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Mississippi: An Exception to the Rule

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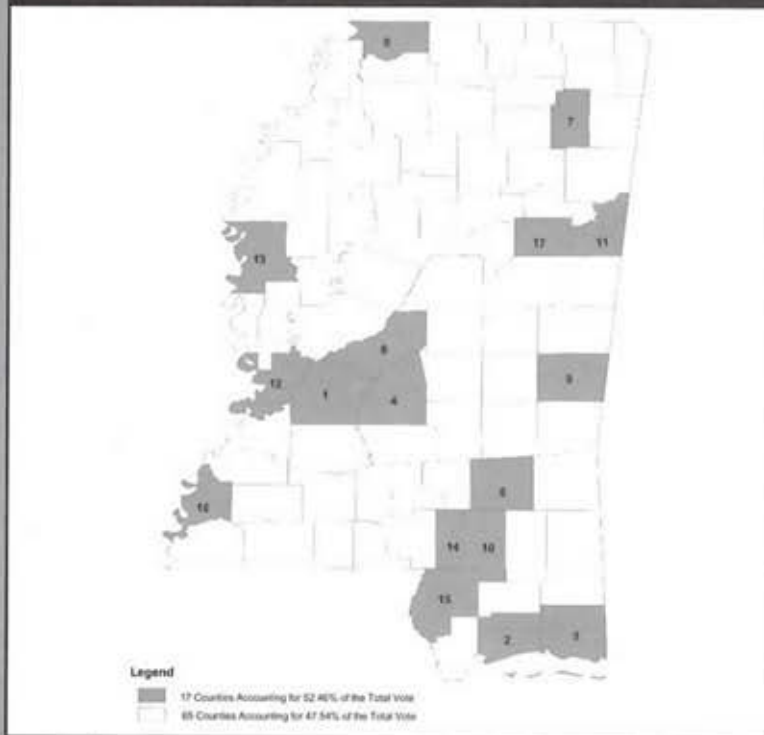
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Top 17 Mississippi Counties, Presidential Election 2000



Mississippi: An Exception to the Rule

With 34.8 percent of its vote coming from metro areas, Mississippi is the least metropolitan Southern state. Mississippi's rural nature and sizable African-American population, made the state one of the few in 2000 where George W. Bush performed better in metro areas.

- ◆ Bush carried all four metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) by a combined 87,494 votes and won every metro county except for Hinds (Jackson MSA).
- ◆ Bush outpolled Al Gore in the 17 counties that accounted for 52.5 percent of Mississippi's total vote by a margin of 121,251 votes. The remaining 65 counties supported Bush by a margin of 49,819 votes.
- ◆ The three-county Biloxi MSA contained 6.4 percent of the state's population and 11.3 percent of the vote. Similarly, the Jackson MSA held 5.9 percent of Mississippi's population but 16.1 percent of the vote.
- ◆ The only metro county carried by Gore was Hinds. The remaining 21 Gore counties were non-metros, mostly along the Mississippi River.
- ◆ Every Gore county had an African-American population of at least 38.7 percent, and 20 of these counties had African-American populations of 50 percent or greater.
- ◆ Bush received 61.6 percent of the metro vote and 55.8 percent of the non-metro vote.
- ◆ Republicans won two of Mississippi's five congressional seats in 2000 and two of a census-adjusted four seats in 2002. The party also occupies both U.S. Senate seats. The Democratic Party controls the governorship and both legislative chambers. ■

Counties Accounting for 52.46% of the 2000 Presidential Vote

# ¹	County	1999 MSA ²	Total Votes ³	% Total Vote ⁴	County Winner	Bush Margin ⁵
1	Hinds	Jackson	87,769	8.86	Gore	-9,037
2	Harrison	Biloxi	52,616	5.31	Bush	13,144
3	Jackson	Biloxi	45,107	4.55	Bush	15,875
4	Rankin	Jackson	41,435	4.18	Bush	24,933
5	DeSoto	Memphis	34,936	3.53	Bush	15,293
6	Madison	Jackson	29,859	3.01	Bush	8,693
7	Lee	none	25,064	2.53	Bush	6,409
8	Jones	none	24,340	2.46	Bush	8,628
9	Lauderdale	none	22,990	2.32	Bush	11,903
10	Forrest	Hattiesburg	22,251	2.25	Bush	4,781
11	Lowndes	none	19,230	1.94	Bush	3,867
12	Warren	none	18,623	1.88	Bush	3,407
13	Washington	none	18,328	1.85	Gore	-3,038
14	Lamar	Hattiesburg	16,602	1.68	Bush	9,317
15	Pearl River	none	16,477	1.66	Bush	6,964
16	Adams	none	14,879	1.50	Gore	-1,374
17	Oktibbeha	none	14,804	1.49	Bush	1,516
17 County Total			504,310	52.46	Bush=14 Gore=3	121,251
65 County Total			486,696	47.54	Bush=43 Gore=22	49,819
State Total			991,006	100.00	Bush=57 Gore=25	171,070
(82 Counties; 7 Electoral Votes)						

NOTES:

¹ "#" refers to the numbers on the adjacent map.

² "1999 MSA" refers to the Metropolitan Statistical Areas in effect in 1999. Only the first city is listed for areas with multiple central cities.

³ "Total Votes" is the sum of votes cast for all presidential candidates.

⁴ "% of Total" measures a county's share of the statewide vote total. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundredth.

⁵ "Bush Margin" is the difference between the total votes cast for George W. Bush and Al Gore Jr.

SOURCE: Mississippi Elections Division (<http://www.sos.state.ms.us/elections/elections.asp>)

Presidential Voting Trends

Year	% Rep. ¹	% Dem. ²	Turnout (% VAP) ³
2000	58	41	49
1996	49	44	45
1992	50	41	53
1988	60	39	50
1984	62	37	52
1980	49	48	52
1976	48	50	48

NOTES: ¹ Republican share of the vote. ² Democratic share of the vote. ³ Percent of the voting age population that cast ballots. All figures are rounded to whole numbers.

SOURCES: *The Almanac of American Politics*, various years; Committee for the Study of the American Electorate