

The
ACTS
of the Apostles



God equips His people to remain
faithful witnesses through
all they encounter

Acts 14

Introduction

- We read of the disciples' commitment to obeying God as they fulfill their first missionary journey.
- Their discerning responses to a wide range of experiences allow us to see God at work.
- Their faithful perseverance awards them suffering, but it also produces in them great joy and a hope that God's name is being proclaimed to the ends of the earth.

Faithful perseverance
sees God working to make
use of all circumstances

Acts 14:1-18

Paul and Barnabas

- Paul and Barnabas enter Iconium, a city that was somewhat resistant to Roman authority.
- Iconium was governed by a group of citizens called the Demos, which preferred to remain as detached as possible from the Romans.
- The apostles go directly to the city's synagogue and strategically begin their preaching before a congregation that already studied the Word of God.

Paul and Barnabas

- Paul and Barnabas' passionate message is met with two responses, immediate belief and agitated rejection.
- When Jews take offense at the Gospel and stir up opposition among some of the Greeks, the apostles do something surprising. They "remained for a long time," trusting in the Lord to help them share boldly (verse 3).
- To authenticate their message, the Lord works many miraculous signs and wonders through them.

Paul and Barnabas

- Paul heals a crippled man who expresses faith in the Gospel (verses 8–9).
- Given the tight-knit nature of the town, everyone would have known this man, so causing him to spring up and walk in plain sight was sure to leave an impression.
- What began as a move for safety has blossomed into a fruitful opportunity for evangelism.

Paul and Barnabas

- Paul and Barnabas now face the rage of a divided city.
- Many have now risen up against them, stones in hand (verse 5), and the apostles decide to seek refuge in the nearby towns (verse 6).
- Rather than reevaluating their mission, they continue sharing the message of salvation throughout the region (verse 7), even under threat.

Paul and Barnabas

- The rough feel of Lystra was a definite change in environment (verse 8).
- This area was ruled by Roman army veterans, its commerce and culture was controlled by a few Greeks.
- Since the majority of the population was illiterate and the town was isolated from bigger cities in Galatia, the citizens of Lystra were highly superstitious and spoke their own regional language.

Paul and Barnabas

- The surrounding crowd erupts in praise for the apostles.
- This strange response was due to an ancient legend in Lystra that Zeus and Hermes had once come to their land disguised as normal humans seeking shelter.
- That couple that welcomed them had their home transformed into a gorgeous temple. But the other townspeople were not hospitable to the visiting gods, and their homes were destroyed.

Paul and Barnabas

- When the apostles figure out what's happening, they respond by communicating two things.
- First, they tear their robes as an expression of sorrow over their attempt to deify humans instead of God (verse 14).
- Second, they immediately seek to preach correction of the townspeople's false assumptions (verses 15–17).

Despite the circumstances,
believers can always find
reason to praise God

Acts 14:19-29

Paul Stoned

- Some of the unbelieving Jews from previous locations are following Paul's missionary journey in order to put an end to it (verse 19).
- Now that these Jews have come to Lystra to "persuade the crowds."
- The mob that earlier sought to deify the apostles now sets out to stone them.

Paul Stoned

- Paul gets up, links up with Barnabas, and heads to Derbe, where they “preached the gospel” and “made many disciples” (verses 20–21).
- Though they could have just called it a day, the apostles swing back by Iconium and Antioch to strengthen the disciples they had left behind and help with establishing a lasting church structure (verses 22–23).

Paul Stoned

- Luke doesn't give us any details about Paul's recovery from being stoned or his exhausting travel itinerary. He only records Paul's resolve.
- We see the apostles faithfully following and preaching what Jesus taught.
- He taught that, "in the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

