another key voting constituency, the evangelical protestants in Illinois, are historically inclined towards the Republican Party. The younger generation of voters (18-29) has witnessed a decline in the share of evangelical protestants, from 20 percent in 2007 to 13 percent in 2014.¹⁶⁴

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Though the Democratic Party tends to get more votes overall in Illinois, a higher number of counties tend to be majority Republican.¹⁶⁵ Following the 2019 elections, Illinois currently holds a Democratic Trifecta and Triplex in the state.

According to predictions by *The Economist* as of 11 October, the Democratic Party will take Illinois again in 2020, with Biden commanding 53-64 percent of the popular vote share, and Trump, 36-47 percent.¹⁶⁶ Similarly, latest polls by FiveThirtyEight predicts a win for Biden (56.4 percent share of votes), over Trump (38.2 percent).¹⁶⁷

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Progressive Income Tax.**¹⁶⁸ Illinois currently uses a flat rate income tax. Contemplations are strong to shift to a progressive income tax system which will be taxing wealthier individuals more. For this legislation to go through, voters from Illinois would have to vote for the Ballot measure in the November polls. Supporters are of the view that it will bring the state much needed revenue from the ones who can afford it, and help small businesses.
- **Affordable Housing.** Home ownership in the state costs more than 40 percent of the income for most of the population of the state.¹⁶⁹ Prior to the pandemic, 63 percent of African-American renters and 56 percent of Latino renters in the city were cost-burdened, in comparison to a lower 42 percent of White American renters. The situation has worsened due to the pandemic. While Biden has an exhaustive plan for the issue,¹⁷⁰ many believe that Trump too will make this an important agenda.¹⁷¹

MAINE

Source - Nations Online¹⁷²

A SNAPSHOT

Maine is the northernmost state on the eastern coast of the United States.

CAPITAL AUGUSTA	POPULATION (ESTIMATED 2019) 1,344,212	INDIAN-AMERICAN POPULATION 2,181	ELECTORAL VOTES 4
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THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Maine (in 2018-20)¹⁷³



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Maine¹⁷⁴

\$52.6 million



Jobs supported by exports
to India in Maine¹⁷⁵

9,400



Indian visitor spending
in Maine¹⁷⁶

\$513.1 million



Economic contribution of Indian
international students
in Maine⁷⁷

\$2.9 million

Key personalities



Sara Gideon:¹⁷⁸ Gideon is a member of the Democratic Party and the Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives; she represents District 48. Her father is from India; she herself was born and raised in Rhode Island. She works on making healthcare affordable for the residents of Maine. She is also in favour of a public health insurance option, and a supporter of Planned Parenthood.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)¹⁷⁹



Governor Janet Mills has issued a 'Stay Safer at Home' order where residents are allowed to step out of their homes but with precautions. There is also a mask mandate and a 6-foot social-distancing rule. The 'Keep Maine Healthy' plan includes testing as an alternative option to self-quarantining so that people visiting or returning to Maine are not restricted by the 14-day quarantine. Currently, there are only 400 active cases and the number of hospitalisations have dropped to a dozen.¹⁸⁰

Economic impact

State GDP	\$55.6 billion GDP per capita - \$41,619
Pillar Industries: Real estate and rental and leasing	This industry contributes approximately \$9.3 billion to state GDP.

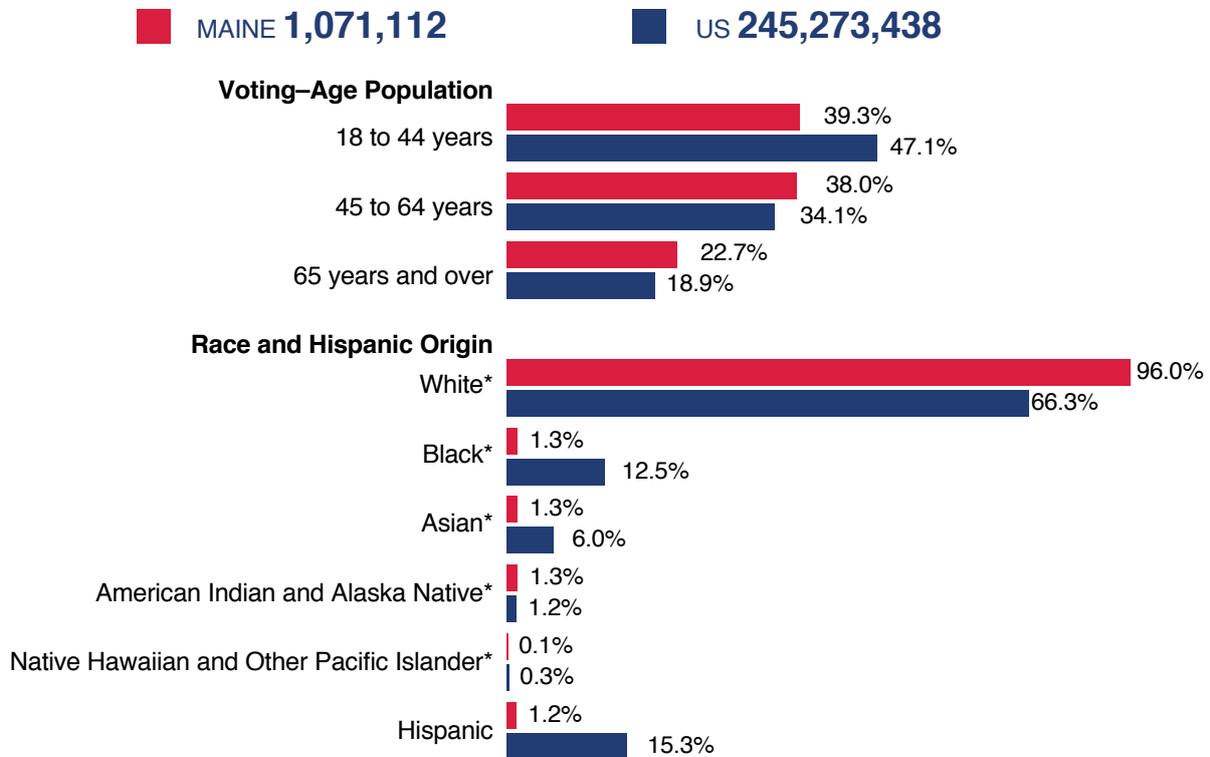
Tens of thousands of workers have lost their jobs in Maine due to the pandemic. The rate of unemployment reached its peak in April 2020 (at 10.4 percent) and then dropped to 6.6 percent by June. COVID-19 has been contained within Maine, and the economic fallout has not been as severe as in other states. There are a few hundred active cases at the time of writing this report. The restrictions have been eased and Maine is no longer in a civil state of emergency.¹⁸¹

There are more than 75 businesses that have permanently closed, mostly in the food service industry and other sectors of hospitality. Some 25 fairs and festivals—all of them popular, widely awaited, and responsible for substantial tourism revenues—have been cancelled.¹⁸² The Democrat governor in Maine has directed state department heads to plan for 10-percent spending cuts in order to address the revenue gap owing to the pandemic. The projected revenue for 2021 is down by \$500 million in the state.¹⁸³

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state's eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey, www.census.gov/acs.

Source - data: US Census Bureau.¹⁸⁴

Religious composition of adults in Maine¹⁸⁵

Christian	60%
Evangelical Protestant	14%
Mainline Protestant	21%
Historically Black Protestant	2%
Catholic	21%
Mormon	2%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	<1%
Other Christian	1%
Non-Christian Faiths	7%
Unaffiliated	31%
Don't Know	2%

The Indian-American population is not too large in Maine (about 2,181 people) and is not expected to have a significant impact on the outcome of the November election.

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Maine used to be one of the most devoted Republican states in the country; it voted Democrat only three times between 1956 and 1988. However, in recent years, it has consistently voted Democrat.¹⁸⁶

According to predictions by *The Economist* as of 12 October, the Democratic Party will take Maine in 2020, with Biden commanding 51-61 percent of the popular vote share, and Trump, 39-49 percent.¹⁸⁷ Latest polls by FiveThirtyEight as of 10 October predicts a win for Biden (54.5 percent share of votes), against Trump (39.2 percent).¹⁸⁸

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Postal service crisis.** Postal workers in Maine are making demands for the replacement of US Postmaster General Louis DeJoy. They are also advocating for a COVID-19 relief package that consists of \$25 billion in federal aid so that they can combat the pandemic's fallout. They are less likely to vote for Trump, who has made deep cuts within the Postal Service industry during his tenure.¹⁸⁹
- **Healthcare.** Healthcare has always been an important issue for the residents of Maine,

even before COVID-19. The pandemic has only highlighted issues such as employer-provided insurance and high prices of prescription drugs. Medicare is a popular public option since there would be a drug price cap for senior citizens and expanded family and medical leave. There is also demand for higher investments in healthcare infrastructure so that rural and minority communities can have equal access to healthcare.¹⁹⁰

MARYLAND

Source - Nations Online¹⁹¹

A SNAPSHOT

Maryland is located on the east coast in the mid-Atlantic region of the United States.

CAPITAL ANNAPOLIS	POPULATION (ESTIMATED 2019) 6,045,680	INDIAN-AMERICAN POPULATION 96,057	ELECTORAL VOTES 10
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THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Maryland (in 2018-20)¹⁹²



Number of
Indian companies
in Maryland¹⁹³

14



Total volume of investment
by Indian companies¹⁹⁴
Approximately

\$512 million

(2.26% of total Indian investments in the US,
i.e. \$22.6 billion)



Number of jobs created
due to Indian investment
in Maryland¹⁹⁵

1,094



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Maryland¹⁹⁶

\$550.1 million



Jobs supported by exports
to India in Maryland¹⁹⁷

3,948



Indian Companies
in Maryland:
Sector Diversification²⁰⁰

Information Technology and
Telecommunications

50.00%



Indian visitor spending
in Maryland¹⁹⁸

\$212.1 million

Life Sciences, Pharmaceuticals
and Healthcare

42.86%

Food and Agriculture

7.14%



Economic contribution of Indian
international students
in Maryland¹⁹⁹

\$82.2 million

Key personalities



Saqib Ali²⁰¹ – Saqib Ali is a former member of the Maryland House of Delegates (elected in 2006) representing the 39th District in Montgomery County. He is of Indian and Pakistani descent and a Democrat with a strong stance on pro-immigration agendas. He was the first Muslim to be elected to a State-wide office in Maryland.



Aruna Miller²⁰² – Miller is a former member of the Maryland House of Delegates representing the 15th district in the Montgomery County. She is a Democrat and was the first Indian-American woman to be elected to the Maryland legislature.



Narayana Kocherlakota – Kocherlakota is a noted American economist of Indian heritage. Born in Maryland, he served as the 12th president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis from 2009 – 2015.



Kumar P. Barve²⁰³ – Barve was a Democrat member of the Maryland House of Delegates representing the 17th district, and is the first Indian-American to be elected to a US state legislature. From 2003-2014, he served as the majority leader and chair of the Environment and Transportation Committee of the House.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)²⁰⁴



Maryland is one among 20 states in the US with a mask mandate. For the 2020 elections, the state has allowed no-excuse absentee voting and does not require its citizens to present any identification proof at the voting booths.²⁰⁵

Economic impact

State GDP	\$363 billion GDP per capita - \$59,983
Pillar Industries: Real estate and rental and leasing	The industry's GDP contribution is \$68.9 billion.

The impact of COVID-19 has been significant in the commerce of Maryland. Close to 90 percent of Maryland’s working population is employed in companies that have less than 500 employees; most of these companies do not have the resources or access to credit amidst the pandemic.²⁰⁶

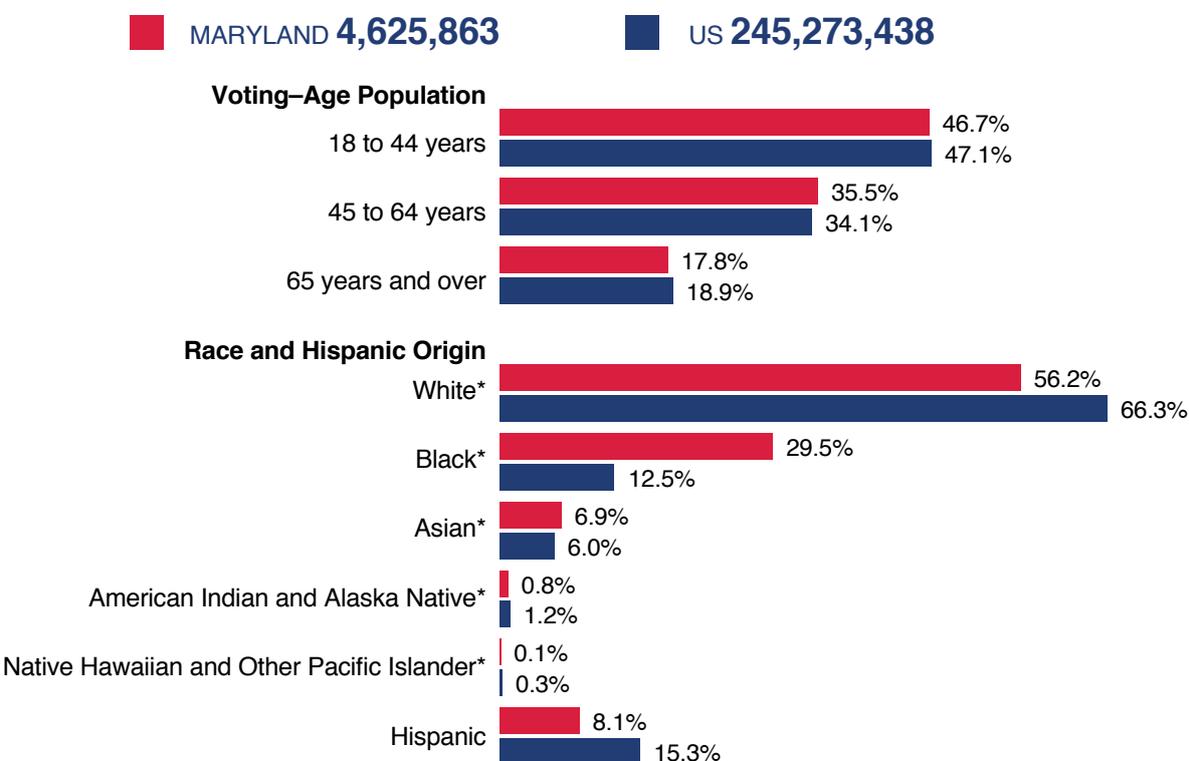
predicted a shortage of close to US\$ 1.125 billion in the state’s budget—something that would take at least two years to recover from. The US\$2.2-trillion relief from the CARES Act was vital for the small and mid-size businesses on which the economy of Maryland is anchored.²⁰⁷

The Maryland government is likely to lose billions of dollars in tax revenues. Financial forecasts had

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state’s eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey, www.census.gov/acs.

