



Ethnic and Religious Groups in Presidential Elections

As the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election draws closer, the anticipated significance of voter appeal and support among key electoral blocs has continued to grow. Projections and estimates have suggested that this election will be extremely close, and has led candidates to focus on swing states and vital undecided groups throughout the nation. The slim margins between likely victory and defeat have brought some of these groups to national attention, including ones that may normally be undervalued, such as the Arab-American and Muslim-American communities across the country but especially in important battleground states like Michigan. While the aforementioned has received a large amount of public attention for their potentially decisive role in the upcoming election, there are other noteworthy demographic groups that could also hold a lot of electoral sway which should not be overlooked as well.

Historically in the United States, many ethnic, religious, and national origin groups have been associated with a certain political party or values that candidates traditionally relied upon for support in elections. Irish-Americans, for example, were largely affiliated with the Democratic Party because of its stance in advocating for Irish independence which appealed to many in this voting bloc. Circumstances like these could give certain political parties reliable and sizable voting blocs that they could draw upon to secure victories during elections. As demographics have changed throughout the country over the years, the size and significance of these various groups has also altered which blocs candidates often prioritize. A contentious and increasingly polarized political climate, coupled with challenging socioeconomic conditions, has meant that the loyalties of these groups can be fluid and sometimes shift from one electoral cycle to another.

Recently, African-Americans have been one of the major voting blocs that has seen a variation in their support. For decades spanning recent presidential elections, many African-Americans have tended to support Democratic candidates. Back in 2020, in a swing state like Georgia where around 30% of the population is African-American, these voters were essential to President Biden's victory there – as 92% of African-Americans voted for Biden over Trump. However, since then, it appears that support from African-Americans has dwindled, with 77% supporting Harris [according to a Pew Research Poll from August](#). Analysts suspect that this decline is the result of voters who have become dissatisfied with the Biden administration's performance in areas such as the rising cost of living and the failure to deliver on racial justice promises. Although Harris still leads with a comparatively large percentage of these voters compared to Trump, this approximately 15% loss in support for a Democratic presidential candidate is of particular concern, as both candidates seek to shore up votes in the expected close 2024 election.

In important battleground states like Nevada and Arizona, Hispanic-Americans have become a significant voter group whose support Harris and Trump are contending for. While Arizona retains a majority non-Hispanic White population comprising around 53.4% of the population, it has a large 31.6% Hispanic population as well. Nevada, with a similarly-sized Hispanic population at 28.3%, is thus another key swing state for both candidates. Whereas a number of Hispanic-Americans have gravitated towards the Democratic Party for its advocacy of minority and immigrant protections, there are also a substantial segment of others who tend to support the Republican Party as a result of them or their ancestors fleeing from repressive left-wing regimes in countries across Latin America. This makes them a very diverse voting bloc that both the Harris and Trump campaigns can garner support from.

Additionally, issues such as inflation, the rising cost of living, employment, and other socioeconomic concerns are of importance, and some voters have associated Harris, the Biden administration, and Democrats with the brunt of responsibility for these shortcomings.

Another potential voting bloc that deserves attention this electoral cycle is one in the crucial swing state of Pennsylvania, a traditional presidential battleground state that could very well play the most determinant role in the outcome of the 2024 Harris-Trump election. Pennsylvania has a [significant population of between 100,000 and 200,000 citizens of Ukrainian descent](#) that some observers argue have been overlooked in media coverage, especially when one considers that this number alone exceeds the 2020 Biden win total in the state – which was about 81,000 votes. Foreign policy regarding the War in Ukraine remains a primary concern for many of them, who are largely divided in their candidate support. On the one hand, there are those interested in supporting Harris due to her commitment to the backing of Ukraine in contrast to Trump’s skepticism regarding Ukraine’s prospects in the war and its reliance on American foreign aid. However, at the same time, Trump holds support among others who believe that he will be firmer with Russia. It is precisely the interesting and complex considerations like these among various voting blocs that might ultimately prove to be decisive to the final outcome of the election this November.