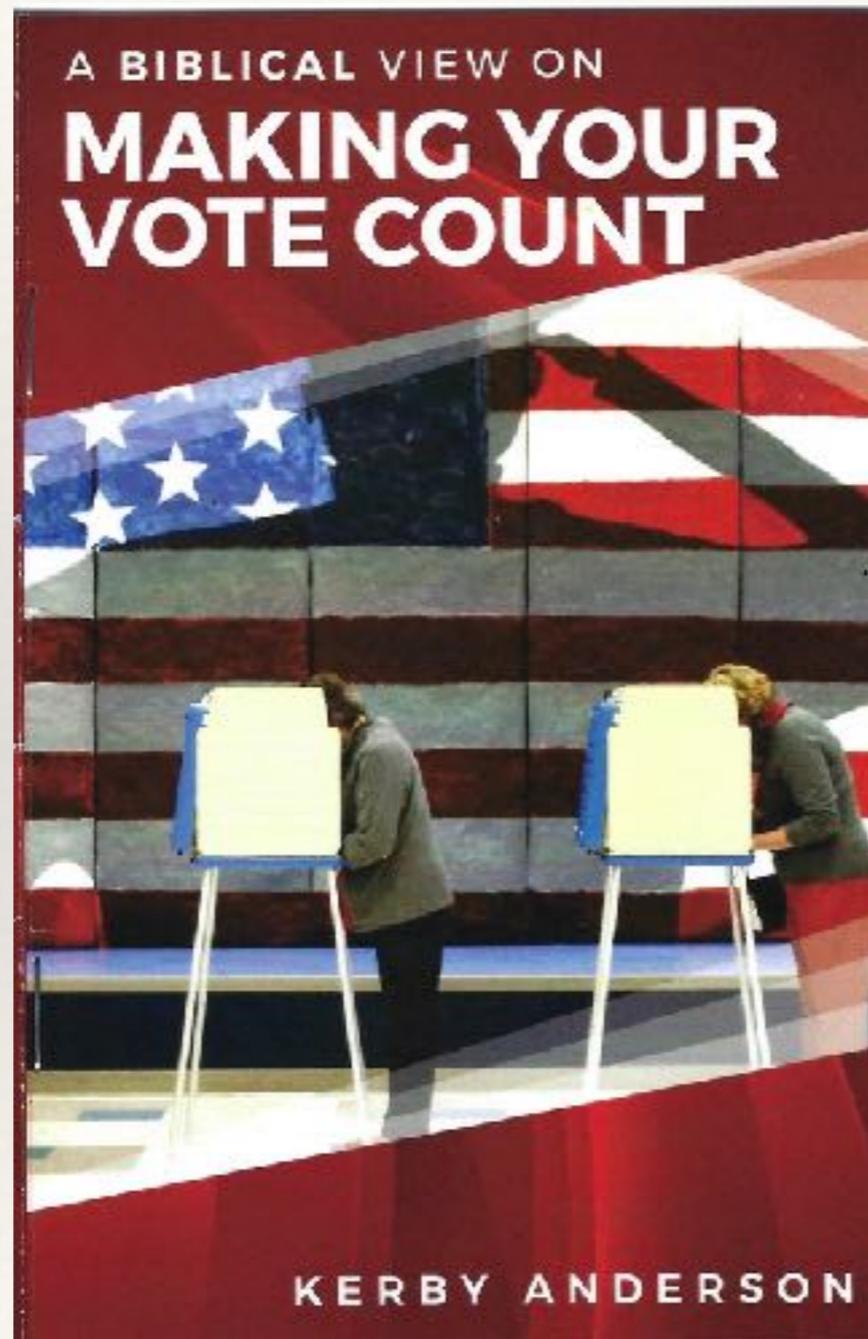
Antioch

- At this point, Luke wraps up his record of the apostles' first missionary journey.
- After finding several additional locations to spread the word of the Gospel, Paul and Barnabas return to Antioch, where their journey was first commissioned.
- Here they get to reconnect with their family of faith and even receive honor for their valiant faithfulness.

Ask Kerby

Christians and Voting

Booklet



Dual Citizenship

- Philippians 3:20 - “our citizenship is in heaven.”
- John 17:15-18 - we have been sent into the world, and thus have a citizenship here on earth.
- We have a citizenship in both heaven and earth.

Church and Politics

- Church = body of Christ
 - Matthew 5 - salt and light
 - 2 Corinthians 5 - ambassadors
- Church = institution
 - Mark 12 - render unto Caesar
 - Civil versus ecclesiastical

Government

“Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. . . Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.”

Romans 13:1,7

Government

- The Bible teaches us that God established the forms of government that rule the nations of the earth.
- Ours is a government of the people and by the people, then that means God has put us in charge.
- Our first and most fundamental right is that of voting.
- We elect our own leaders who in turn are responsible for being our representatives in government.

Government

- We have a civic responsibility to vote.
- We also have a civic duty to be involved in society (jury duty, contacting our legislators).
- Why do many Christians not vote in elections?
 - Afraid they will be put on jury duty.
 - Tired of negative campaign ads.

Government

“Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.”

1 Peter 2:13-14

Government

“First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.”