Source - data: US Census Bureau.²⁰⁸

Religious composition of adults in Maryland²⁰⁹

Christian	69%
Evangelical Protestant	18%
Mainline Protestant	18%
Historically Black Protestant	16%
Catholic	15%
Mormon	1%
Orthodox Christian	1%
Jehovah's Witness	<1%
Other Christian	1%
Non-Christian Faiths	8%
Unaffiliated	23%
Don't Know	<1%

Twenty-year-old Indian-American Bianca Shah from Maryland is responsible for Biden's reach amongst the South Asian community. She has also been selected to work in Maryland as she appeals to the large Indian-American community present there.²¹⁰ The Indian-American community is largely Democrat-leaning, and since it makes up approximately one percent of the total population in Maryland (96,057 people), it will have a potentially significant, though perhaps still not decisive, influence over the outcome of the polls.²¹¹

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Maryland has voted into power the Democrats twice as many times as they have done the Republicans. From 1992 to 2016 they have voted for Democrats, including in 2016, when Hillary Clinton won in the state.²¹²

The Economist predicts that the Democrats will take Maryland again in 2020, with Biden commanding 59-71 percent of the popular vote share, and Trump, 29-41 percent.²¹³ FiveThirtyEight polls shows Biden currently ahead in Maryland with a 62.8-percent approval rate, while Trump's is at 30.5 percent.²¹⁴

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Education Reform.**²¹⁵ The Democrats have promised to pass laws to introduce new funding for additional educational schemes like pre-kindergarten, student career and college help, raising teacher salaries, and helping students from lower-income families. A backlog demand

of school construction is also being taken up by the Democrats as the Republicans did in a similar plan. The debate on where the excess funds will come from for these constructions is yet to take place in the House.

MASSACHUSETTS

Source - Nations Online²¹⁶

A SNAPSHOT

Massachusetts borders with the Atlantic Ocean on the east coast and is located in the north-eastern region of the United States.

CAPITAL
BOSTON

POPULATION
(ESTIMATED 2019)
6,892,503

INDIAN-AMERICAN
POPULATION
95,343

ELECTORAL
VOTES
11

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Massachusetts (in 2018-20)²¹⁷



Number of
Indian companies
in Massachusetts²¹⁸

14



Total volume of investment
by Indian companies²¹⁹
Approximately

\$873 million

(3.86% of total Indian investments in the US,
i.e. \$22.6 billion)



Number of jobs created
due to Indian investment
in Massachusetts²²⁰

1,363



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Massachusetts²²¹

\$1.1 billion



Jobs supported by exports
to India in Massachusetts²²²

477



Indian Companies
in Massachusetts:
Sector Diversification²²⁵

Information Technology and
Telecommunications

78.57%



Indian visitor spending
in Massachusetts²²³

\$30.5 million

Food and Agriculture

7.14%



Economic contribution of Indian
international students
in Massachusetts²²⁴

\$325.8 million

Manufacturing

7.14%

Life Sciences, Pharmaceuticals
and Healthcare

7.14%

Key personalities



Sabita Singh²²⁶ – Singh is an Indian-American lawyer born in Bihar, India, and is currently serving as the Judge of the Massachusetts Court of Appeals. She has been an active member in a number of court committees, undertakes pro bono representation cases, and was the first president of the South Asian Bar Association of Greater Boston.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC’S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)²²⁷



Massachusetts is one among 20 states in the US with a mask mandate for everyone over two years of age.²²⁸ The state has an early mail-in voting system and does not require the majority of its voters to present identification to vote in view of the pandemic.²²⁹

Economic impact

State GDP	\$363 billion GDP per capita - \$59,983
Pillar Industries: Real estate and rental and leasing	The industry’s GDP contribution is \$68.9 billion.

Massachusetts has some of the biggest and most-renowned hospitals in the country, attracting the best quality healthcare seekers globally. The state has the lowest percentage of people in the country (only 2.5 percent) without a health insurance.²³⁰ Needless to say, this industry was least affected economically by the pandemic. The life sciences industry (biopharmaceuticals and health services) has continued to hold on to its jobs

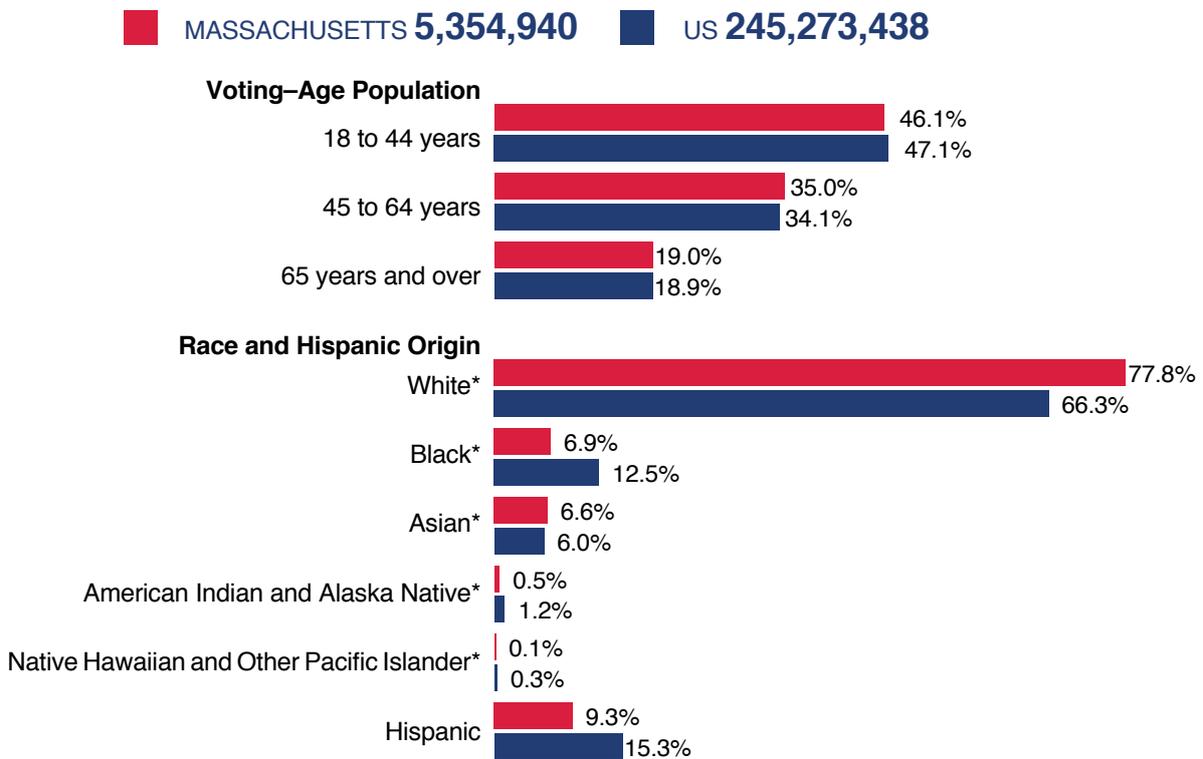
and this is due to the suitable environment for Research & Development and Venture Capital in the state.²³¹

The third largest industry in the state, Tourism and Hotels, suffered 28,393 direct job losses and 73,655 more from supporting industries.²³² The state lost almost 11 percent of its jobs from February to July but has been recovering since then.²³³

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state's eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey, www.census.gov/acs.

Source - data: US Census Bureau.²³⁴

Religious composition of adults in Massachusetts²³⁵

Christian	58%
Evangelical Protestant	9%
Mainline Protestant	10%
Historically Black Protestant	2%
Catholic	34%
Mormon	1%
Orthodox Christian	1%
Jehovah's Witness	<1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	9%
Unaffiliated	32%
Don't Know	1%

Massachusetts has an influential, highly-educated and rapidly growing Indian-American community, many of whom have made notable contributions, like Sushil Tulsi who opened the only minority-owned bank in the state in 2002. It is a strong Blue-leaning state.

Since the Indian-American population makes up 95,343 of the total population in Massachusetts (7 percent of immigrants in the state, with immigrants being 17 percent of the population), they will have a considerable, though not decisive, influence over the outcome of the November election.²³⁶ An early poll done in the state shows that the state is largely unified against Trump and are looking for strong leadership.²³⁷

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Hilary Clinton won the state in the 2016 presidential elections with a clear margin of 60-32 percent of the popular vote share.²³⁸ An analysis of Massachusetts' 2016 election results shows growing polarisation in the state: the state's western counties, which include some rural towns, are shifting to Red. Meanwhile, the Blue counties gave a larger vote margin to the Democrats, even more than before.²³⁹

The Economist predicts that the Democrats will take Massachusetts again in 2020, with Biden likely to command 62-72 percent of the popular vote share, and Trump, 28-38 percent.²⁴⁰ FiveThirtyEight polls shows Biden ahead in Massachusetts with a 65.9-percent approval rate against Trump's 28.7 percent.²⁴¹

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV) Initiative.**²⁴² It is the second ballot measure for Massachusetts voters this time. With this system, the voters will have the option to rank all the contesting candidates according to preference. If any candidate garners more than 50 percent of all the votes, they win. If no one gets it, the candidate with the least votes is removed and those votes are reassigned to reach an outcome. While the RCV is considered a better choice of candidate selection by some political scientists, its constitutionality has been debated.²⁴³ Most polls present that people are conflicted over this choice.
- **Black Lives Matter.** According to a recent poll by Suffolk University from WGBH News, 85 percent of Massachusetts residents surveyed expressed support for the Black Lives Matter movement and only 10 percent of residents said they opposed it.²⁴⁴

MINNESOTA

Source - Nations Online²⁴⁵

A SNAPSHOT

Minnesota is located in the Great lakes region in the upper-midwest and northern regions of the United States.

CAPITAL
SAINT PAUL

POPULATION
(ESTIMATED 2019)
5,639,632

INDIAN-AMERICAN
POPULATION
42,899

ELECTORAL
VOTES
10

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Minnesota (in 2018-20)



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Minnesota²⁴⁶
\$472.8 million



Jobs supported by exports
to India in Minnesota²⁴⁷
3,145



Indian visitor spending
in Minnesota²⁴⁸
\$167 million



Economic contribution of Indian
international students
in Minnesota²⁴⁹
\$45.7 million

Key personalities



Satveer Chaudhary²⁵⁰ – An Indian-origin, Democrat-leaning former member of the Minnesota Senate, Chaudhary represented the 50th district from 2003 to 2011 and the 52nd district from 2001 to 2003. He also served as member of the Minnesota House of Representatives from 52A district from 1997 to 2001. He reportedly lost some of his political clout when the Democratic Farmer Labour Party chose another candidate for the 2010 elections.²⁵¹



Rachel Paulose²⁵²–She was the first Indian-American woman to be nominated as US State Attorney in 2006, by President George W. Bush, and was approved by the Senate in a federal appointment. She has strong stances against urban crime and child pornography.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC’S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)²⁵³



Minnesota is among 20 states in the US with a mask mandate.²⁵⁴ It has permitted online voter registration along with early voting and no-excuse absentee voting. The state also does not require its voters to present voter identification at the time of voting, in view of the pandemic.²⁵⁵

Economic impact

State GDP	\$322.4 billion GDP per capita - \$57,809
Pillar Industries: Manufacturing	The industry’s GDP contribution is \$52.2 billion.

In June, there were 333,555 unemployment claims filed in Minnesota, which was already considered an improvement from the April numbers. The highest number of claims in the state were made from the Professional services and Accommodation & Food services sectors. The mining industry had 30 percent of its workforce file for unemployment in June, which was highest percentage-wise claims from a sector.²⁵⁶ The dairy industry of the state, however, recovered steadily through the pandemic, largely because of the state-regulated consumption of dairy products and also because of the longevity of its processed

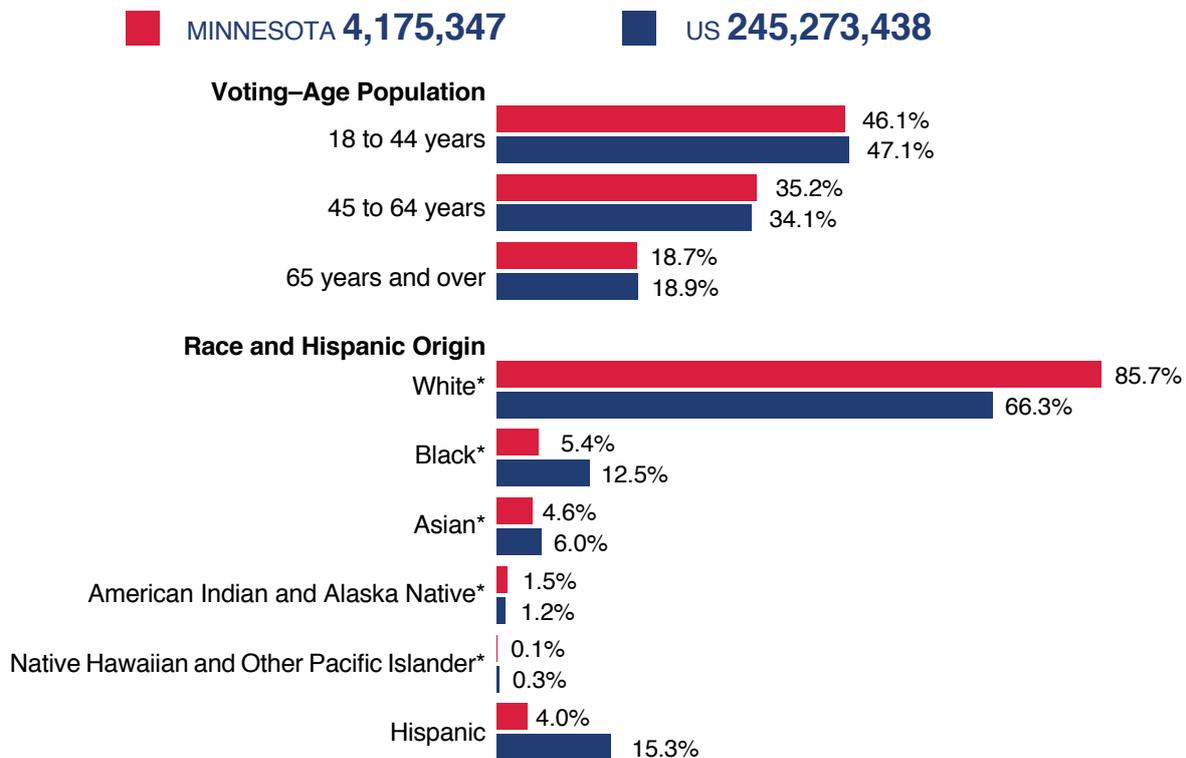
goods. Animal food manufacturing and grain farming were the most affected sectors within Dairy farming.²⁵⁷

The construction industry of the state is mostly seasonal, with its peak during late spring and early summer. The pandemic led to a huge dip in employment in this sector—with 33,500 unemployment claims filed in April 2020 and a decline in the number of development projects.²⁵⁸ Similarly, the tourism and hotel industry lost 24,185 direct hotel-related jobs and 58,972 others from the supporting industries.²⁵⁹

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state's eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey, www.census.gov/acs.

Source - data: US Census Bureau.²⁶⁰

Religious composition of adults in Minnesota²⁶¹

Christian	74%
Evangelical Protestant	19%
Mainline Protestant	29%
Historically Black Protestant	2%
Catholic	22%
Mormon	1%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	<1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	5%
Unaffiliated	20%
Don't Know	2%

Indian-Americans are an influential, highly-educated and rapidly growing minority group in the state and they are mostly inclined towards the Democrats. Asians form six percent of the state population, and Indian-Americans form the second largest immigrant community in the state. The population of Indians in the state has gone from 17,000 people in 2000 to more than 50,000 today. Initially a welcoming state for immigrants and refugees, it is now witnessing a noticeable increase in anti-immigrant sentiments. Indian-Americans and Indian-Muslim groups have faced hate crimes in the recent times, which have put the Indian-American community in the state on guard.²⁶² The majority of the Indian-American community is expected to vote Blue in November.

