

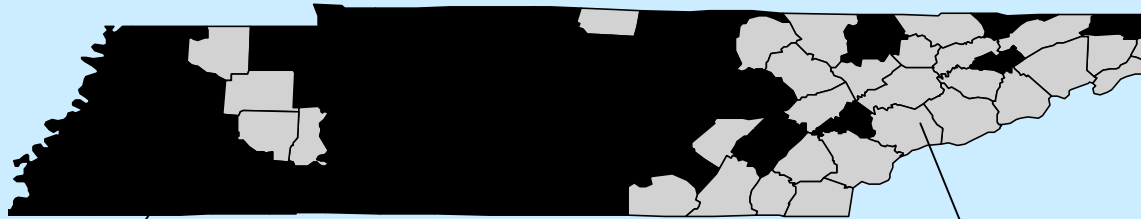
The 2000 Presidential Election: Al Gore Loses Tennessee

By: Brook Osterland

Democratic candidate Al Gore failed to capture Tennessee's 11 electoral votes in the 2000 Presidential election...why?

- Is the South as a region becoming more Republican?
- Is the state of Tennessee becoming more Republican?
- Was the 3rd party candidate a factor?
- What happened to the home state advantage?
- Did Al Gore do something wrong?

The Beginning of a Democratic Era: The Vote Over Secession



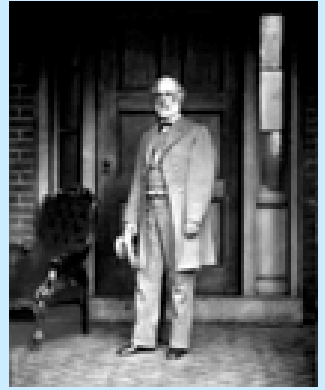
Secession.shp



Anti-Union, Pro-Slavery

Pro-Union, Anti-Slavery

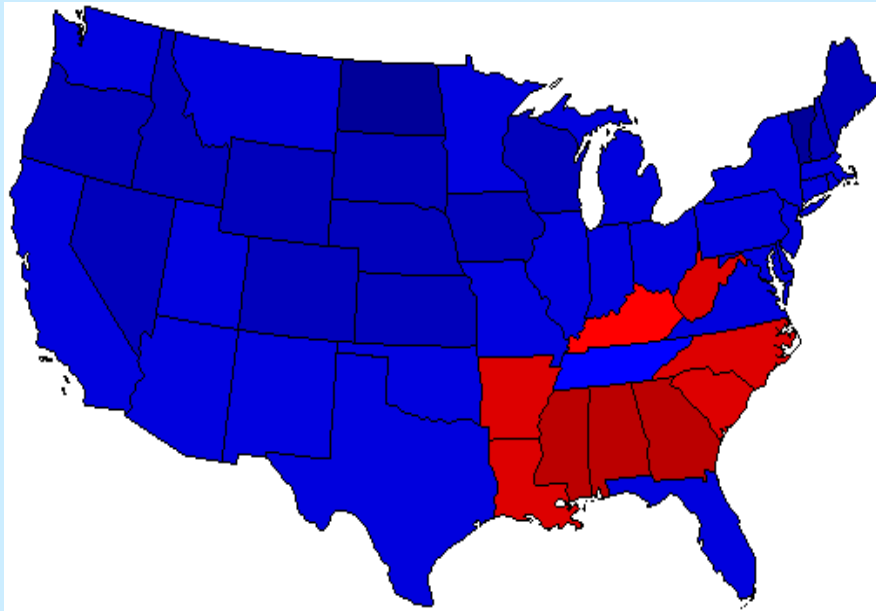
The Legacy of Secession



- Areas which voted against become Republican; those which voted for, Democratic
- Party alignments which lasted until 1960's
- Tennessee had two 1-party systems



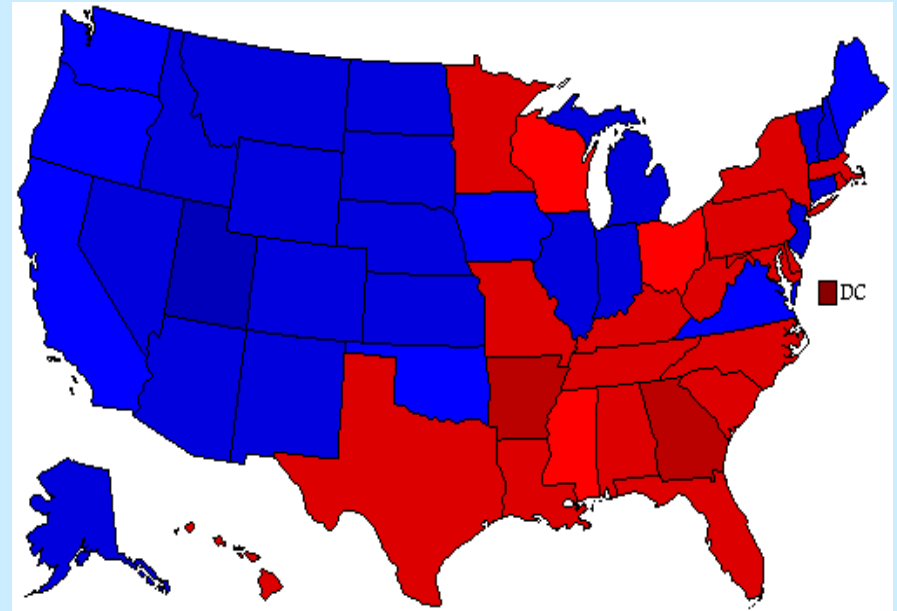
Is the South Becoming More Republican?