1 Timothy 2:1-2

Key 16

- President
- Supreme Court (9)
- Senators (2), Representative
- Governor
- State Senator, State Representative

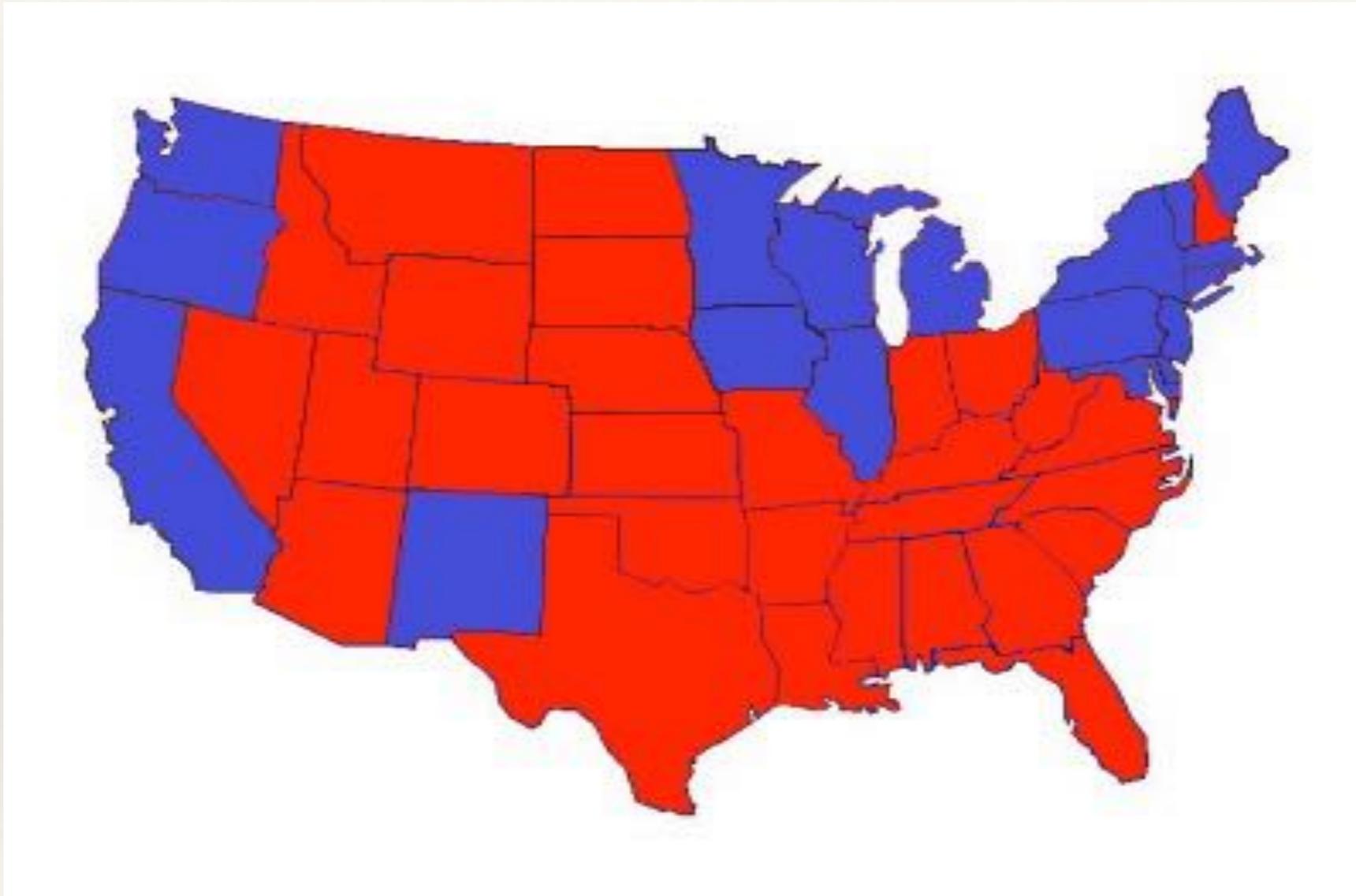
Civic Duty

- Obey those in authority
- Pray for those in authority
- Vote for those in authority