ELECTORAL HISTORY

While most counties of the state have leaned Republican, the Democrat numbers more than made up for helping Hillary Clinton win the state in 2016 elections with a 1.5-percent margin. Minnesota remains a comfortable Blue base despite a vast-spreading Republican influence.²⁶³ It ranks among the lowest in the country for Income-gap and Unemployment-gap according to race.²⁶⁴ The Republicans have garnered some support from the conservative suburbs in the state surrounding the big cities, particularly the Twin Cities, in the past few years.

The Economist predicts that the Democrats will take Minnesota again in 2020, with Biden commanding 49-59 percent of the popular vote share, and Trump, 41-51 percent.²⁶⁵ FiveThirtyEight polls shows Biden ahead in Minnesota with a 50.3-percent approval rate, while Trump's is at 41.1 percent.²⁶⁶

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Police Brutality and Black Lives Matter Protests.** Claims of racist attitudes among the largely White American police force of the state are a pressing issue for immigrants and people of colour, including the Asian and Indian populations. On 25 May 2020, following George Floyd's death, protests

began throughout the state where the police used teargas and fired rubber bullets on the crowd. This is seen to be one of the biggest election issues in Minnesota since the residents believe that police are heavily biased against African-Americans.²⁶⁷

NEVADA

Source - Nations Online²⁶⁸

A SNAPSHOT

Nevada is located in the western part of the United States.

CAPITAL	POPULATION (ESTIMATED 2019)	INDIAN-AMERICAN POPULATION	ELECTORAL VOTES
CARSON CITY	3,080,156	12,802	6

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Nevada (in 2018-20)²⁶⁹



Number of
Indian companies
in Nevada²⁷⁰

5



Total volume of investment
by Indian companies²⁷¹
Approximately

\$150 million

(0.212% of total Indian investments in the US,
i.e. \$22.6 billion)



Number of jobs created
due to Indian investment
in Nevada²⁷²

848



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Nevada²⁷³

\$2 billion



Jobs supported by exports
to India in Nevada²⁷⁴

10,221



Indian Companies
in Nevada:
Sector Diversification²⁷⁷

Information Technology and
Telecommunications

80.00%

Tourism and Hospitality

20.00%



Indian visitor spending
in Nevada²⁷⁵

\$271.8 million



Economic contribution of Indian
international students
in Nevada²⁷⁶

\$3.9 million

Key personalities



Radhika Kunnel: She is a member of the Democratic Party and is running for election in the Nevada State Assembly to represent the 2nd district. She was born in India and moved to the US to pursue a degree in Cancer Biology and Microbiology. Kunnel works on policy issues relating to science and technology and, if elected, she will be the first South Asian legislator in Nevada. ²⁷⁸

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)²⁷⁹



Schools in Nevada have opened at the time of writing this report. So far, 27 students and 17 members of staff in the Washoe County School District have tested positive of COVID-19. Since the cases in Nevada are rising, there have been multiple meetings to review Nevada's 50-person cap during public gatherings and the 50-percent capacity limit for businesses. The Trump rally in Nevada has also been a factor in the spike of COVID-19 cases since there were more than 50 people in the event and most of the people who attended did not wear masks.²⁸⁰ The first re-infection case in the US was also identified in Nevada.²⁸¹

Economic impact

State GDP	\$142.9 billion GDP per capita - \$47,648
Pillar Industries: Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	The industry's GDP contribution is \$27.9 billion.

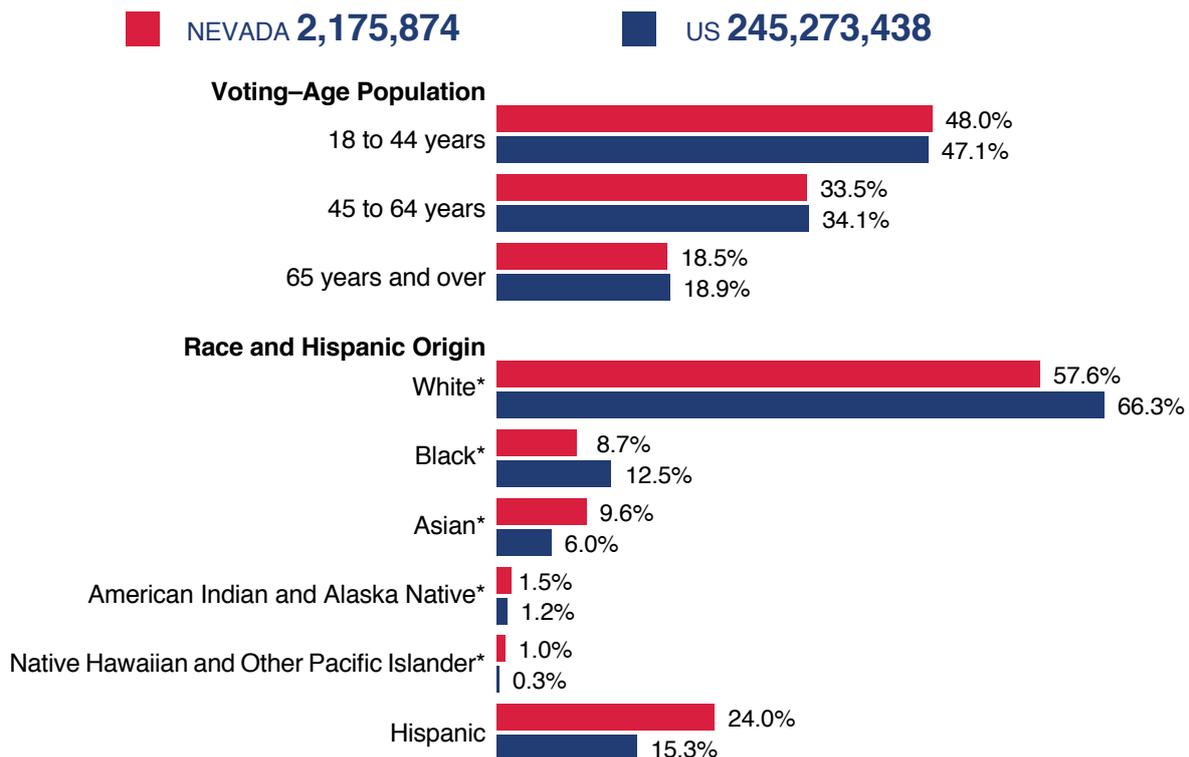
The tourism industry is crucial to the state of Nevada since it accounts for one of every three jobs in the state. Tourism is also responsible for around 45 percent of the state's aggregate output. Since COVID-19 has restricted the demand in the hospitality sector, this industry has experienced many job losses and decreased revenue.²⁸² Nevada is one of the most vulnerable states to COVID-19 (second to Maine) since it gets over four times as much of its GDP from tourism compared to the entire country. By April, over 271,000 Nevada residents have filed unemployment insurance claims; the number continues to rise.²⁸³ In August, Nevada was the hardest-hit state as their rate of unemployment rose to 13.2 percent.²⁸⁴

Nevada's agricultural industry has had to step up in order to ensure that residents have access to healthy food. They are currently producing at 120-percent capacity so that they can sell more products to cover the losses associated with the pandemic. There is also US\$1 million in aid available to Nevada farmers through the Agriculture Adaptability and Recovery program, which is part of the CARES Act funding.²⁸⁵ The Nevada Small Business Development Center has been working with small businesses in the state to help them navigate the CARES Act funding and promote disaster preparedness. They want to help businesses alter their existing business models so that they are able to remain competitive even during the pandemic.²⁸⁶

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state's eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey, www.census.gov/acs.

Source - data: US Census Bureau.²⁸⁷

Religious composition of adults in Nevada²⁸⁸

Christian	66%
Evangelical Protestant	20%
Mainline Protestant	10%
Historically Black Protestant	5%
Catholic	25%
Mormon	4%
Orthodox Christian	1%
Jehovah's Witness	1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	5%
Unaffiliated	28%
Don't Know	1%

Nevada is a competitive state (Hillary Clinton carried it in 2016 with 2.4 percent) and the Asian-American population in Nevada is considered to be large enough to sway the outcome of the elections (even as Indian-Americans are a small portion of Asian immigrants in the state, numbering 12,802 in Nevada).²⁸⁹ Around 80 percent of the Asian American and Pacific Islanders (APIs) support the Democratic Party and Indian-Americans are among the more liberal groups. In order for a presidential candidate to be successful in Nevada, they must court the vote of the AAPI community.²⁹⁰

ELECTORAL HISTORY

In the late 1960s -1980s, Republicans were more dominant in Nevada. Today there is a higher percentage who are Democrats, along with the growing diversity of the population. The influx of Asian-Americans has been a factor in why Nevada has voted for the Democratic Party in recent years.²⁹¹

The Economist predicts that the Democratic Party will take Nevada in 2020, with Biden commanding 47-58 percent of the popular vote share, and Trump, 42-53 percent. There is an 83-percent chance of Biden winning the most votes.²⁹² FiveThirtyEight polls shows Biden ahead in Nevada with a 50.1-percent approval rate, against Trump's 43.3 percent.²⁹³

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Healthcare.** Over four in every 10 people that attended the Democratic caucus in Nevada believe that healthcare is the most important issue in the 2020 election. More than three in five of them support a government health insurance plan since they believe that this will provide more affordable and accessible healthcare. Therefore, they are more likely to support Biden, who is proposing a government-run insurance option that allows unions and employers to maintain their private coverage.²⁹⁴
- **Environment.** One in every four people who attended the Democratic Party caucus in Nevada believed that climate change was the most important issue in the 2020 election.²⁹⁵ It was also found that climate change was considered more important than healthcare or immigration for the Latino community in Nevada—they are more supportive of political candidates who focus on policies regarding global warming than the overall US population.²⁹⁶
- **Black Lives Matter.** The Governor of Nevada, Steve Sisolak, spoke out about the policy changes he intends to make regarding the BLM movement. He highlighted the importance of peaceful protests and voting accordingly in the polls. Attorney General Aaron Ford also created a panel called 'Justice and Injustice' tasked to find solutions to the demands of the BLM movement.²⁹⁷

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Source - Nations Online²⁹⁸

A SNAPSHOT

New Hampshire is located in the New England region of the United States.

CAPITAL
CONCORD

POPULATION
(ESTIMATED 2019)
1,359,711

INDIAN-AMERICAN
POPULATION
10,587

ELECTORAL
VOTES
4

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to New Hampshire (in 2018-20)



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from New Hampshire²⁹⁹
\$107.3 million



Jobs supported by exports
to India in New Hampshire³⁰⁰
843



Indian visitor spending
in New Hampshire³⁰¹
\$43.3 million



Economic contribution of Indian
international students
in New Hampshire³⁰²
\$52.6 million

Key personalities



Latha Mangipudi: She is the first Hindu to serve in the New Hampshire House of Representatives and was the first Indian representative in the state. Latha Mangipudi is currently representing District 35 and is a Democrat who works on issues of economic inequalities, and inequities in education and healthcare.³⁰³

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)³⁰⁴



New Hampshire is one of the few states in the country that do not have a statewide mask mandate. However, some cities within New Hampshire do have a mask mandate and most cities have a rule that masks are required at gatherings of over 100 people. Fines are predicted to come into action for the organisers of large events since people are not following safe distancing measures (excluding school events).³⁰⁵

Economic impact

State GDP	\$74.4 billion GDP per capita - \$55,413
Pillar Industries: Real estate and rental and leasing	The industry's GDP contribution is \$12.2 billion.

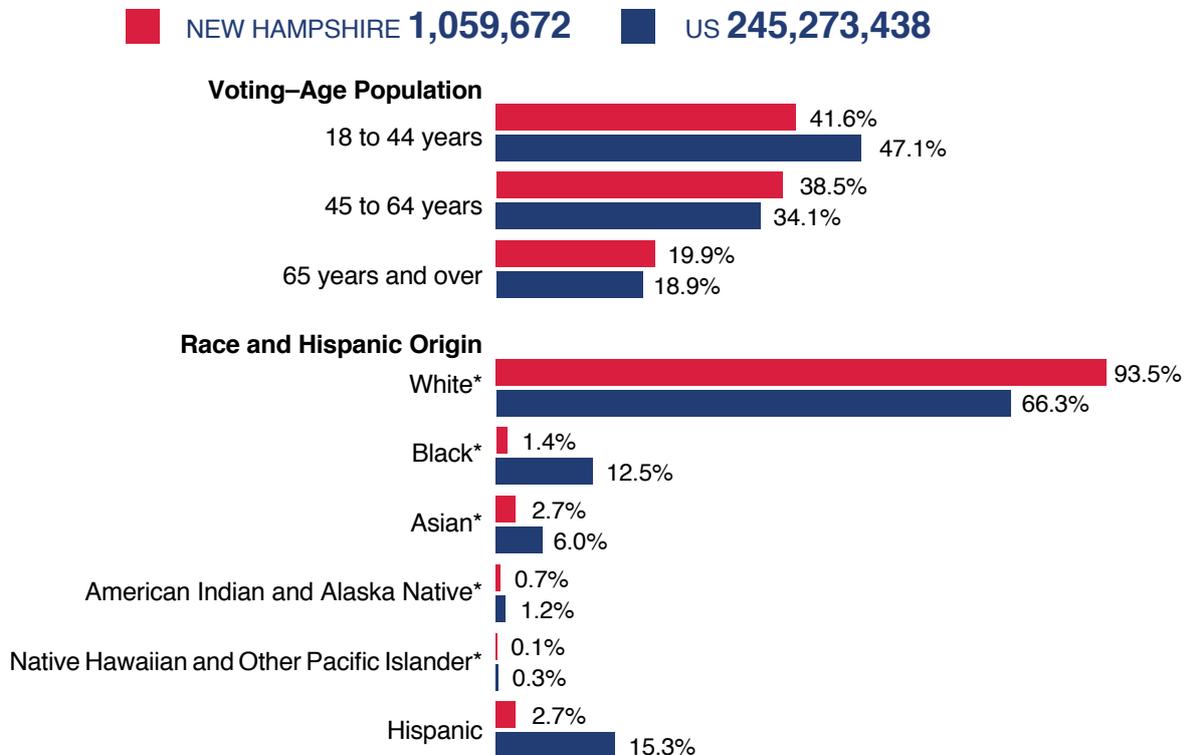
Unemployment in New Hampshire has risen during the last few months and reached a level higher than that recorded during the Great Depression. Unemployment was most common in the hospitality and service-based industries – where the jobs were usually lower-paid and supported by tourism or leisure activities. In July 2020, the unemployment rate reached 8.1 percent and it was reported that a large percentage of these people were not looking for new jobs since they believed that their loss was temporary.³⁰⁶

The cost of housing has also been affected by COVID-19 since the pandemic has caused shifts in the demand and supply in the housing market. Prior to the pandemic, there was already an issue regarding affordable housing in New Hampshire, but the median home sale price increased by nine percent between May 2019 and May 2020.³⁰⁷

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state's eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey, www.census.gov/acs.

