



**“Your call for  
campaign reform  
will hurt conserva-  
tives and the  
Republican Party.”**

—Governor George W. Bush, addressing primary opponent  
John McCain in New Hampshire on January 6, 2000



On general election day in 1998, more than 10.5 million eligible voters stayed home in Texas. Governor Bush won a “landslide” re-election among the voters who actually participated in this race in which the incumbent raised five times as much money as his closest challenger. With an alarming 74 percent of eligible voters sitting out the event, a mere 18 percent of Texas’ eligible voters actually cast a ballot for Bush.

Texas’ largest minority community, Hispanics, have a voter registration

percent), the 1996 African-American turnout in Texas was 47 percent of eligible voters, falling four percentage points behind the national average.

Such low levels of participation are mirrored in the campaign finance system in Texas, which imposes no limits on how much individuals or political action committees (PACs) can give candidates for a state office. Bush raised an unprecedented \$41 million in his two gubernatorial races; 24 percent of this money came from just 207 PACs and individuals, who con-

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# DEMOCRACY

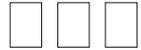
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rate of 43 percent, which runs slightly above the national Hispanic rate (39 percent). But when it comes to actually casting a ballot, just 28 percent of eligible Texas Hispanic voters participated in the 1996 election, besting the national Hispanic average by one percentage point.

The registration and turnout rates for Texas’ African-American community both fall below the national averages. While 63 percent of eligible African-American Texans are registered to vote (the national rate is 66

tributed \$25,000 or more. The degree to which Bush depended on a small number of large donors is hardly unusual in Texas. In the 1998 election cycle, just 629 PACs and individuals accounted for more than half of the \$120 million raised by all candidates for state offices from the legislature on up. Corporate and business interests supply the vast majority of this money. Labor unions provided just two percent of the total; money from environmental and consumer interests scarcely registers at all.



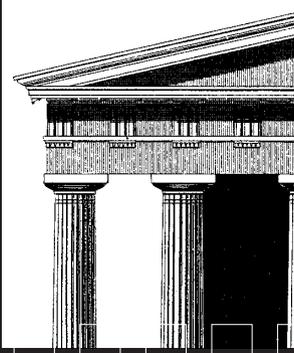


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## DEMOCRACY INDICATORS

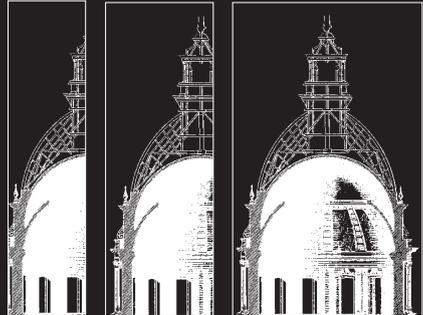
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# DEMOCRACY

## INDICATORS



## 1

## VOTER REGISTRATION

Only California has a bigger voting-age population than Texas, which has 14.3 million people of age. Texas ranks No. 46 in the percentage of eligible people who actually registered to vote in 1998.

	Rank	State	Adults Registered (%)
	1	Alaska	100 %
	2	Michigan	94 %
	3	Maine	92 %
	4	Vermont	87 %
	5	New Hampshire	86 %
	<b>46</b>	<b>Texas</b>	<b>67 %</b>
	47-48	Florida (tied)	66 %
	47-48	New Mexico (tied)	66 %
	49	Wyoming	65 %
	50	California	63 %

# 2

## MINORITY VOTER REGISTRATION



Texas ranks No. 25 in the percentage of eligible African-Americans who registered to vote in 1996. Texas' rate of 63 percent falls slightly below the national average of 66 percent.