Stewardship of the Vote



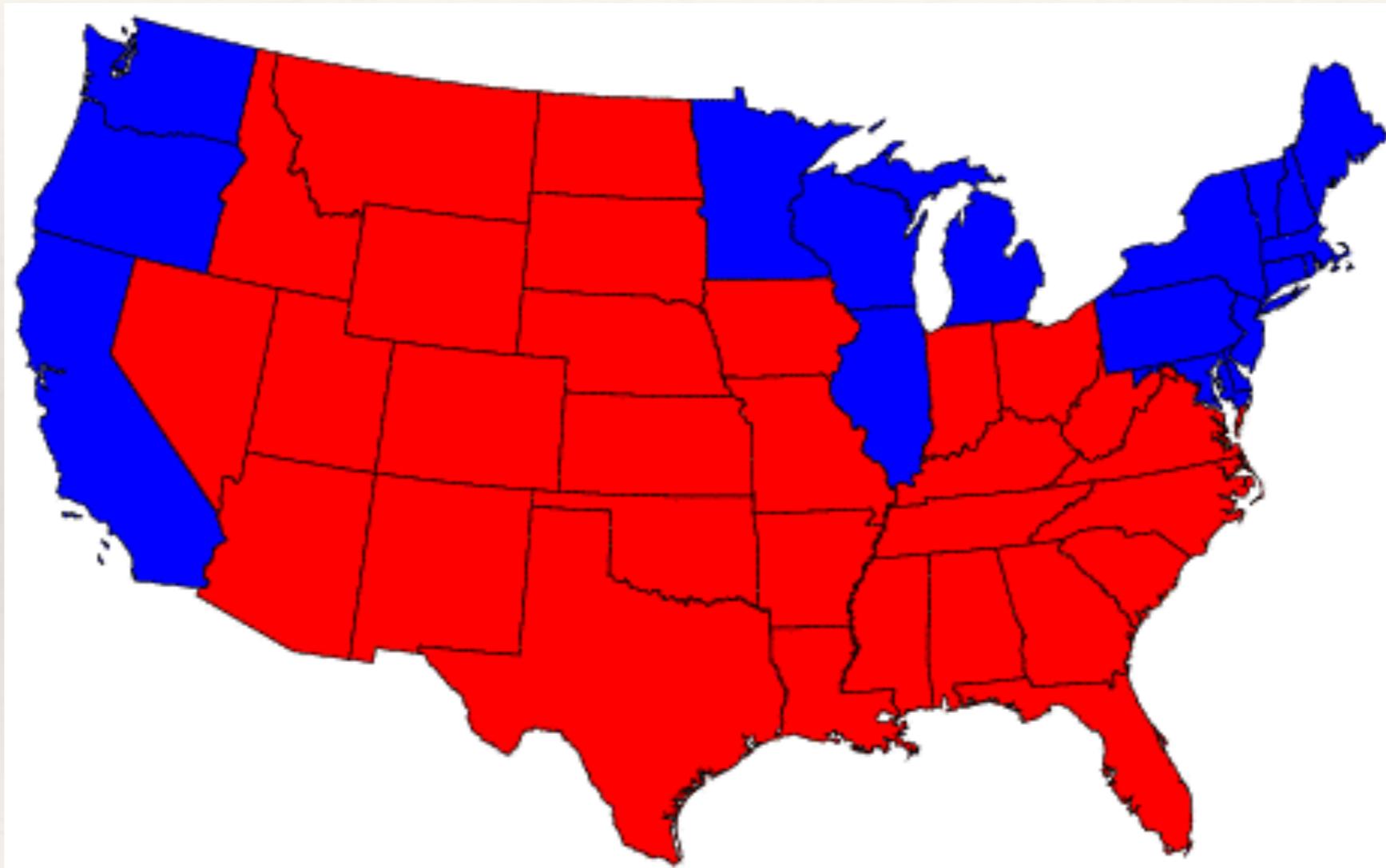
2000 Election



2000 Election

- Presidential election – decided by 527 votes, change of 5381 votes in 4 states would have resulted in a 269-269 tie.
- Senate elections – 50-50 tie.
- House elections – a collective shift of 5493 votes in five districts would have put Democrats in charge.

