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Texas: A Big State of Big Metros

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Texas: A Big State of Big Metros

Texas was good to George W. Bush. Bush garnered 3,800,272 votes (59.3 percent) and won by a margin of 1,368,444 votes. Furthermore, Bush's win was a thorough one, as he carried 53 of 56 metro counties and 176 of 197 rural ones. Bush also posted his best non-metro performance in the South, capturing 65.7 percent of the vote.

- ◆ Bush won all 12 counties in the consolidated Dallas Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and all 10 counties in the consolidated Houston MSA. These 22 counties together provided 47.6 percent of the state's total vote and 47.4 percent of Bush's total vote.
- ◆ Al Gore won three metro counties: Jefferson (Beaumont MSA), Webb (Laredo MSA) and El Paso (El Paso MSA).
- ◆ Bush carried the eight counties that accounted for 50.6 percent of the 2000 vote by a margin of 438,850 votes.
- ◆ In the remaining 246 counties, Bush outpolled Gore by a ratio of almost two to one.
- ◆ Bush won the five-county Austin MSA by a margin of 67,623 votes.
- ◆ Twenty of the 24 Gore counties are near the Mexican border and have Latino populations ranging from 72.2 percent (Culberson) to 97.8 percent (Starr).
- ◆ While the GOP controls both U.S. Senate seats, the congressional delegation is split almost equally between Republicans and Democrats. The GOP won 13 of 30 seats in 2000 and 15 of a census-adjusted 32 seats in 2002. Republican Rick Perry also was elected governor in 2002, and the GOP controls the state legislature. ■

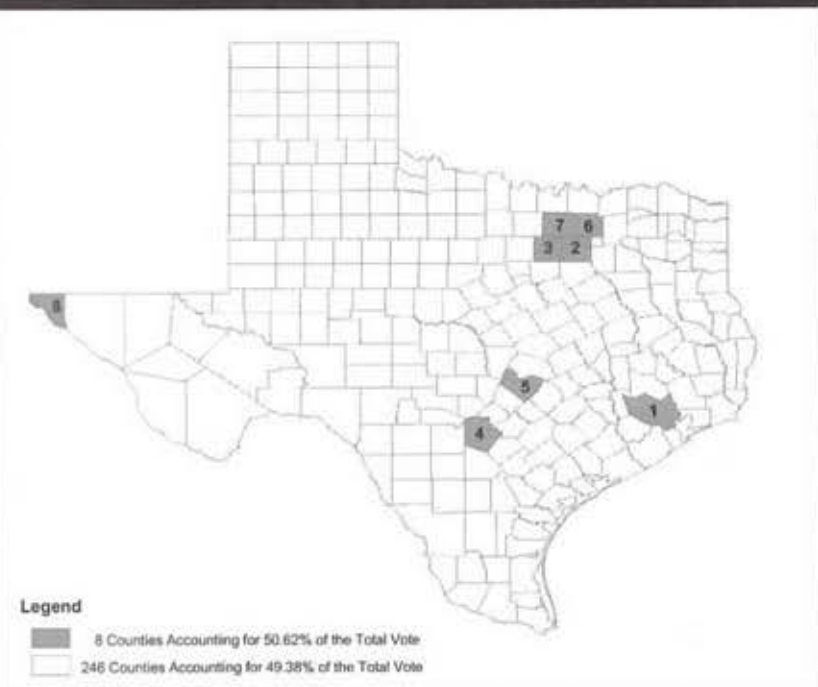
Presidential Voting Trends

Year	% Rep. ¹	% Dem. ²	Turnout (% VAP) ³
2000	59	38	43
1996	49	44	41
1992	41	37	49
1988	56	43	44
1984	64	36	47
1980	55	41	45
1976	48	51	46

NOTES: ¹Republican share of the vote. ²Democratic share of the vote. ³Percent 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

Top 8 Texas Counties, Presidential Election 2000



Counties Accounting for 50.62% of the 2000 Presidential Vote

# ¹	County	1999 MSA ²	Total Votes ³	% Total Vote ⁴	County Winner	Bush Margin ⁵
1	Harris	Houston	974,797	15.22	Bush	110,892
2	Dallas	Dallas	613,013	9.57	Bush	47,037
3	Tarrant	Dallas	472,377	7.38	Bush	113,163
4	Bexar	San Antonio	412,719	6.44	Bush	30,455
5	Travis	Austin	301,254	4.70	Bush	15,709
6	Collin	Dallas	175,419	2.74	Bush	85,295
7	Denton	Dallas	147,332	2.30	Bush	62,573
8	El Paso	El Paso	145,040	2.26	Gore	-26,274
8 County Total			3,241,951	50.62	Bush=7 Gore=1	438,850
245 County Total			3,162,689	49.38	Bush=223 Gore=23	929,594
State Total (254 Counties; 32 Electoral Votes)			6,404,640	100.00	Bush=230 Gore=24	1,368,444

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: Texas Elections Division (<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/index.shtml>)