Source - data: US Census Bureau.³⁰⁸

Religious composition of adults in New Hampshire³⁰⁹

Christian	59%
Evangelical Protestant	13%
Mainline Protestant	16%
Historically Black Protestant	1%
Catholic	26%
Mormon	1%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	2%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	5%
Unaffiliated	36%
Don't Know	<1%

The Indian-American population in New Hampshire numbers 10,458 and is growing fast. Today, Indians are the largest immigrant community in the state. Both parties, but especially the Republicans, had reached out to the Indian-American population in the state for the November polls.³¹⁰ Nashua is a popular city for Indian-Americans, where they constitute six percent of the population.³¹¹ Kamala Harris' nomination and her rapport with state Rep. Latha Mangipudi is expected to play a significant role in influencing voting patterns among the Indian community in the state.³¹²

ELECTORAL HISTORY

During the 19th and 20th centuries, New Hampshire had primarily voted Republican. In recent years, they have voted Democrat multiple times; the same is predicted for the 2020 election. In New Hampshire, women hold more political positions than they do in any other state across the country. In the 2008 election, women won the majority of seats and made up 13 out of 24 positions in the New Hampshire Senate.³¹³

The Economist predicts that the Democratic party will take New Hampshire in 2020, with Biden commanding 47-59 percent of the popular vote share, and Trump, 42-53 percent. There is an 86-percent chance of Biden winning the most votes.³¹⁴ FiveThirtyEight polls shows Biden ahead in New Hampshire, with a 53.5-percent approval rate against Trump's 42.7 percent.³¹⁵

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Taxes.** New Hampshire is a state with high property taxes at 5.6 percent. Two-thirds of all state and local taxes are property taxes, so the government is heavily reliant on this tax revenue. However, there is much debate surrounding this tax since the lower-income families end up paying the highest percentage of their income in taxes, compared to those who earn higher incomes. Meanwhile, the gas tax revenue in New Hampshire has been cut in half. The residents of New Hampshire believe that the government needs to diversify their sources of tax revenues so that they are less dependent on property tax revenue.³¹⁶
- **Healthcare reform.** has been an important issue for Indian-Americans in the state.³¹⁷
- **Environment.** A poll by Suffolk University found that many residents of New Hampshire considered climate change to be a top priority in the 2020 election.³¹⁸
- **Black Lives Matter.** The Seacoast chapter of BLM has released a list of requirements for the candidates in the general election. In New Hampshire, they aim to outlaw the qualified immunity that is granted to police officers and request specific demographic data on a variety of police interactions, such as minor traffic stops and arrests.³¹⁹

NEW JERSEY

Source - Nations Online³²⁰

A SNAPSHOT

New Jersey, the fourth smallest state in the United States, is located in the northeastern part of the country, and bounded by the Atlantic Ocean in the east.

CAPITAL
TRENTON

POPULATION
(ESTIMATED 2019)
8,882,190

INDIAN-AMERICAN
POPULATION
353,215

ELECTORAL
VOTES
14

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to New Jersey (in 2018-20)³²¹



Number of
Indian companies
in New Jersey³²²

40



Total volume of investment
by Indian companies³²³
Approximately

\$2.43 billion

(0.12% of total Indian investments in the US,
i.e. \$22.6 billion)



Number of jobs created
due to Indian investment
in New Jersey³²⁴

8,057



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from New Jersey³²⁵

\$1.1 billion



Jobs supported by exports
to India in New Jersey³²⁶

6,316



Indian Companies
in New Jersey:
Sector Diversification³²⁹

Information Technology and
Telecommunications

45.00%



Indian visitor spending
in New Jersey³²⁷

\$293.5 million

Life Sciences, Pharmaceuticals
and Healthcare

35.00%



Economic contribution of Indian
international students
in New Jersey³²⁸

\$153.1 million

Manufacturing

10.00%

Mining and Materials

2.50%

Food and Agriculture

2.50%

Energy

2.50%

Automotive

2.50%

Key personalities



Gurbir Singh Grewal: Currently serving his term as the 61st Attorney General of New Jersey, he was appointed by Governor Phil Murphy in 2018, becoming the first Sikh to hold this position. Democrat Grewal has played an active role in dealing with cases of violation of gun laws in the state, ghost gun manufacturers, and shipping of large-capacity gun magazines to New Jersey residents. He has also announced the launch of campus outreach programs on sexual violence, investigations into existing tax loopholes,³³⁰ and implemented anti-gender discrimination policy in the overall hiring process in the state.³³¹ In August 2019, he announced the creation of the first US mental health support program for the police department.³³² In June 2020, he pressed voting fraud charges against four state officials (members of the council) of the Paterson city to combat corruption and instill public confidence in state institutions.³³³



Rik Mehta: The First Indian-American to win the Republican primary for the Senate seat from New Jersey, he is a biotechnology entrepreneur and a licensed pharmacist and healthcare expert.³³⁴



Goutam Jois:³³⁵ A Harvard-educated lawyer, Jois ran but lost the election for New Jersey's 7th Congressional District in 2018. In his campaign, Jois emphasised his support for civil rights and liberties and underlined his opposition to Trump's policies. The key subjects of his campaign include tax relief for middle-class families, promotion of women's rights, promotion of renewable energy, expanding public education and job creation, support for incoming talent, LGBTQ and veteran issues, and securing data privacy.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)³³⁶



New Jersey is one of the states of the country that have been worst hit by the pandemic. At the time of writing this report, it had the second highest count of Covid-linked deaths.³³⁷ After declaring a state of emergency on 9 March, and suspending all non-essential businesses indefinitely beginning 21 March, the state began to lift restrictions from 9 June. While there was an improvement in recovery rates in July-August 2020, the re-opening of schools and an associated surge of infections among educators and students alike have raised concerns yet again, forcing a switch to remote learning for all.³³⁸

Economic impact

State GDP	\$546.5 billion GDP per capita - \$60,684
Pillar Industries: Professional and business services	The industry's GDP contribution is \$100.9 billion.

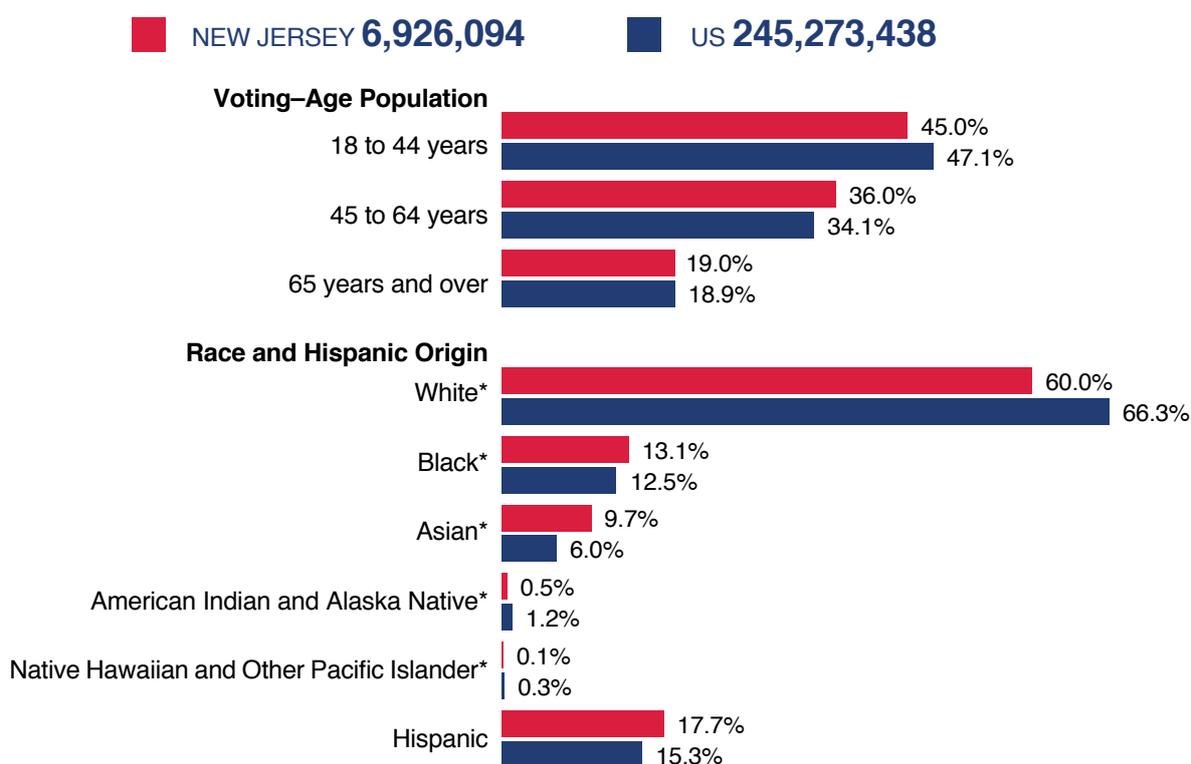
According to a study, certain specific industries in New Jersey were hit especially hard by the closures put in place to arrest the pandemic, including advertising. Some important industries considered in the study that are facing severe disruptions were transportation, educational services, real estate, and employment services.³³⁹

The statewide restrictions and suspension of many business activities put into place due to the pandemic has led to a large number of layoffs. The total number of New Jersey workers who have applied and are eligible for unemployment benefits since mid-March has reached close to 1.38 million as of the writing of this report. Of those, 96 percent have received at least one payment.³⁴⁰

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state's eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey, www.census.gov/acs.

Source - data: US Census Bureau.³⁴¹

The Covid-19 pandemic hit the Indian-American community hard in New Jersey, the New York metropolitan area, and the Greater Washington Area of Maryland and Virginia.³⁴²

New Jersey has among the highest numbers of Indian-Americans in the country—13 percent of two million immigrants in the state in 2018—and also has the most Indian-American public servants in the US at more than 80.³⁴³ The largest Hindu temple in the whole of the United States is also located in New Jersey.³⁴⁴ New Jersey India Centre has also created international investment and employment for the state.

A large percentage of the voting-age population in New Jersey is of Indian origin and therefore have a considerable impact on the voting patterns. In Middlesex County, New Jersey, election ballots are printed in English, Spanish, Gujarati, Hindi, and Punjabi.³⁴⁵ With a population of 3,53,215, Indians in New Jersey will have an impact on the outcome of the November election.³⁴⁶

Religious composition of adults in New Jersey³⁴⁷

Christian	67%
Evangelical Protestant	12%
Mainline Protestant	12%
Historically Black Protestant	6%
Catholic	34%
Mormon	1%
Orthodox Christian	1%
Jehovah's Witness	1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	14%
Unaffiliated	18%
Don't Know	1%

ELECTORAL HISTORY

New Jersey has played a significant role in US elections, siding with the winner in 13 of the last 16 presidential elections.³⁴⁸ Until the 1990s, it was considered a swing state, but in recent years, New Jersey has supported Democrats almost exclusively in the presidential races. However, it has elected some of the most popular Republican governors as well.

According to forecasts of US elections by *The Economist*, Democrats will take New Jersey again in 2020, with Biden commanding 54-66 percent of the popular vote share, and Trump, 34-46 percent.³⁴⁹ FiveThirtyEight polls shows Biden ahead in New Jersey with a 55.9-percent approval rate against Trump's 36.9 percent.³⁵⁰

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Legalising recreational cannabis.** Before the state was gravely hit by the pandemic, legalisation of recreational use of marijuana was one of the highest-profile ballot questions. Since allowing for medical use of cannabis, Governor Phil Murphy has actively advocated for decriminalising recreational cannabis consumption. Advocates point out its potential impact on generating employment as well as boosting public revenue whilst also assisting in a move towards racial justice. After the state officials were unable to reach a decision, it was agreed upon to put the question to voters in the November election.³⁵¹
- **Black Lives Matter.** A large number of Indian-Americans marched in the Black Lives Matter protests in New Jersey, which have taken the state and country by storm.³⁵²
- **Property Tax rates.** New Jersey has one of the highest tax rates among the federal states on owner-occupied housing at an estimated 2.21 percent.³⁵³ Moreover, unlike some other states with similarly high rates, New Jersey has comparatively high rates in other major tax categories as well. During the pandemic, the public budget's spending share on tax breaks have risen steadily, sometimes even at the cost of other essential programs.³⁵⁴
- **Gun control measures.** The state has one of the strictest laws with regard to this subject. As recently as September 2020, these laws survived another legal challenge to the ban on large-capacity gun magazines pursued by the Association of New Jersey Rifle and Pistol Clubs—with the rather conservative federal court voting to defend the existing laws.³⁵⁵

NEW MEXICO

Source - Nations Online³⁵⁶

A SNAPSHOT

New Mexico is located in the Southwestern region of the United States.

CAPITAL
SANTA FE

POPULATION
(ESTIMATED 2019)
2,096,829

INDIAN-AMERICAN
POPULATION
7,808

ELECTORAL
VOTES
5

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to New Mexico (in 2018-20)



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from New Mexico³⁵⁷
\$93 million



Jobs supported by exports
to India in New Mexico³⁵⁸
756



Indian visitor spending
in New Mexico³⁵⁹
\$45.6 million



Economic contribution of Indian
international students
in New Mexico³⁶⁰
\$11.3 million

Key personalities



Abbas Akhil: Akhil currently represents the 20th district in the New Mexico House of Representatives. He was born in India and moved to New Mexico for his education. He is a Democrat, and he has pushed for legislation focused on enabling a data-sharing network for criminal justice agencies, as well as providing incentives for renewable energy systems.³⁶¹

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)³⁶²



The number of COVID-19 cases in New Mexico has been falling at the time of writing this report. However, there remains a 14-day quarantine requirement for people travelling into the state. The governor, Lujan Grisham, continues to encourage social distancing and the use of masks so that New Mexico can eventually open up schools.³⁶³

Economic impact

State GDP	\$91 billion GDP per capita - \$43,566
Pillar Industries: Real estate and rental and leasing	The industry's GDP contribution is \$13.1 billion.