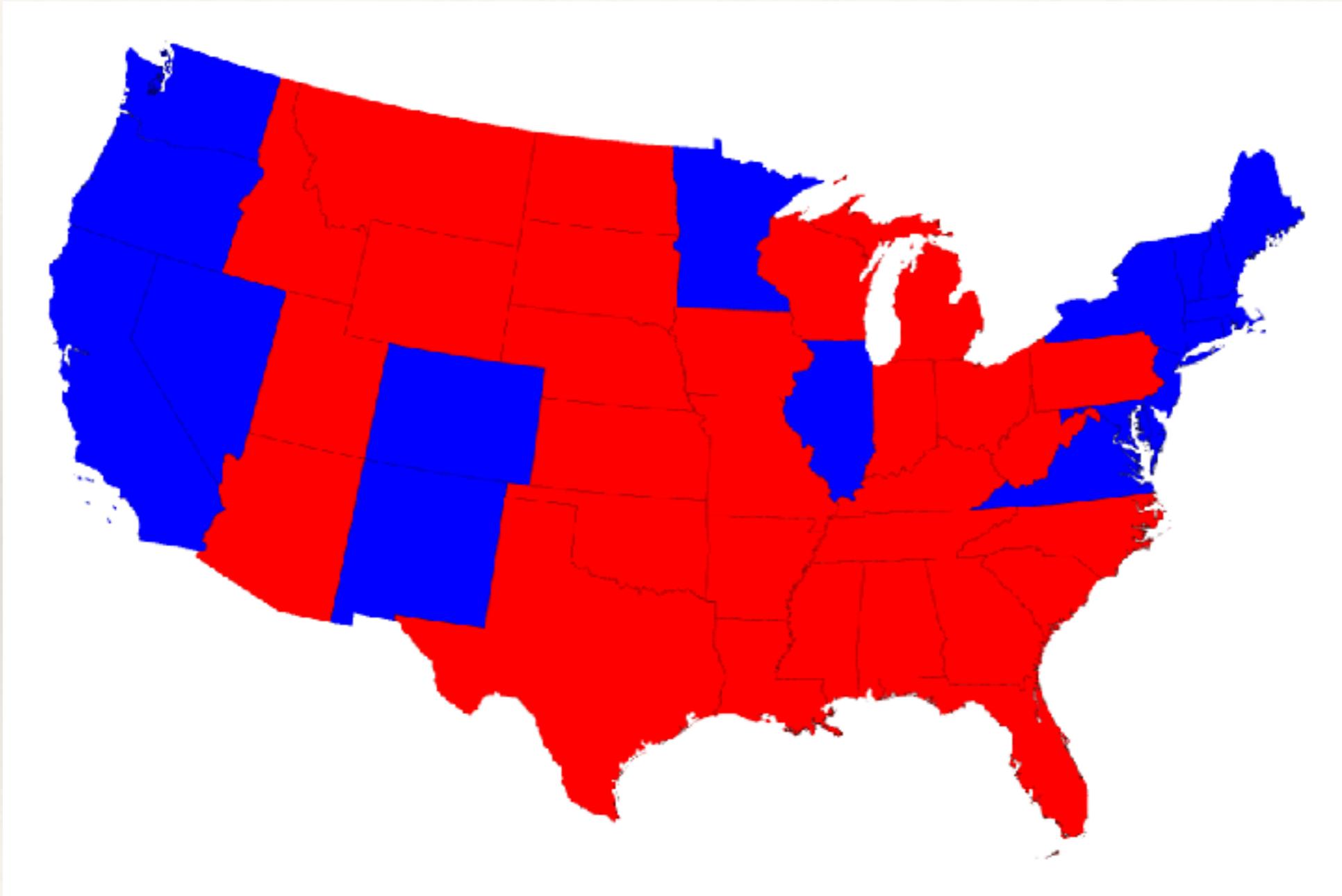
2004 Election



2004 Election

- Presidential election – decided by the state of Ohio.
- George Bush won the state's 20 electoral votes by 50.8% of the vote.
- Marriage protection amendments passed in 13 states.

2016 Election



2016 Election

- Donald Trump - 306 electoral votes
- Hillary Clinton - 232 electoral votes
- The actual electoral vote was: Trump (304), Clinton (227), Colin Powell (3), John Kasich (1), Ron Paul (1), Bernie Sanders (1), and Faith Spotted Eagle (1).
- Essentially, Donald Trump was elected President by about 80,000 votes in three states.

Close Elections

Consider these statistics:

In 2016, Texas had about a **59% voter turnout** in the November General Election.
In the 2016 Republican Party Primary, about **20% turned out to vote**.

The total number of votes cast in many state legislative districts and lower level races is 20,000 or less.

Let's take a look at a couple of races to see how those statistics play out in real elections:



2016 Race for Texas House District 115
**Matt Rinaldi was re-elected
by 1,136 votes**



2016 Race for Texas House District 128
**Briscoe Cain made the run-off by 714 votes
and *WON* the Run-off by 23 votes**

In the cases above two great conservatives were sent to the Texas House.

**Can you imagine how many more races we can impact and
how much bad legislation we can STOP before it's ever introduced
IF we turn out only about 1,000 votes per district?**

Close Elections

- Penny Pullen - Illinois State Representative, Judge Francis Barth concluded the election was a draw, ordered a coin toss, she lost.
 - A few dozen church members came up to her that Sunday and apologized for not voting.
- William Crawford and Jean Miller both received an identical number of votes in an Ohio election.
 - Neither of his sons voted in the election.

