

**FEDERAL ELECTIONS 2008**  
**Election Results for the U.S. President,**  
**the U.S. Senate and the**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**



**Federal Election Commission**  
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## **ELECTION RESULTS FOR THE U.S. PRESIDENT, THE U.S. SENATE AND THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

This publication has been prepared by the Federal Election Commission to provide the public with the results of elections held in the fifty states during 2008 for the offices of United States President, United States Senator and United States Representative. Also included are the results for Delegate to Congress from American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Resident Commissioner for Puerto Rico. Additionally, there are results for the special elections to fill the unexpired U.S. Senate terms in Mississippi and Wyoming. The Commission undertakes this project on a biennial basis in order to respond to public inquiries.

The elections for these federal offices are administered by local election officials in towns, counties, municipalities, and other jurisdictions. The results of the elections are certified by the state government, which in most cases is the Secretary of State. While the full records are available for public inspection, most states prepare summary reports for public dissemination. These summary reports vary in form and content, and may be amended well after the election. There is no standard format that states use in reporting federal election results.

Recognizing a need to bring together in one place the federal election results, the Commission presents this publication as the 14th in a series designed to provide an accurate, historical record of federal election results.

Included in this publication are the official results of primary elections and runoff elections held in 2008. As in the case of the general elections, primary elections are not administered by the federal government. In some states (such as Connecticut, Utah, and Virginia), political party organizations control their nomination process by way of conventions. In other states, state law may regulate the primary and/or its administration.

This publication has been prepared as a research tool for Commission staff and State election offices. Data is based on official figures provided by State election officials, and includes results amended through June 2009. If the election results are modified in the future, the Commission will supply errata supplements as necessary. The assistance provided by the State election officials and their staff in the preparation of this publication is greatly appreciated.

Federal Elections 2008 may also be viewed and/or downloaded from the Commission's Web site, <http://www.fec.gov>.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

- The candidate who was the winner of the general election is listed first in the entry for each state and district (where applicable). After that, the candidates are arranged by party affiliation.
- Incumbent Congressional candidates facing re-election in 2008 are designated with an (I) to the left of the candidate's name. The lack of an (I) in a particular Senate race or U.S. House district indicates an open seat race.
- Because of redistricting, more than one incumbent may be listed in a single Congressional District.
- The party affiliation of the candidate is as listed on the ballot and has been abbreviated. A complete listing of party abbreviations appears at the end of this publication.
- Total for write-in votes are shown as disclosed by the state. Some states list the names of candidates who received write-in votes, while others provide a write-in vote total without the names of the candidates who received the votes. Still other states combine these two variations and provide the names of some candidates who received write-in votes and a total of write-in votes for all the other candidates.
- In some states, there were unopposed candidates whose names did not appear on a ballot and therefore received no votes.
- "Total Votes," "Total State Votes," "Party Votes," and "District Votes" represent all the valid votes cast for the candidates in the election. State totals (and the totals for the territories and the District of Columbia) are found in the summary charts and at the end of each state/territory section.
- "Combined Parties" represents all the valid votes cast for one candidate, regardless of party. (This method is used where a candidate may be listed on the ballot more than once, with different party designations; i.e., in Connecticut, New York and South Carolina.) These votes are then broken down and listed by party. The party votes are enclosed by brackets [ ].
- The percentage of votes received by each general election candidate is based on the figure of total votes. The percentage of votes received by each candidate in a primary or runoff election is based on the figure of total votes cast in that specific primary or runoff election.
- Due to the rounding of percentage numbers, some percentages may not total 100%.

## 2008 ELECTION RESULTS

The following four sections present the primary, runoff and general election results for the U.S. Presidential and Congressional elections held in 2008.

The November 2008 general election (along with Georgia and Louisiana's December 2008 elections) resulted in the election of the 111th Congress. The following is the party composition of the 111th Congress, as determined by the results of these elections:

### U.S. Senate

Democrats: 57  
Republicans: 41  
Independents: 2

### U.S. House of Representatives

Democrats: 257  
Republicans: 178  
Independents: 0

### Notes on Charts

\* Runoff election vote totals have been included with the primary election totals. (For the U.S. Senate, a runoff election was held in Georgia. For the U.S. House of Representatives, runoff elections were held in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Texas.) For Georgia and Louisiana, the December election vote totals have been included with the general election totals.

The following three situations account for blank spaces in the charts and should be considered when making comparisons or drawing conclusions about the vote totals.

- \* In some states, i.e., Connecticut, Utah and Virginia, political parties may nominate general election candidates by party convention, rather than by primary election.
- \* In some states, there were unopposed candidates whose names did not appear on a ballot and therefore received no votes.
- \* 33 states had regularly scheduled U.S. Senate elections in 2008.