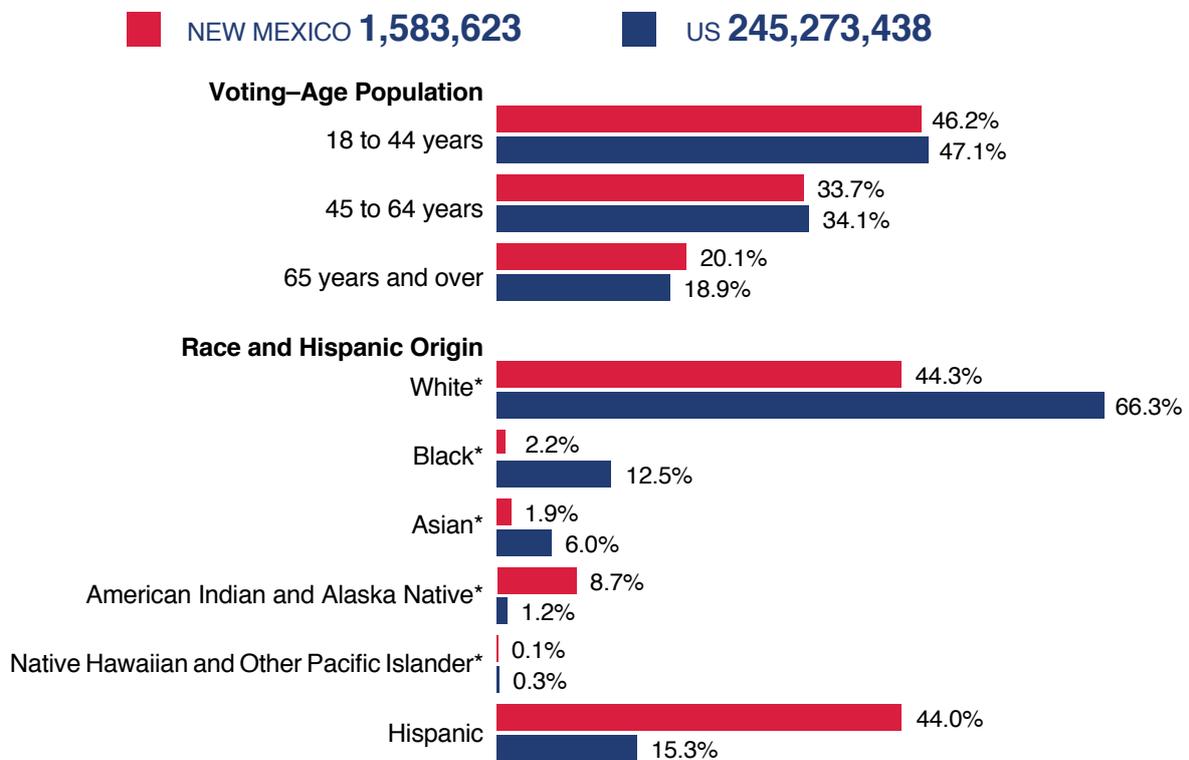
The pandemic has had a large impact on the hospitality industry in New Mexico and many jobs have been lost in this sector. There were 687 businesses that closed down in New Mexico since March, 210 of them, restaurants.³⁶⁴ The unemployment rate rose in New Mexico and it is estimated that four in every 10 lost jobs are likely to never return. It will be hard for the economy of New Mexico to bounce back since they rely heavily on federal aid. The state will need to assess its position once Congress makes a decision about the next round of stimulus checks.³⁶⁵

A key state lawmaker, Sen. John Arthur Smith, has said that the state’s budget will take a \$1.5-billion hit due to the pandemic. This will be a result of decreased tax revenues and plummeting oil prices.³⁶⁶ Since oil and gas extraction account for 8.2 percent of the state’s total GDP, the oil prices have a large impact on the economy of New Mexico.³⁶⁷ As of 9 April, New Mexico had 93 active rigs, the lowest they had in the entire year.³⁶⁸

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state’s eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey, www.census.gov/acs.

Source - data: US Census Bureau.³⁶⁹

Religious composition of adults in New Mexico³⁷⁰

Christian	75%
Evangelical Protestant	23%
Mainline Protestant	14%
Historically Black Protestant	1%
Catholic	34%
Mormon	2%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	4%
Unaffiliated	21%
Don't Know	<1%

Since the Indian-American population in New Mexico is small, they will not have a significant impact on the outcome of the November election. However, due to the growing fondness between the Indian prime minister and the US president in the past few years, Trump believes that a large part of the Indian-American vote bank will support the Republican Party this time.³⁷¹

New Mexico's population is 44 percent Hispanic, which is a key voter base for the Democrats.

ELECTORAL HISTORY

In the House of Representatives of New Mexico, there are currently 46 Democrats and 24 Republicans. New Mexico has always been seen as a Democrat state since there is a large population of voters that are Hispanic/Latino and Native American who are inclined to lean Blue.³⁷²

The Economist predicts that the Democratic Party will take New Mexico in 2020, with Biden to command 51-62 percent of the popular vote share, and Trump, 38-49 percent.³⁷³ FiveThirtyEight polls shows Biden ahead in New Mexico with a 54.2-percent approval rate, and Trump is at 40.2 percent.³⁷⁴

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

Immigration. New Mexico has a large Hispanic population, who are more likely to vote for the Democratic Party. Trump's constant attacks on immigrants have cost him the support of many Latino, Hispanic and Native

American voters. Biden, for his part, has promised that he would send a bill to Congress which would make it easier for undocumented people to gain citizenship to the United States.

NEW YORK

Source - Nations Online³⁷⁵

A SNAPSHOT

One of the 13 original states to join the Union, New York is situated in the northeastern part of the country, sharing its borders with Canadian provinces on one side and forming a part of the Atlantic coast on the other.

CAPITAL
ALBANY FS

POPULATION
(ESTIMATED 2019)
19,453,561

INDIAN-AMERICAN
POPULATION
390,663

ELECTORAL
VOTES
29

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to New York (in 2018-20)³⁷⁶



Number of
Indian companies
in New York³⁷⁷

30



Total volume of investment
by Indian companies³⁷⁸
Approximately

\$1.79 billion

(0.079% of total Indian investments in the US,
i.e. \$22.6 billion)



Number of jobs created
due to Indian investment
in New York³⁷⁹

6,175



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from New York³⁸⁰

\$4.7 billion



Jobs supported by exports
to India in New York³⁸¹

32,469



Indian visitor spending
in New York³⁸²

\$1.1 billion



Economic contribution of Indian
international students
in New York³⁸³

\$627.9 million



Indian Companies
in New York:
Sector Diversification³⁸⁴

Information Technology and
Telecommunications

50.00%

Financial Services

13.33%

Tourism and Hospitality

10.00%

Life Sciences, Pharmaceuticals
and Healthcare

10.00%

Manufacturing

6.67%

Automotive

6.67%

Food and Agriculture

3.33%

Key personalities



Saikat Chakrabarti: Former Chief of Staff to Democrat Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (popularly known as ‘AOC’), Chakrabarti is from New York’s 14th Congressional district representing the Bronx and Queens regions of New York city. Chakrabarti led the AOC staff and several progressive groups in framing the *Green New Deal* resolution, AOC’s ambitious climate agenda.³⁸⁵ He is currently with *New Consensus*, an organisation aimed at furthering the agenda of the *Green New Deal*.³⁸⁶



Preetinder Singh Bharara: Former US Attorney for the Southern District of New York, Bharara is known for being one of the “most aggressive and outspoken prosecutors of public corruption and Wall Street Crime.”³⁸⁷ He is an advocate of judicial independence and was fired by President Trump in 2017, despite being initially told in 2016 that he will keep his job.³⁸⁸ He has been critical of the Trump administration, especially over the alleged misuse of judicial power by the president.³⁸⁹ Although he is registered as a Democrat, he is not considered a strong partisan, and enjoyed support across the political spectrum during his nomination to the post in 2009.^{390,391}



Jenifer Rajkumar³⁹²- Rajkumar is the Democratic Party’s nominee for New York’s 38th District in the State Assembly for the November elections. The district has large numbers of Latino and South Asian communities and sides with working-class families.³⁹³ She was earlier endorsed by fellow Indian-American politician from California, Ro Khanna, who believes that Rajkumar will set a good example for immigrant women and bring new energy to the district.³⁹⁴



Suraj Patel: A lecturer on Business Ethics at New York University, an attorney, business leader and activist, Democrat Patel ran for a seat in the House in both 2016 and 2020 to represent New York’s 12th Congressional district.³⁹⁵ He conceded defeat to incumbent Representative Carolyn Maloney in the Democratic primary, but has suggested that he would run again in 2022.³⁹⁶ His campaign focuses on climate change, gender equality, post-secondary education, mental health, and racial wealth gap.³⁹⁷



Reshma Saujani: The founder of *Girls Who Code*, an international non-profit organisation working to close the gender gap in technology, Democrat Saujani was previously the Deputy Public Advocate at the Office of the New York City Public Advocate. She also ran for Congress in the 2010 elections to represent New York's 14th congressional district, losing to veteran Carolyn Maloney in the Democratic primary.³⁹⁸



Kevin Thomas: Democrat Kevin Thomas became the first Indian-American to serve in the New York State Senate upon his election in 2018 to represent the 6th district in Nassau county.³⁹⁹ He serves as the chairperson of the Consumer Protection Committee and sits on the Judiciary, Finance, Banking, Ageing, Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs Committees.⁴⁰⁰ He is running for re-election in November and his campaign has supported several bills aimed at keeping offshore drilling out of New York and banning single-use plastic bags. Senator Thomas is also an advocate of ensuring access to safe drinking water for the citizens of New York.⁴⁰¹

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)⁴⁰²

Total Cases
499,261

Active Cases
67,346

Total Deaths
33,300

Recovered
398,615

The New York metropolitan area was one of the hardest hit across the world during the early days of the pandemic, leading to the declaration of an emergency in the state. With the highest number of COVID-related deaths in the entire country as of 18 September 2020,⁴⁰³ New York is still struggling to combat the pandemic. Governor Andrew M. Cuomo enacted a mask mandate in the state in April 2020,⁴⁰⁴ which remains in place. However, after putting in considerable efforts, the state embarked on its 4th phase of reopening on 8 June.⁴⁰⁵ The New York primary elections this year was the first large-scale test of a mail-in voting system and witnessed some degree of chaos, sounding the warning bells for the November elections. The mix-up of ballots has prompted some New Yorkers to file lawsuits on charges of disenfranchisement.⁴⁰⁶

Economic impact

State GDP

\$1.4 trillion
GDP per capita - \$71,252

Pillar Industries: Finance and insurance

The industry's GDP contribution is \$309.2 billion.

The transportation services in the New York Metropolitan area has suffered severe financial losses during the past few months. Ridership was down by 90 percent owing to the lockdown measures put in place and still remains down by 75 percent as of August. According to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority chairperson Foyer, they might have to cut capacity by as much as 40 percent unless there is sufficient cash infusion.⁴⁰⁷

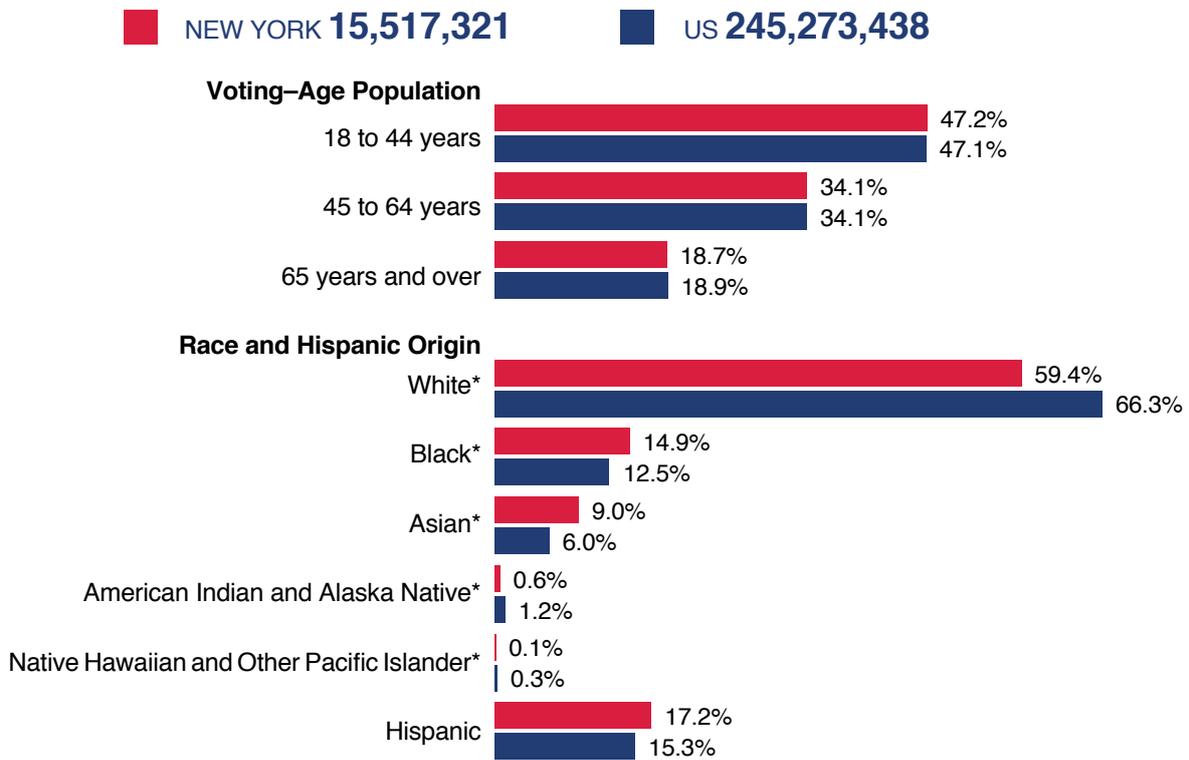
The unemployment numbers were in the millions and unemployment claims kept the labour department on their toes, sometimes resulting in chaos, including false claims.⁴⁰⁸ The state has also lost tens of millions of dollars in revenues and huge additional spending for various economic relief programmes, leading to a budget crisis. The financial crisis has hit New York City the hardest: the city Council was forced to slash \$5 billion from the budget adopted in June 2020 for the current fiscal year.⁴⁰⁹

The pandemic has dealt a crippling blow to the state with a large number of workers losing their jobs across sectors.

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state's eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey, www.census.gov/acs.

Source - data: US Census Bureau.⁴¹⁰

Religious composition of adults in New York⁴¹¹

Christian	60%
Evangelical Protestant	10%
Mainline Protestant	11%
Historically Black Protestant	5%
Catholic	31%
Mormon	<1%
Orthodox Christian	1%
Jehovah's Witness	1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	12%
Unaffiliated	27%
Don't Know	NA

The Asian population in New York is higher than the national average. The largest share of population of Indian descent is concentrated in New York City, particularly in Queens. Also, most of them are foreign-born immigrants, with almost 12 percent of Indian immigrants in New York City having arrived no later than 2010.⁴¹² The New York City India Day Parade hosted annually by the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) is the world's largest Indian Independence Day parade outside of India.⁴¹³ Although they are not a population large enough to potentially swing the state (the Democrats carried New York with a whopping 22.5-percent margin in 2016 and the Indian-American population as recorded in 2015 was 7 percent of the electorate⁴¹⁴), they remain considerably influential.

ELECTORAL HISTORY

New York has been a reliable Blue state since the 1988 presidential elections.⁴¹⁵ However, it has been the most important source of funds for both Republican and Democratic parties. In the past, Republicans have often skipped campaigning in the state, considering it a stronghold of the Democrats.⁴¹⁶ The relatively urban areas have tended to side with the Democrats, while Upstate New Yorkers are slightly more conservative and have supported the Republicans with higher votes on several occasions. New York allows for electoral fusion (i.e., cross-endorsements) which plays a crucial role in providing an additional line to popular candidates.

According to predictions of *The Economist*, Biden will sweep the election in New York with 59-69 percent of the popular vote share.⁴¹⁷ FiveThirtyEight polls also gives Biden a 62.1-percent vote against Trump's 31.7 percent.⁴¹⁸

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Healthcare.** New York has one of the highest percentages of its GDP devoted to facilitating healthcare services for its people, and yet, approximately five New Yorkers die almost every day due to lack of health coverage.⁴¹⁹ Its healthcare services are also one of the most costly in the world. Amidst the pandemic, there is a renewed push for the passage of the New York Health Act (NYHA) which would endorse a single payer system and reduce healthcare costs significantly for an estimated 98 percent of New Yorkers.⁴²⁰
- **Climate Change.** New York, with its long shoreline, is prone to the negative consequences of climate change. Rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, rising sea levels, and frequent coastal storms, can have severe impacts on the state's people and economy.⁴²¹ Climate change could also lead to the mass movement of Americans towards more favourably placed or resilient states like New York, building up the pressure on these regions even further.⁴²² New York has already taken up several projects with an aim to become a more sustainable city.⁴²³

OREGON

Source - Nations Online⁴²⁴

A SNAPSHOT

The Commonwealth of Oregon is located in the northwestern region of the United States.