Election Information



COLLIN COUNTY
collincountytx.gov



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PUBLIC SAFETY & COURTS

COUNTY DIRECTORY

SERVICES

Elections

- [Election Information](#)
- [Early Voting Locations & Calendar](#)
- [Election Day Polling Places](#)
- [Voting for Disabled Voters](#)
- [Absentee & By-Mail Voting](#)
- [Voter Registration Information](#)
- [Election Results](#)
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Election Information

Requesting a Voter Registration List just got easier

Visit our [Election Store](#) to purchase and download your Voter Registration List.

Upcoming Election Information

March 6, 2018 Primary Election Information

- [Early Voting Polling Locations & Hours](#)
- [Election Day Vote Centers](#)
- [Sample Ballots](#)
- [Early Voting and Election Day Rosters](#)

Additional Election Information

- [Registration Search](#)
- [Early Voting Polling Locations and Hours](#)
- [Election Day Vote Centers](#)
- [Voting for Disabled Voters](#)
- [Absentee or by-mail voting](#)
- [Want to be an election worker?](#)



Election Information

SAMPLE BALLOT (BOLETA DE MUESTRA)

Official Ballot <i>Boleta Oficial</i> Republican Party Primary Election <i>Elección Primaria del Partido Republicano</i> Collin County, TX <i>Condado de Collin, TX</i> March 6, 2010 <i>6 de marzo, 2010</i>		
I am a Republican and understand that I am ineligible to vote or participate in another political party's primary election or convention during this voting year. Yo soy Republicano y comprendo soy inelegible para votar o participar en la elección primaria o la convención de algún otro partido político durante este año electoral.		
To vote, completely fill in the oval <input type="radio"/> to the left of your choice(s). Use pen or pencil. DO NOT ERASE. If you make a mistake you may request a new ballot. If your vote for a candidate or question is marked in such a manner that your intent is not clearly demonstrated, your vote for that office may not be counted. To protect the secrecy of your vote, do not put your name, initials, or any identifying mark on your official ballot. <i>Para votar, rellene completamente el óvalo <input type="radio"/> a la izquierda de su(s) elección(es). Marque solamente utilizando la pluma o lápiz provisto. NO BORRE. Si comete un error, puede solicitar una nueva boleta electoral. Si su voto por un candidato o pregunta está marcado de tal manera que su intención no es claramente demostrable, su voto por ese cargo podría no ser contado. Para proteger el secreto del voto, no escriba su nombre, sus iniciales o cualquier marca distintiva en la boleta electoral oficial.</i>		
United States Senator (Vote for one or none) Senador de los Estados Unidos (Vote for one or none)	Justice, Supreme Court, Place 2 (Vote for one or none) Juez, Corte Suprema, Lugar Núm. 2 (Vote for one or none)	Justice, 5th Court of Appeals District, Place 5 (Vote for one or none) Juez, Corte de Apelaciones, Distrito Núm. 5, Lugar Núm. 5 (Vote for one or none)
<input type="radio"/> Mary Miller <input type="radio"/> Bruce Jacobson, Jr. <input type="radio"/> Ted Cruz <input type="radio"/> Stefano de Stefano <input type="radio"/> Geraldine Sam	<input type="radio"/> Jimmy Blacklock	<input type="radio"/> Craig Stoddart
United States Representative, District 3 (Vote for one or none) Representante de los Estados Unidos, Distrito Núm. 3 (Vote for one or none)	Justice, Supreme Court, Place 4 (Vote for one or none) Juez, Corte Suprema, Lugar Núm. 4 (Vote for one or none)	Justice, 5th Court of Appeals District, Place 9 (Vote for one or none) Juez, Corte de Apelaciones, Distrito Núm. 5, Lugar Núm. 9 (Vote for one or none)
<input type="radio"/> Van Taylor <input type="radio"/> Alex Donkervoet <input type="radio"/> David Niederkorn	<input type="radio"/> John Devina	<input type="radio"/> Jason Boatright
Governor (Vote for one or none) Gobernador (Vote for one or none)	Justice, Supreme Court, Place 6 (Vote for one or none) Juez, Corte Suprema, Lugar Núm. 6 (Vote for one or none)	Justice, 5th Court of Appeals District, Place 10 (Vote for one or none) Juez, Corte de Apelaciones, Distrito Núm. 5, Lugar Núm. 10 (Vote for one or none)
<input type="radio"/> Greg Abbott <input type="radio"/> Barbara Krueger <input type="radio"/> SECENE Kilam	<input type="radio"/> Jeff Brown	<input type="radio"/> Molly Francis
	Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals (Vote for one or none) Juez Presidente, Corte de Apelaciones Criminales (Vote for one or none)	Justice, 5th Court of Appeals District, Place 11 (Vote for one or none) Juez, Corte de Apelaciones, Distrito Núm. 5, Lugar Núm. 11 (Vote for one or none)
	<input type="radio"/> Sharon Keller <input type="radio"/> David Bridges	<input type="radio"/> John Brumby
	Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 7 (Vote for one or none) Juez, Corte de Apelaciones Criminales, Lugar Núm. 7	

