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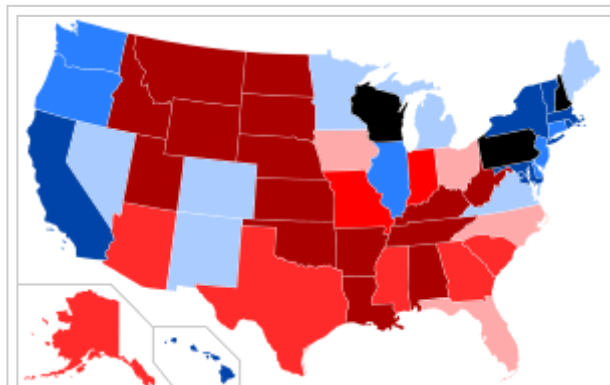
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Cook Partisan Voting Index

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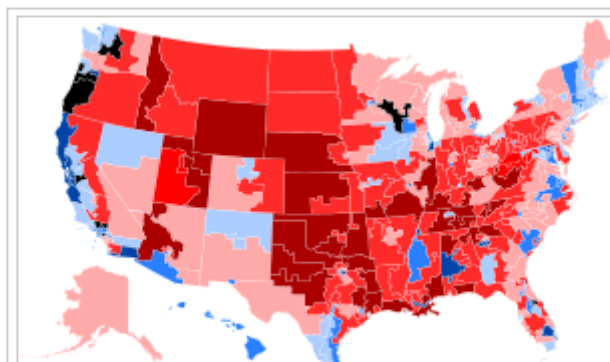
The **Cook Partisan Voting Index**, also called **PVI**, is a measurement of how strongly a United States congressional district or state leans toward the Democratic or Republican Party, compared to the nation as a whole. *The Cook Political Report* introduced the PVI in August 1997 to better gauge the competitiveness of each district using the 1992 and 1996 presidential elections as a baseline.^[1] The index is based on analysis by the Center for Voting and Democracy (now FairVote) for its July 1997 *Monopoly Politics* report.^[2]



Map by state (After the 2016 election)

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Map by 115th House district (After 2016 Election)

Calculation

PVIs are calculated by comparing the district's average Democratic or Republican Party's share of the two-party presidential vote in the past two presidential elections to the nation's average share of the same. The national average for 2004 and 2008 was 51.2% Democratic to 48.8% Republican.^[1] For example, in Alaska's at-large congressional district, the Republican candidate won 63% and 61% of the two-party share in the 2004 and 2008 presidential elections, respectively. Comparing the average of these two results (62%) against the average national share (49%), this district has voted 13 percentage points more Republican than the country as a whole, or R+13.

Prior to its April 2009 update, the PVI formula was calculated by comparing district-level results for the past two presidential elections to nationwide results for the most recent election. David Nir of the Swing State Project advocated a change to the new formula, and Charlie Cook agreed, wanting an "apples to apples" comparison.^[3]

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The Cook PVI is formatted as a letter, plus sign, and number:

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