CAPITAL SALEM	POPULATION (ESTIMATED 2019) 4,217,737	INDIAN-AMERICAN POPULATION 23,030	ELECTORAL VOTES 7
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THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Oregon (in 2018-20)⁴²⁵



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Oregon⁴²⁶
\$258.8 million



Jobs supported by exports
to India in Oregon⁴²⁷
1,919



Indian visitor spending
in Oregon⁴²⁸
\$115.8 million



Economic contribution of Indian
international students
in Oregon⁴²⁹
\$26.7 million

Key personalities



Susheela Jayapal: Susheela has been the representative of District 2 on the Board of Commissioners of Multnomah county since 2019. Democrat-leaning, Jayapal is the first South Asian to be elected to an office in the state. She is a former corporate lawyer. Her priorities for the state primarily involve housing concerns and tackling displacement and homelessness.⁴³⁰

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)⁴³¹



Oregon was one of the 16 states that postponed the election primaries scheduled in March in light of the pandemic. Like most states, canvassing door-to-door and other traditional methods of campaigning have had to be cancelled. Digital ballots along with online registrations as well as sessions on online platforms have become the norm for campaigning in Oregon.⁴³² The state does not allow for same-day registration of voters but permits online registration, absentee mail-in voting, and early voting for 2020.

Economic impact

State GDP	\$207.7 billion GDP per capita - \$50,138
Pillar Industries: Real estate and rental and leasing	The industry's GDP contribution is \$38.8 billion.

Hundreds of thousands of people from Oregon have claimed for unemployment benefits in the past few months, as the pandemic continues to devastate the economy; some 53,800 people filed benefit claims in the initial phase. In March, Oregonians received \$23 million in unemployment benefits; in April, the figure jumped to \$97 million. The state employment department figures reveal that Oregon was one of the first states to

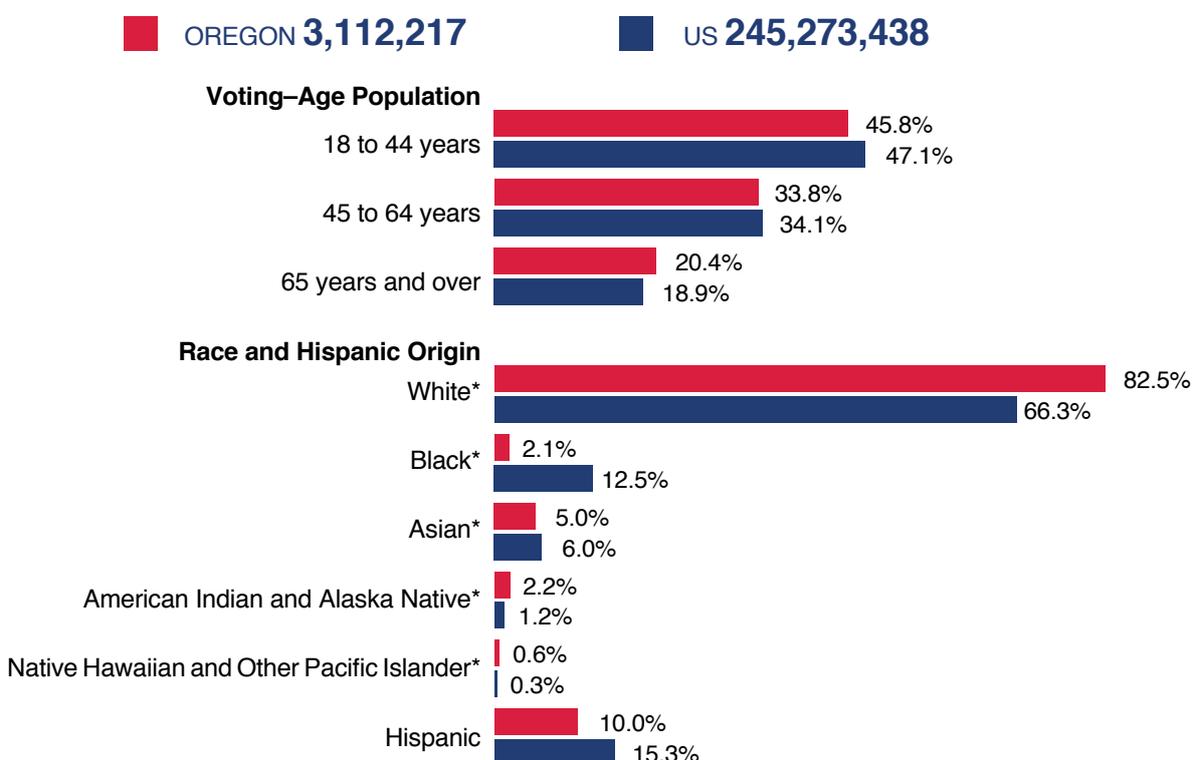
get an additional \$600 per week for residents laid off due to the pandemic, provided by the federal CARES Act.⁴³³

The city of Portland is estimated to have lost between \$40 million and \$100 million in tax revenues because of the shutdowns. The maximum losses will be borne by the hotel industry.⁴³⁴

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state's eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey, www.census.gov/acs.

Source - data: US Census Bureau.⁴³⁵

Religious composition of adults in Oregon⁴³⁶

Christian	61%
Evangelical Protestant	29%
Mainline Protestant	13%
Historically Black Protestant	1%
Catholic	12%
Mormon	4%
Orthodox Christian	1%
Jehovah's Witness	<1%
Other Christian	1%
Non-Christian Faiths	7%
Unaffiliated	31%

Indian-Americans have a unique place in Oregon. The Indian Sikh community had immigrated to Oregon via Canada (then British Columbia) around 1905. Most of the Indian-American community is comfortably settled around prominent cities like Portland. The Republican Party's crackdown on immigration has deeply upset the Indian-Americans in Oregon; this is among the reasons why there is more support for the Democrats.⁴³⁷

Evangelical protestants constitute a key voting constituency in the state—comprising 29 percent of the electorate. They have usually voted Republican (81 percent of their vote went to Trump in 2016).⁴³⁸

ELECTORAL HISTORY

The state has mostly voted Republican until 1984. Since 1988, Oregon turned to the Democratic Party and continues to be so. In 2016, Hillary Clinton defeated Trump and scored an 11-percent margin. The population of Oregon has grown steadily over the years and has time and again received more electoral votes. It is likely to gain an 8th electoral vote for the 2024 presidential election.⁴³⁹

The Economist predicts that the Democrats will take Oregon in 2020, with Biden's 54-64 percent against Trump's 36-46 percent.⁴⁴⁰ FiveThirtyEight polls gives Biden a comfortable win of 56.7 percent, over Trump's 37.8 percent.⁴⁴¹

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Tobacco Tax.** Measure 108 of the Ballot measures for the 2020 elections proposes that the state increase taxes on tobacco and tobacco-using products to fund its healthcare, such as the Medical Assistance programme. It aims an increase of \$2 per packet of cigarettes and \$0.50 in cigar tax. The revenue is to be dedicated to the state's⁴⁴² Health Authority.
- **Campaign Finance Amendment.** Oregon⁴⁴³ is one of the five states in the US that have no restrictions on contributions to election campaigns and ballot measures at both state and local levels. Measure 107 will allow the state legislature to enact laws to limit campaign expenditures and contributions and will require the disclosure of all its transactions along with attribution to the donor.
- **Postal service crisis.**⁴⁴⁴ The removal of postal service collection mailboxes has provoked concerns about the delivery of mail-in ballots for the November elections. While most people are looking to mail-in their ballots to minimise their risk of Covid-19 infection, there is the danger of late delivery of ballots. Moreover, the people of the state rely heavily on the postal system for delivery of in-state letters, medicines and even the relief package plan for Covid-19. The state is divided between Republicans and Democrats over the crisis, but meanwhile it is gravely disrupting the state's communication system.

RHODE ISLAND

Source - Nations Online⁴⁴⁵

A SNAPSHOT

The Commonwealth of Rhode Island is located on the East Coast of the United States, in the New England region.

CAPITAL PROVIDENCE	POPULATION (ESTIMATED 2019) 10,59,361	INDIAN-AMERICAN POPULATION 6,076	ELECTORAL VOTES 4
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THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Rhode Island (in 2018-20)⁴⁴⁶



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Rhode Island⁴⁴⁷
\$77.9 million



Jobs supported by exports
to India in Rhode Island⁴⁴⁸
740



Indian visitor spending
in Rhode Island⁴⁴⁹
\$53.2 million



Economic contribution of Indian
international students
in Rhode Island⁴⁵⁰
\$18.8 million

Key personalities



Jhumpa Lahiri: Lahiri is a Pulitzer Prize-winning author who grew up in South Kingstown. Lahiri has authored several books set in India and strongly voices for the Indian diaspora and immigrant experiences in US.⁴⁵¹⁴⁵²

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)⁴⁵³

Total Cases
25,076

Active Cases
21,612

Total Deaths
1,118

Recovered
2,346

The US Supreme Court rejected the Republican Party's plea to block the agreement that allows residents of Rhode Island to vote by mail in November because of the pandemic. In the presidential election, the agreement will allow the people of Rhode Island to vote without being required to fill out mail-in ballots before two witnesses or a notary.⁴⁵⁴ This was the norm followed in the primaries. However, the Republican National Committee and the Rhode Island Republican Party challenged the relaxed rules, claiming that this could increase the likelihood of fraudulent voting. After the lower court refused to block it, the Republicans took the case to Supreme Court where the move was again rejected.⁴⁵⁵

Economic impact

State GDP

\$53.5 billion
GDP per capita - \$50,446

Pillar Industries: · Real estate, rental and leasing, educational services, healthcare and social assistance

The industry's GDP contribution is \$8.7 billion and \$8 billion.

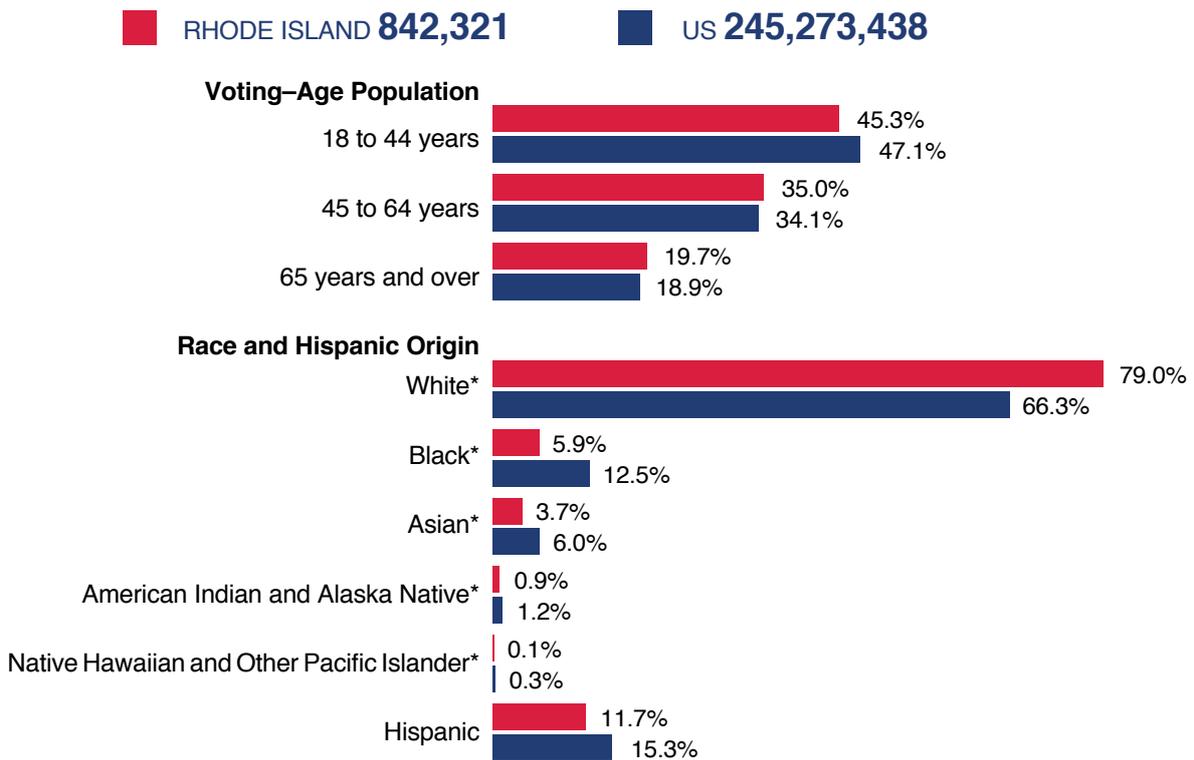
The pandemic has led to a huge number of job losses, particularly in the leisure, tourism and hospitality industries and their supporting industries. Rhode Island's⁴⁵⁶ GDP contracted at a 40.6 percent annualised rate from April through June, worse than the national GDP contraction at 32.9 percent.⁴⁵⁷

Rhode Island plans to use the \$200-million aid from the federal government to rebuild the state's economy. Among several slated uses of the aid, a significant portion is attached to improving educational opportunities, job training and recovering small and other emerging businesses.⁴⁵⁸

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state's eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey, www.census.gov/acs.

Source - data: US Census Bureau.⁴⁵⁹

Religious composition of adults in Rhode Island⁴⁶⁰

Christian	75%
Evangelical Protestant	14%
Mainline Protestant	14%
Historically Black Protestant	2%
Catholic	42%
Mormon	1%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	2%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	5%
Unaffiliated	20%

The Indian-American community in Rhode Island is large. Several Indian companies have a presence in the state. More recently, Indian IT firm Infosys laid out its plan to hire about 500 people from Rhode Island by 2023 to expand its operations in the US.⁴⁶¹ In terms of percentage, Rhode Island has the second highest number of Indians at 3.36 percent which gives them considerable room to swing the elections.⁴⁶²

ELECTORAL HISTORY

In 2016, the Democrats defeated the Republicans by about 15.5 percent, one of the closest margins in the entire country. Rhode Island has had four electoral votes usually, making it the second-most over-represented state in the electoral college. Population trends indicate that the state could lose one of its electoral votes after the next presidential election.⁴⁶³

The Economist predicts that the Democratic Party will take Rhode Island in 2020, with Biden commanding 56-67 percent of the popular vote share, and Trump, 33-44 percent.⁴⁶⁴ FiveThirtyEight polls gives a comfortable lead to Biden (56 percent of the vote share).⁴⁶⁵

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Abortion Rights.** Rhode Island recently became one of the Democrat-held states backing pro-abortion legislation. The governor has promised access to reproductive healthcare as a universal right. The bill faced criticism, not surprisingly, from the Providence Bishop and the State's Right to Life Committee.⁴⁶⁶
- **Higher education.** Governor Gina Raimondo

had initially proposed two years of tuition-free college for the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI), Rhode Island College, and University of Rhode Island; only the first, however, has been followed through. She aims to include more colleges under the scheme, if re-elected. Despite its noble intentions, however, the scheme is facing heavy criticism from private institutes.⁴⁶⁷

VERMONT

Source - Nations Online⁴⁶⁸

A SNAPSHOT

The Commonwealth of Vermont is located in the northeastern region of the United States.