Election Information

Multi-Group Conservative GOP Primary Voter Guide: Collin County																	
Race	Candidate	TFR	YCT	EF	TVA	THSC	GRM	CCCR	Race	Candidate	TFR	YCT	EF	TVA	THSC	GRM	CCCR
U.S. Senator									Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 8								
	Mary Miller									Michelle Slaughter	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Bruce Jacobson, Jr.									Jay Brandon							
	Ted Cruz	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		Dib Waldrip							
	Stefano de Stefano								State Board of Education, Dist. 12								
	Geraldine Sam									Pam Little						X	
U.S. Representative CD3									State Senator, SD8								
	Van Taylor	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		Angela Paxton			X	X	X	X	X
	Alex Donkervoet									Phillip Huffines							
	David Niederkorn								State Senator, SD30								
U.S. Representative CD4										Craig Estes					X		
	John Cooper									Craig Carter							
	John Ratcliffe						X	X		Pat Fallon	X	X	X			X	X
U.S. Representative CD32									State Representative, HD33								
	Paul Brown						X			Justin Holland							
	Pete Sessions								State Representative, HD66								
Governor										Matt Shaheen	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Greg Abbott	X	X	X	X	X	X		State Representative, HD67								
	Barbara Krueger									Jeff Leach	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	SECEDE Kilgore								State Representative, HD70								
Lt. Governor										Scott Sanford		X	X	X	X	X	X
	Dan Patrick	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	State Representative, HD89								
	Scott Milder									John Payton							
Attorney General										Candy Noble				X	X	X	
	Ken Paxton	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Chief Justice, 5th Court of Appeals								
Comptroller										Douglas Lang						X	
	Glenn Hegar	X	X	X		X	X	X	5th Court of Appeals, Place 2								
Land Commissioner										David Evans						X	
	Rick Range								5th Court of Appeals, Place 5								
	George P. Bush									Craig Stoddart						X	
	Davey Edwards								5th Court of Appeals, Place 9								
	Jerry Patterson					X	X	X		Jason Boatright						X	

Election Information



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Only contested Republican races are covered for the March 6 primary

TEXAS

03-06-18 Primary

Show races for

A Specific Address The Whole State

Street Address (not a P.O. Box)