	Rank	State	African Americans Registered (%)
	1-2	Maine (tied)	100 %
	1-2	Vermont (tied)	100 %
	3	New Mexico	83 %
	4-5	Oregon (tied)	75 %
	4-5	Montana (tied)	75 %
	<b>25</b>	<b>Texas</b>	<b>63 %</b>
	46	West Virginia	45 %
	47	Rhode Island	29 %
	48	Wyoming	23 %
	49	Utah	20 %
	50	Idaho	0 %

Texas ranks No. 19 in the percentage of eligible Hispanics that registered to vote in 1996. Texas' Hispanic registration rate of 43 percent exceeded the national average of 36 percent.

	Rank	State	Hispanics Registered (%)
	1	Maine	100 %
	2	Vermont	83 %
	3	New Hampshire	81 %
	4	Hawaii	77 %
	5	Indiana	63 %
	<b>19</b>	<b>Texas</b>	<b>43 %</b>
	46	Nevada	19 %
	47	Idaho	17 %
	48	Minnesota	15 %
	49-50	Arkansas (tied)	10 %
	49-50	North Carolina (tied)	10 %

## 3

## VOTER TURNOUT



With 9.6 million registered voters, Texas had more registered voters in 1998 than 48 other states. Texas ranks No. 47, however, in the percentage of eligible voters who did not go to the polls that year. Almost six million registered Texas voters and 10.5 million eligible voters stayed home.

	Rank	State	Voter Turnout
	1	Minnesota	60.0 %
	2	Montana	51.5 %
	3	Alaska	50.7 %
	4	Wyoming	49.4 %
	5	South Dakota	49.0 %
	46	Arizona	28.6 %
	<b>47</b>	<b>Texas</b>	<b>26.1 %</b>
	48	Mississippi	25.7 %
	49	West Virginia	25.0 %
	50	Tennessee	23.7 %

# 4

## MINORITY VOTER TURNOUT



Texas fell below the national average in the percentage of eligible African Americans who voted in 1996 (51%). Texas ranked No. 30, with a black turnout of 47 percent in 1996.

	Rank	State	African-American Voter Turnout
	1-3	North Dakota (tied)	100 %
	1-3	Vermont (tied)	100 %
	1-3	Maine (tied)	100 %
	4	Montana	75 %
	5	Washington	72 %
	<b>30</b>	<b>Texas</b>	<b>47 %</b>
	46	Wyoming	23 %
	47	Arizona	21 %
	48	Utah	20 %
	49	West Virginia	19 %
	50	Idaho	0 %

Texas, which has a large Hispanic population, ranked No. 28 in the percentage of eligible Hispanics who voted in 1996. This Hispanic voter turnout of 28 percent nosed out the national average of 27 percent.

	Rank	State	Hispanic Voter Turnout
	1	Vermont	83 %
	2	New Hampshire	81 %
	3	Hawaii	52 %
	4	West Virginia	50 %
	5	North Dakota	44 %
	<b>28</b>	<b>Texas</b>	<b>28 %</b>
	46	Minnesota	12 %
	47	Idaho	11 %
	48-49	Arkansas (tied)	10 %
	48-49	Tennessee (tied)	10 %
	50	North Carolina	8 %

## 5

## WOMEN IN THE LEGISLATURE

Texas lags behind the national average in the percentage of its state legislative seats that are occupied by women (18 percent). Women occupy an average of 22 percent of state legislative seats nationwide.

	Rank	State	Percentage of Seats
	1	Washington	41 %
	2	Nevada	37 %
	3	Arizona	36 %
	4-5	Colorado (tied)	33 %
	4-5	Kansas (tied)	33 %
	34-39	Arkansas (tied)	18 %
	34-39	Indiana (tied)	18 %
	34-39	North Carolina (tied)	18 %
	34-39	North Dakota (tied)	18 %
	<b>34-39</b>	<b>Texas (tied)</b>	<b>18 %</b>
	46-48	Kentucky (tied)	12 %
	46-48	Mississippi (tied)	12 %
	46-48	South Carolina (tied)	12 %
	49	Oklahoma	10 %
	50	Alabama	8 %