<i>CAPITAL</i> MONTPELIER	<i>POPULATION (ESTIMATED 2019)</i> 623,989	<i>INDIAN-AMERICAN POPULATION</i> 1,427	<i>ELECTORAL VOTES</i> 3
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THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Vermont (in 2018-20)⁴⁶⁹



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Vermont⁴⁷⁰

\$44.9 million



Jobs supported by exports
to India in Vermont⁴⁷¹

399



Indian visitor spending
in Vermont⁴⁷²

\$25.9 million



Economic contribution of Indian
international students
in Vermont⁴⁷³

\$2.5 million

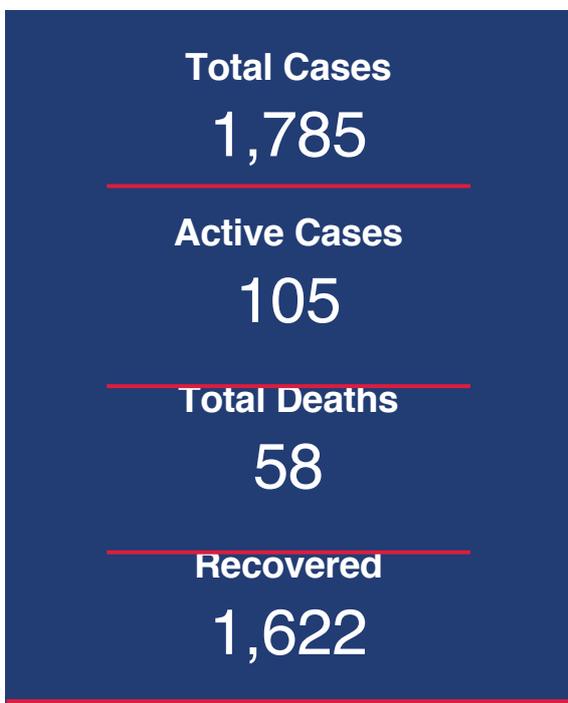
Key personalities



Keshia Ram: The Democratic Party’s Ram is the youngest Indian-American ever to serve in a state-elected office. She represented the Chittenden-6-4 district in the Vermont House of Representatives (2009⁴⁷⁴– 2016). In November, she is running for election to the Vermont state senate to represent Chittenden. If elected, she will be the first non-White American who will serve in the state Senate.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC’S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)⁴⁷⁵



Vermont has had both the lowest case count and the lowest cases per capita in the country, owing largely to social-distancing measures.⁴⁷⁶ In November, Vermonters will be given an extended period within which they can cast their ballot via mail, or at open-air and drive-thru surveying areas. Some steps taken for the general elections include the following: all voters will get a voting form via mail; all envelopes will be sent ahead of time; and the expenses of restoring the voting form will be secured by the Secretary of State’s office.⁴⁷⁷

Economic impact

State GDP	\$29.6 billion GDP per capita - \$47,408
Pillar Industries: Real estate and rental and leasing	The industry’s GDP contribution is \$4.7 billion.

April 2020 saw a steep increase in Vermont’s unemployment rate, from 3.1 percent to 16.5 percent. The Vermont Department of Labor said it received 90,213 joblessness claims – out of which 25,631 were due to the pandemic. The unemployment problem also added to the housing issues in the state. The National Multifamily Housing Council estimated that only 69 percent of the households countrywide had paid their house rent for April on time, as compared to the 81 percent in March 2020. Approximately 17,905 renter-households and 21,245 owner-households are cost-burdened and are likely paying more than half their income on housing expenses, mortgage and utilities.⁴⁷⁸⁴⁷⁹

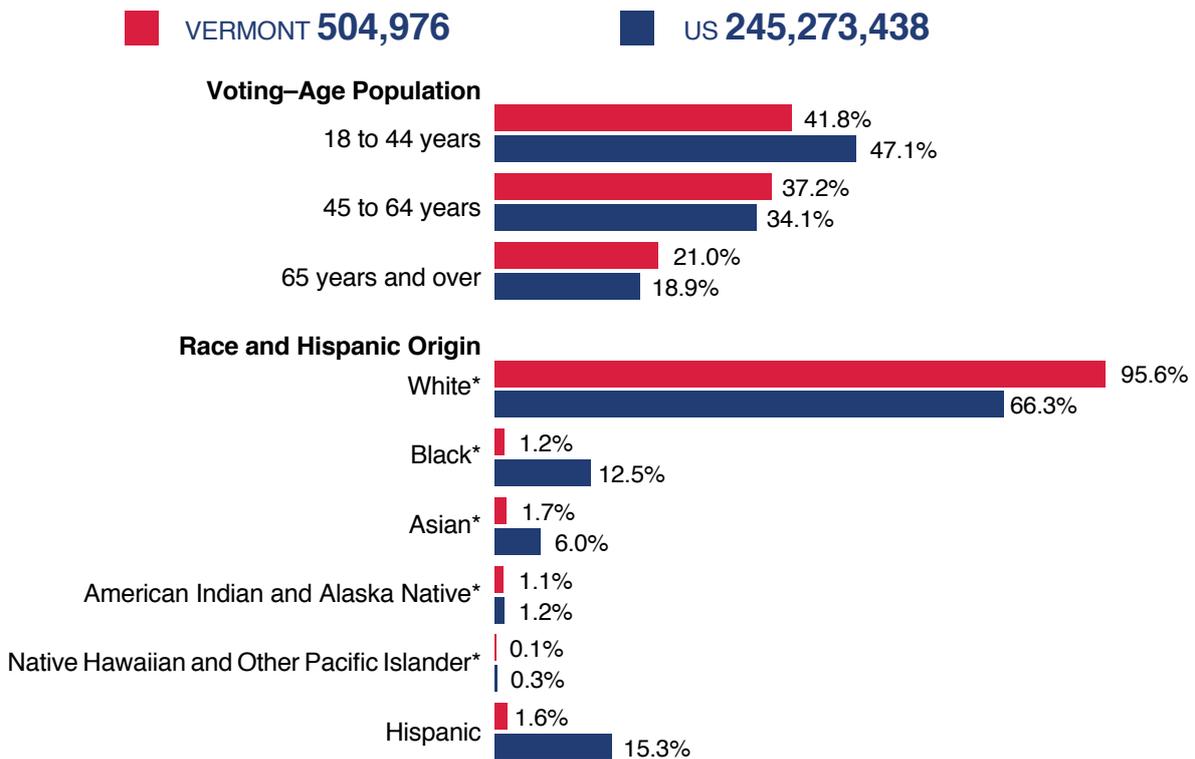
According to July projections, Vermont’s revenues in fiscal year 2021 could fall by \$374 million, a drop of almost 15 percent. The hospitality industry was gravely hit beginning in early March, when almost 17,000 hotel-related jobs were lost out of the 37,000 it generally supports; occupancy taxes dropped by \$48 million.⁴⁸⁰⁴⁸¹

The impact of the pandemic has been particularly hard on the women, as Vermont has the highest percentage of women in the informal sector (nearly 81 percent). Across the country, women-run businesses are more likely to be small and in service sectors that have been most affected by the crisis.⁴⁸²

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.
 Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state’s eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.
 Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey, www.census.gov/acs.
 Source - data: US Census Bureau.⁴⁸³

Religious composition of adults in Vermont⁴⁸⁴

Christian	54%
Evangelical Protestant	11%
Mainline Protestant	19%
Historically Black Protestant	<1%
Catholic	22%
Mormon	<1%
Orthodox Christian	1%
Jehovah's Witness	<1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	8%
Unaffiliated	37%

White Americans comprise the majority in the state's voting population. Most of the state's immigrant communities hail from either any of the European countries or Canada. African-Americans and Hispanics together make up only three percent of the state population.⁴⁸⁵ Meanwhile, the Indian-American community is minuscule—only about 1,500 people—to have any considerable impact on the state election results.

ELECTORAL HISTORY

Although Vermont now leans towards the Democratic Party in the national elections, it voted for the Republican Party until 1988. In 1992, Vermont broke this tradition and voted for Bill Clinton over George Bush, and has been a loyal Blue state since. In 2016, the Democrats beat the Republicans by a margin of 56 percent to 30 percent, easily winning the state's three electoral votes.⁴⁸⁶

The Economist predicts that the Democratic Party will take Vermont in 2020, with Biden likely to command 62-72 percent of the popular vote share, and Trump, 28-38 percent.⁴⁸⁷ The FiveThirtyEight polls predicts a whopping 61.9 percent for Biden in the state, against Trump's 30.4 percent.⁴⁸⁸

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- Postal Service Crisis.**⁴⁸⁹ State politicians from both the Democratic and Republican parties are opposing the Trump administration-led USPS crisis. Vermont enacted a trial-run before the state primaries which turned out to be a huge success for the sheer number of first-time voters who turned up. It now plans to implement all mail-in ballot voting, especially for this year. However, owing to Republican Party-led speculations that the system may lead to fraud, the state is facing difficulties in implementing the same due to removal mail processing machines and overtime work provisions. The postal service crisis will possibly lead to a delay in delivery of ballots.
- Legalised marketplace for Marijuana.**⁴⁹⁰ The possession and cultivation of marijuana was made legal in the state in 2018, but there was no legal way for users to purchase the drug. On 7 October 2020, State Governor Phil Scott allowed the legislation (S 54) to become law without his signature, enabling the opening of dispensaries by 2022. It is expected that this move will cut down on black-market sales and allow the safe sale of marijuana. The law will also clear those who have been previously convicted of possessing two ounces or less of marijuana.

VIRGINIA

Source - Nations Online⁴⁹¹

A SNAPSHOT

The Commonwealth of Virginia is located in the south-eastern and mid-Atlantic regions of the United States.

CAPITAL
RICHMOND

POPULATION
(ESTIMATED 2019)
8,535,519

INDIAN-AMERICAN
POPULATION
131,077

ELECTORAL
VOTES
13

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Virginia (in 2018-20)⁴⁹²



Number of
Indian companies
in Virginia⁴⁹³

14



Total volume of investment
by Indian companies⁴⁹⁴
Approximately

\$79 million

(0.351% of total Indian investments in the US,
i.e. \$22.6 billion)



Number of jobs created
due to Indian investment
in Virginia⁴⁹⁵

1,307



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Virginia⁴⁹⁶

\$660 million



Jobs supported by exports
to India in Virginia⁴⁹⁷

4,783



Indian Companies
in Virginia:
Sector Diversification⁵⁰⁰

Information Technology and
Telecommunications

85.71%



Indian visitor spending
in Virginia⁴⁹⁸

\$246.8 million

Manufacturing

7.14%



Economic contribution of Indian
international students
in Virginia⁴⁹⁹

\$74.9 million

Life Sciences, Pharmaceuticals
and Healthcare

7.14%

Key personalities



Manga Anantatmula:⁵⁰¹ Republican Party nominee from the 11th Congressional District of Virginia,⁵⁰² Manga is the first Indian candidate to run for the House of Representatives from the district. Her campaign stands on the platform of reducing taxes, promoting equal rights for women, helping the growth of small and medium business, and affordable healthcare. Anantatmula will strive to strengthen India-US relationship if elected. In her recent tweets, she has supported India's stand on Kashmir and the contentious Citizenship Amendment Act 2019.⁵⁰³



Suhas Subramanyam:⁵⁰⁴ Representing the 87th District (parts of Counties Loudon & Prince William), Suhas is member of the State House of Representatives. Democrat Subramanyam has a strong stance on arresting the widespread incidence of gun-related violence in the country.⁵⁰⁵



Puneet Ahluwalia: Puneet served as a member of Trump's campaign for Asia Advisory Committee in the 2016 presidential elections. This year, he announced he was running for Lieutenant Governor of Virginia.⁵⁰⁶ A Republican, he aims to strengthen the Republican Party's base in Virginia and believes that new leadership would enable a better focus on creating more American jobs, fighting terrorism, and promoting balanced trade between the US and the countries in the Indo-Pacific region.⁵⁰⁷



Ghazala Hashmi: Representing the 10th District, Democrat Hashmi is the First Muslim-American woman to serve in the Virginia state Senate.⁵⁰⁸ Educator-turned-politician, her work focuses on education, healthcare, environmental protection, and gun violence.⁵⁰⁹

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)⁵¹⁰

Total Cases
151,870

Active Cases
130,749

Total Deaths
3,273

Recovered
17,848

Virginia has had a mask mandate since the onset of the pandemic. It has also been touted as a model state on how to conduct an election in the midst of a health emergency. The state has early voting as well as online and offline voter registration. Absentee voting has been made easier by suspending the witness requirement and allowing all mail-in ballots to have prepaid return postage. It was created after anticipating a rise in mail ballots this year.⁵¹¹

Economic impact

State GDP	\$463.6 billion GDP per capita - \$54,730
Pillar Industries: Professional and business services	The industry's GDP contribution is \$103 billion.

Agriculture, by output as well as employment generation, is one of the biggest sectors in Virginia. It creates almost \$70 billion in economic activity and more than 330,000 jobs. The industry has been hit hard by the pandemic due to reduced capacity and demand. The prices for feed sector, the beleaguered dairy industry as well as emerging winery and distillery of the state, are also affected.⁵¹²

Southwest Virginia’s coal industry is already struggling due to falling demand. It felt the tremors of the pandemic, seeing massive furloughs and idle capacity. The Energy Information Administration (EIA) has forecast a dip of

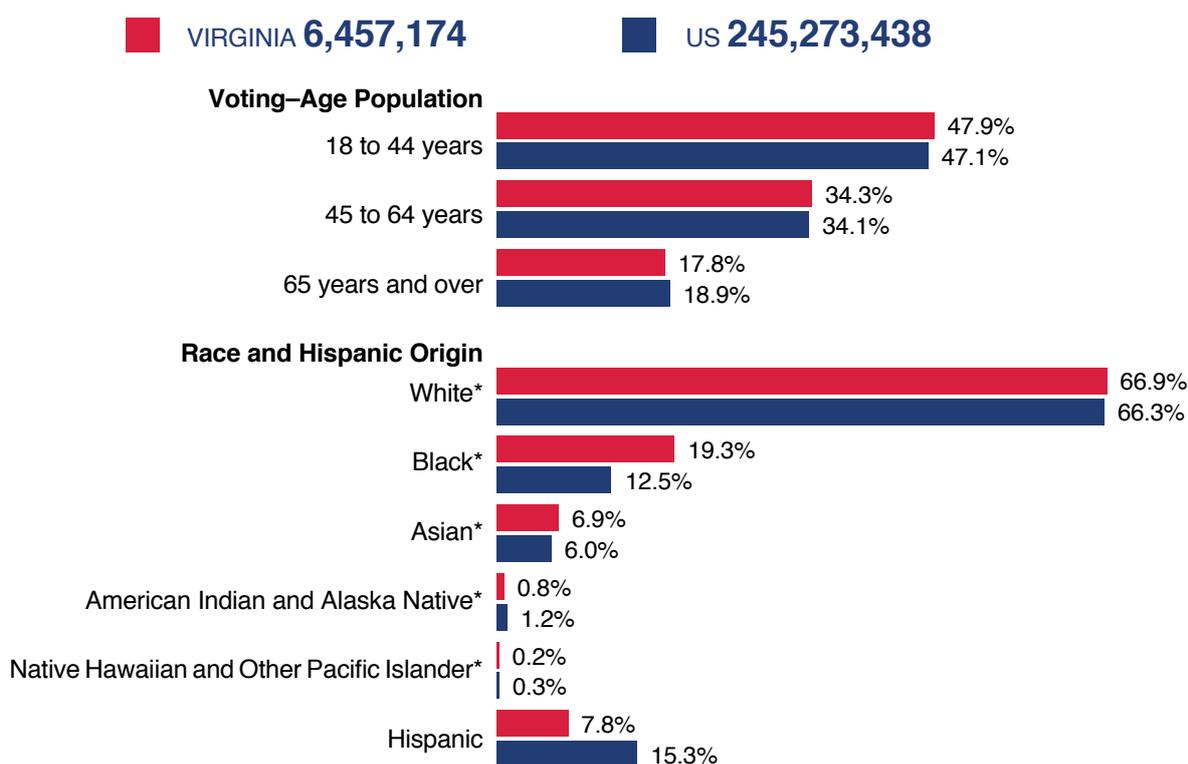
35 percent in the annual coal production for the entire Appalachian region of the state. Virginia’s growing steel industry has also been affected by the pandemic.⁵¹³

Virginia saw less unemployment claims than the rest of the country, probably due to the high number of technology and defence jobs generated by the state which were more resilient to the pandemic.⁵¹⁴ It became the first state in the country to bring out an emergency temporary standard to protect its workers from COVID-19, after the Department of Labor and Industry’s Safety and Health Codes Board voted on 15 July 2020.⁵¹⁵

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.
 Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state’s eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey, www.census.gov/acs.