City

TX

75002

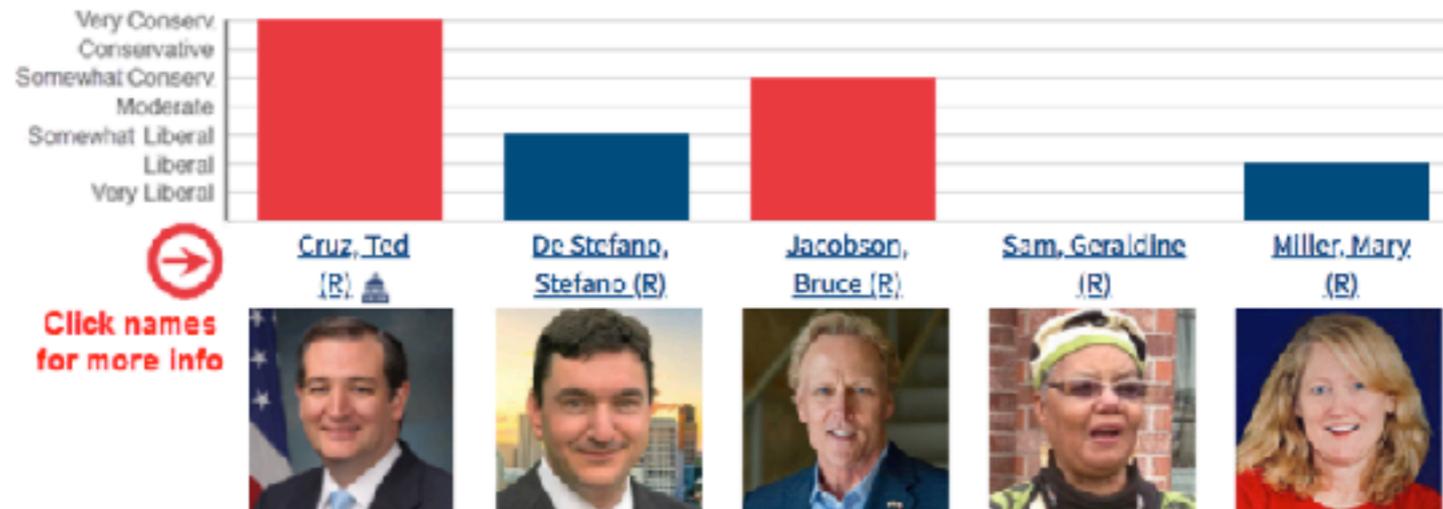
Show My Races

Note: This zip code spans more than one congressional district.
For a more precise ballot, enter your street and city above.

Election Information

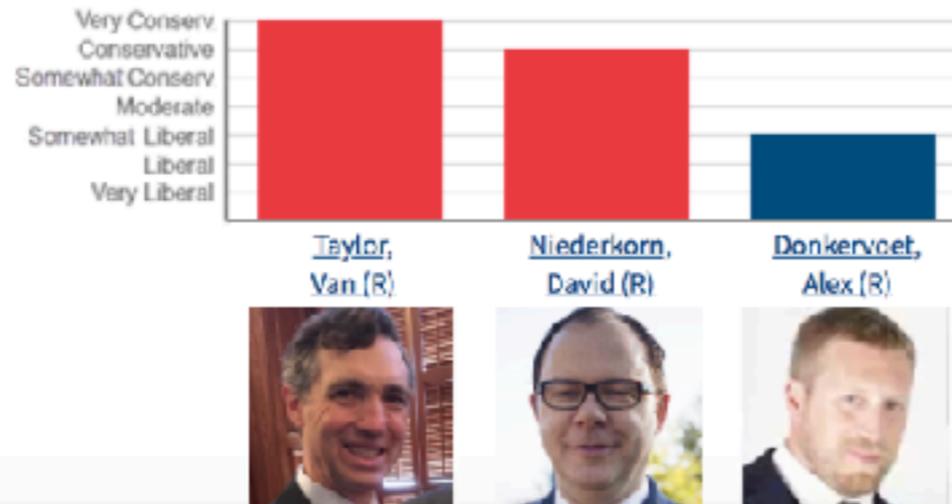
U.S. Senator

Side-by-Side Candidate Research



U.S. Rep., Dist.3

Side-by-Side Candidate Research



Citizenship Quotient

- Name your legislators: You get 10 points if you can name your 2 U.S. Senators and another 10 points if you can name your U.S. Representative. You get 10 more points if you can name your State Senator and 10 more points if you can name your State Representative.
- You get 10 points if you are registered to vote and 10 points if prayed for one of your legislators. You get 10 points if you contacted one of your legislators. And you get 10 points each if you voted in the last 3 elections.

Who Represents Me?



**Who Represents Me?
Districts By Address**

[Find District](#) | [Member Information](#) | [District Information](#)

[U.S. Senators](#) | [U.S. Rep](#)

407 Saint Andrews Dr
Allen, TX
75002-5331
Collin

Texas U.S. Senators

U.S. Senators represent the entire state. Texas' current U.S. Senators are [Senator John Cornyn](#) and [Senator Ted Cruz](#).

Texas U.S. Representative

Congressional District 3--Congressman Sam Johnson
[Texas Congressional Member Websites](#)

Texas State Senator

Texas State Senate District 8--[Senator Van Taylor](#)
Capitol Office: EXT E1.708
Capitol Phone: (512) 463-0108
Capitol Address: P.O. Box 12068, Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711
District Address: 6301 Preston Road, Suite 700
Plano TX 75024
Phone: (972) 398-9416
[State District Offices](#)

Texas State Representative

Texas State House District 67--Representative Jeff Leach
Capitol Office: CAF GN.9
Capitol Phone: (512) 463-0544
Capitol Address: P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768
District Address: 777 E. 15th Street, Ste. 202
Plano TX 75074
Phone: (972) 424-1419

Texas State Board of Education Member

Texas State SBDE District 12--Ms. Geraldine Miller
[State Board of Education Member Websites](#)

Discussion

- How well did you do on the citizenship quotient?
- What are you going to do to improve your score on the citizenship quotient?
- What are your thoughts about the primary election this year in Texas?
- What are your thoughts about the negative campaign ads that are on TV and on the Internet?