Source - data: US Census Bureau.⁵¹⁶

Religious composition of adults in Virginia⁵¹⁷

Christian	73%
Evangelical Protestant	30%
Mainline Protestant	16%
Historically Black Protestant	12%
Catholic	12%
Mormon	2%
Orthodox Christian	1%
Jehovah's Witness	<1%
Other Christian	<1%
Non-Christian Faiths	6%
Unaffiliated	20%

The Asian population of the state is higher than the national average. The Indian-American community in Virginia too, has grown tremendously, seeing an increase of almost 112 percent since 2000.⁵¹⁸ They are now considered an electorally significant voting constituency in the state—131,077 people—a population that is large enough to swing the election (Clinton had carried the state in 2016 by 5.4 percent and Indians constitute nine percent of the Virginia's population⁵¹⁹). Richmond, in particular, is a popular destination for the community, with more than 20 Indian restaurants and places of worship.⁵²⁰

Virginia also has a huge population of evangelical protestants at 30 percent. They tend to lean Republican, even though there has been a slight shift in the voting patterns of this community across the country, away from Trump.

ELECTORAL HISTORY

The voting trends have changed significantly in Virginia over time, due to the demographic transformation, increasing wealth and the rise of higher education with the inner-ring suburbs, which now vote Blue. One in 10 people eligible to vote in Virginia today are immigrants.⁵²¹ Even though vast tracts of Virginia are still conservative, allowing Trump to win 93 of Virginia's 113 counties in the 2016 election, immigrants who are inclined towards the Democratic Party have made up for the difference with their numbers. Clinton eventually won the state.⁵²²

The Economist predicts that the Democratic Party will take Virginia again in 2020, with Biden likely to command 50-61 percent of the popular vote share, and Trump, 40-50 percent.⁵²³ FiveThirtyEight polls also predicts a win for Biden in the state with 52.6 percent of votes, against Trump's 40.3 percent.⁵²⁴

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Witness requirement suspension for absentee ballots.** Owing to the *League of Women Voters of Virginia v. Virginia State Board of Elections* case of August 2020, the state agreed to the suspension of Virginia's witness requirement for absentee ballots in the November elections.⁵²⁵
- **Gun Violence.** More than 1,000 Virginians die from gun-related incidents each year. It is a pressing issue particularly for the immigrants in the state, because of which it tilts Democrat. Governor Ralph Northam signed the historic Gun Safety Legislation on 10 April. The preventive initiatives include the enactment of an Extreme Risk Protective Order, requiring background checks on all gun sales, mandated reporting of lost and stolen firearms, prohibition of children from accessing firearms, and reinstating Virginia's successful one-handgun-a-month policy.⁵²⁶
- **Police Reform.** Amidst the Black Lives Matter protests across the country, lawmakers in the state are seeking a complete ban on chokeholds and no-knock warrants (which led to the deaths of, respectively, George Floyd and Breonna Taylor both in 2019). The Democratic Party-held House also wants to end a Virginia law called 'qualified immunity', which shields police officers from being sued for civil rights violations. The Republicans, on the contrary, are accusing the government of falling "too deep left" on the justice system which will only make it more difficult for law enforcement to function, eventually undermining public safety.⁵²⁷

WASHINGTON

Source - Nations Online⁵²⁸

A SNAPSHOT

The Commonwealth of Washington is located in the Pacific northwest region of the United States.

CAPITAL
OLYMPIA

POPULATION
(ESTIMATED 2019)
7,614,893

INDIAN-AMERICAN
POPULATION
87,483

ELECTORAL
VOTES
12

THE INDIA CONNECTION

Contribution of Indian Industry to Washington (in 2018-20)⁵²⁹



Number of
Indian companies
in Washington⁵³⁰

14



Total volume of investment
by Indian companies⁵³¹
Approximately

\$142.96 million

(0.63% of total Indian investments in the US,
i.e. \$22.6 billion)



Number of jobs created
due to Indian investment
in Washington⁵³²

4,167



Volume of goods and services
exported to India
from Washington⁵³³

\$1.7 billion



Jobs supported by exports
to India in Washington⁵³⁴

9,157



Indian Companies
in Washington:
Sector Diversification⁵³⁷

Information Technology and
Telecommunications

85.71%



Indian visitor spending
in Washington⁵³⁵

\$288.2 million

Manufacturing

7.14%



Economic contribution of Indian
international students
in Washington⁵³⁶

\$35.2 million

Life Sciences, Pharmaceuticals
and Healthcare

7.14%

Key personalities



Pramila Jayapal: Democrat Jayapal is serving as the US Representative of the 7th congressional district of Washington. She has previously worked as Representative of the 37th district to the Washington state Senate (2015-17). She is the first Asian-American to represent Washington at a federal level. She is a civil rights activist and is the founder of OneAmerica, one of the largest pro-immigrant and refugee advocacy organisations in the country, which sued the Bush administration to prevent the deportation of 4,000 Somalis. She was recognised as the White House's⁵³⁸ 'Champions of Change' in 2013 for her efforts and since then has worked for Indian-Americans in the country.⁵³⁹



Sanjay Puri: Puri is the chairperson of the US-India Political Action Committee (USINPAC), which works closely with both Republican and Democratic members of the government to make sure that the concerns of the Indian community are noted and addressed. He is also the founder and CEO of the Alliance for US India Business (AUSIB) which is dedicated to strengthening economic relations between the US and India.⁵⁴⁰



Kshama Sawant:⁵⁴¹ Sawant is the elected representative of the 3rd District of Washington in the Seattle City Council since 2014. Identifying herself as Socialist Alternative, she had won the general elections in November 2019 which expanded her term to 2023. She has aggressively advocated to tax giant corporations like Amazon to create affordable, rent-controlled housing for the state and expand green energy and mass transits. She is currently facing a Recall petition against her tenure for allegedly violating executive orders.⁵⁴²

COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

Statistics (as of 4 October 2020)⁵⁴³

Total Cases

92,315

Active Cases

46,727

Total Deaths

2,144

Recovered

43,444

Washington is one of the handful of states that will conduct elections entirely by mail in November. Every registered voter gets a ballot delivered to their address about two weeks in advance, and has until election day to fill it out and mail it back, or else drop it off at a secure drop box.⁵⁴⁴

Economic impact

State GDP

\$480.9 billion

GDP per capita - \$64,937

Pillar Industries: · Real estate and rental and leasing, information

The industry's GDP contribution is \$77.6 billion and \$71.6 billion.

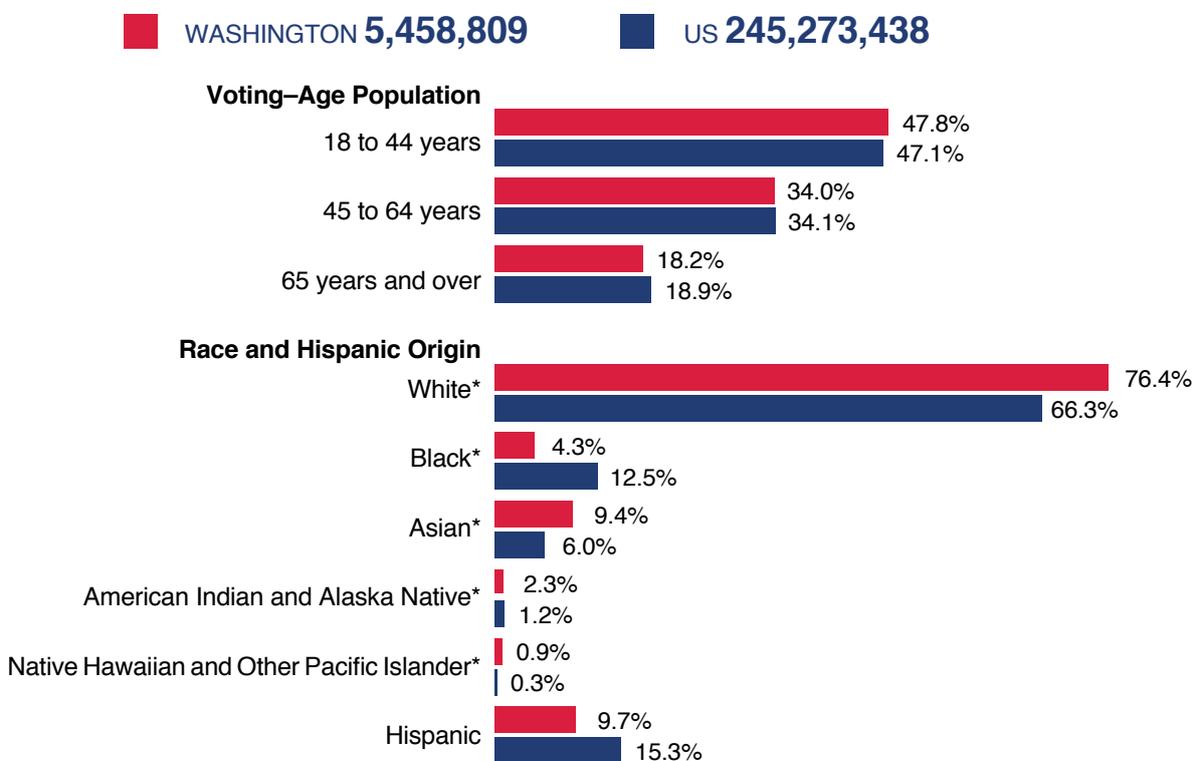
Almost 800,000 workers in Washington have filed for unemployment benefits during the crisis. This is estimated to nullify the state’s job growth since the early 2000s. In downtown Seattle, the stay-at-home order for office workers and the decline in the numbers of tourists and business travellers has slowed down a commercial hub that is historically responsible for nearly half of the city’s economic output.

The pandemic’s economic fallout in the state has been rapid. Manufacturing has been hit hard, with around 30 percent of workers filing unemployment claims since early March. Boeing is estimated to cut more than one in seven jobs at its commercial jet business, principally in its Seattle-area operations.⁵⁴⁵ The hotel sector alone has seen revenue fall by approximately 90 percent since mid-March, and at least 29 hotels have temporarily closed, according to the Downtown Seattle Association.⁵⁴⁶

ELECTORATE ANALYSIS

Electorate Profile

Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population



* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state’s eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey Table B05003.

Sources: Vintage 2014 Population Estimates, 2014 American Community Survey, www.census.gov/acs.

Source - data: US Census Bureau.⁵⁴⁷

Religious composition of adults in Washington⁵⁴⁸

Christian	61%
Evangelical Protestant	25%
Mainline Protestant	13%
Historically Black Protestant	2%
Catholic	17%
Mormon	3%
Orthodox Christian	<1%
Jehovah's Witness	2%
Other Christian	1%
Non-Christian Faiths	6%
Unaffiliated	32%

Indian-Americans are the sixth-largest Asian-American group in Washington state and their numbers in the state are way above the national average at approximately 87,000 people. In King County, where large Indian-American communities are mainly based, one can find quite a number of establishments catering to the community.⁵⁴⁹ The soft power and cultural influence of the Indian community has made a mark in Washington, possibly granting them significant influence on politics as well.

ELECTORAL HISTORY

The state has gone through periods during which it voted primarily Democrat, and other periods, Republican. Democrats have won the last eight elections, making it one of the most reliable Blue states at this point. In 2016, Hillary Clinton defeated Trump by a 54 percent to 38 percent margin. The state's electoral influence has grown in recent decades and commands more electoral votes.⁵⁵⁰

The Economist predicts that the Democratic Party will take Washington in 2020, with Biden likely to command 57-67 percent of the popular vote share, and Trump, 33-43 percent.⁵⁵¹ FiveThirtyEight polls also predicts a comfortable win for the Democrats in the state, with Biden leading with 61.2 percent of votes, against Trump's 33.8 percent.⁵⁵²

MAIN ISSUES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

- **Police Reforms.** Washington state lawmakers plan to pursue a broad range of police reforms that include possible limits on use of tear gas and chokeholds. The protests that erupted across the country after the death of George Floyd pushed the lawmakers to initiate stringent police reforms. Although Washington voters approved Initiative 940 in 2018 which requires law enforcement officers to receive de-escalation, first aid and extended mental health crisis training, a lot of reforms are still required.⁵⁵³
- **Sex Education in Public Schools.**⁵⁵⁴ The referendum is on the ballot for the upcoming election which, if approved, will require public schools to provide comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education to all students and be excused only if the parents request the same. Led by the Safe & Healthy Youth Washington Coalition and supported by Democrats, the campaign will bring into effect the Senate Bill 5395 which was already signed by the Governor in March 2020. Due to backlash from Republicans and conservative groups, the bill was converted into a ballot measure with over 250,000 signatures against it, two-thirds of which came from church sites.

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This report is a state-wise exposition on the United States' (US) 59th quadrennial presidential election in November 2020. Its aims are manifold. First, the report outlines the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on US states and their economies, capturing the peculiarities in the political dynamics and contestations around the pandemic in the states—these relate, for instance, to the mask mandate, and the electoral reforms spurred by the pandemic. Second, the report provides a glimpse into the electoral history and electorate profile of each of the states, offering a commentary on the issues that matter to these electorates and summarising projections on how they are likely to vote

in November. Finally, this report breaks new ground in pondering the potential influence of the Indian-American community as an electoral constituency. The report divides the states into three categories: (1) the “battleground states”—which, by ORF’s reckoning, could swing the outcome of the election either way; (2) the “Red” states, or those that are most likely voting Republican; and (3) the “Blue” states, those that are predicted to vote Democrat.

This report is ORF’s contribution to current analyses on the 2020 US elections, which will have far-reaching implications for the country’s domestic politics and the outlook for Indian and world foreign policy.



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