1952 Presidential Election

Eisenhower- Republican

Stevenson- Democrat



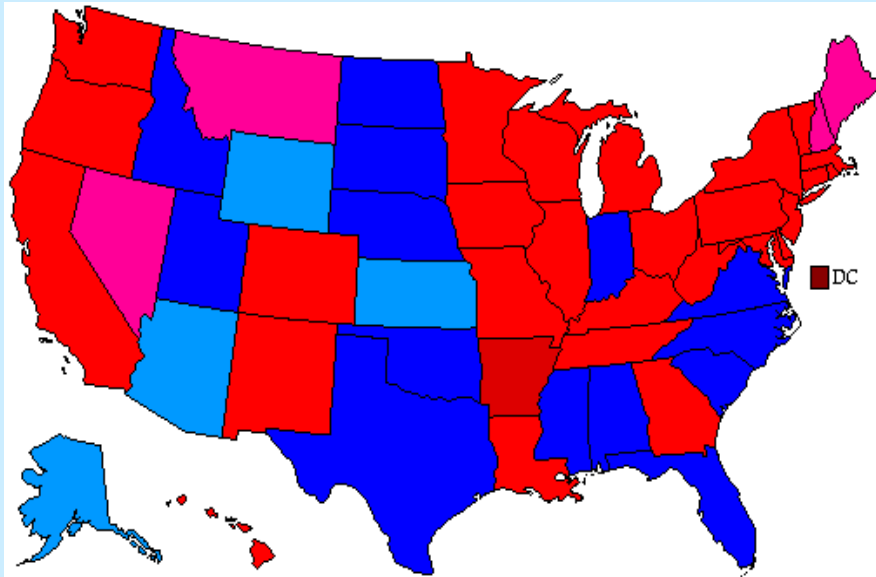
1976 Presidential Election

Ford- Republican

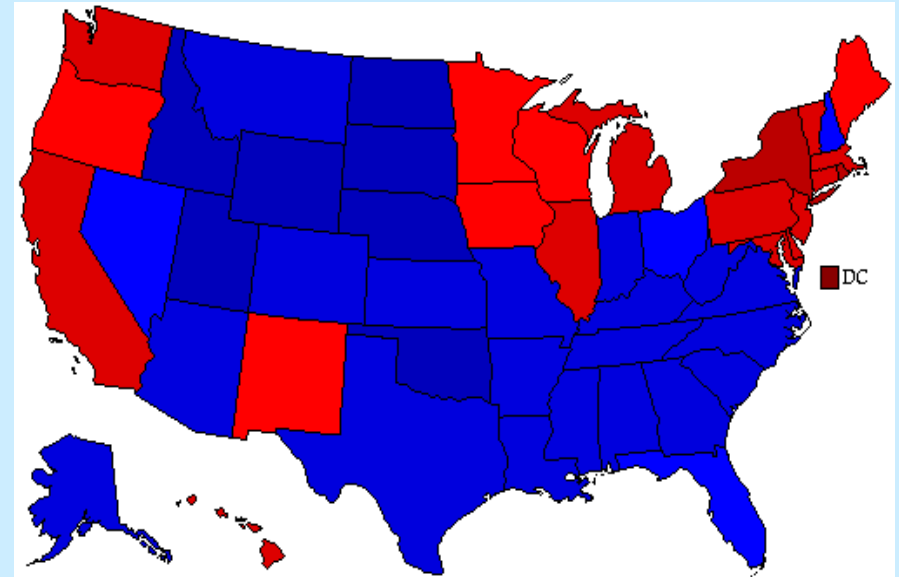
Carter- Democrat

**Blue=Republican, Red= Democrat

Is the South Becoming More Republican?



1992 Presidential Election
Bush-Republican
Clinton-Democrat

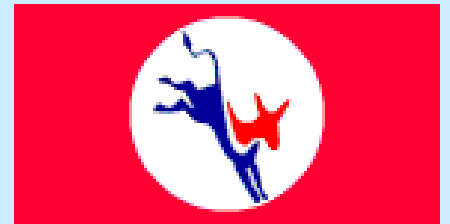


2000 Presidential Election
W. Bush- Republican
Gore- Democrat

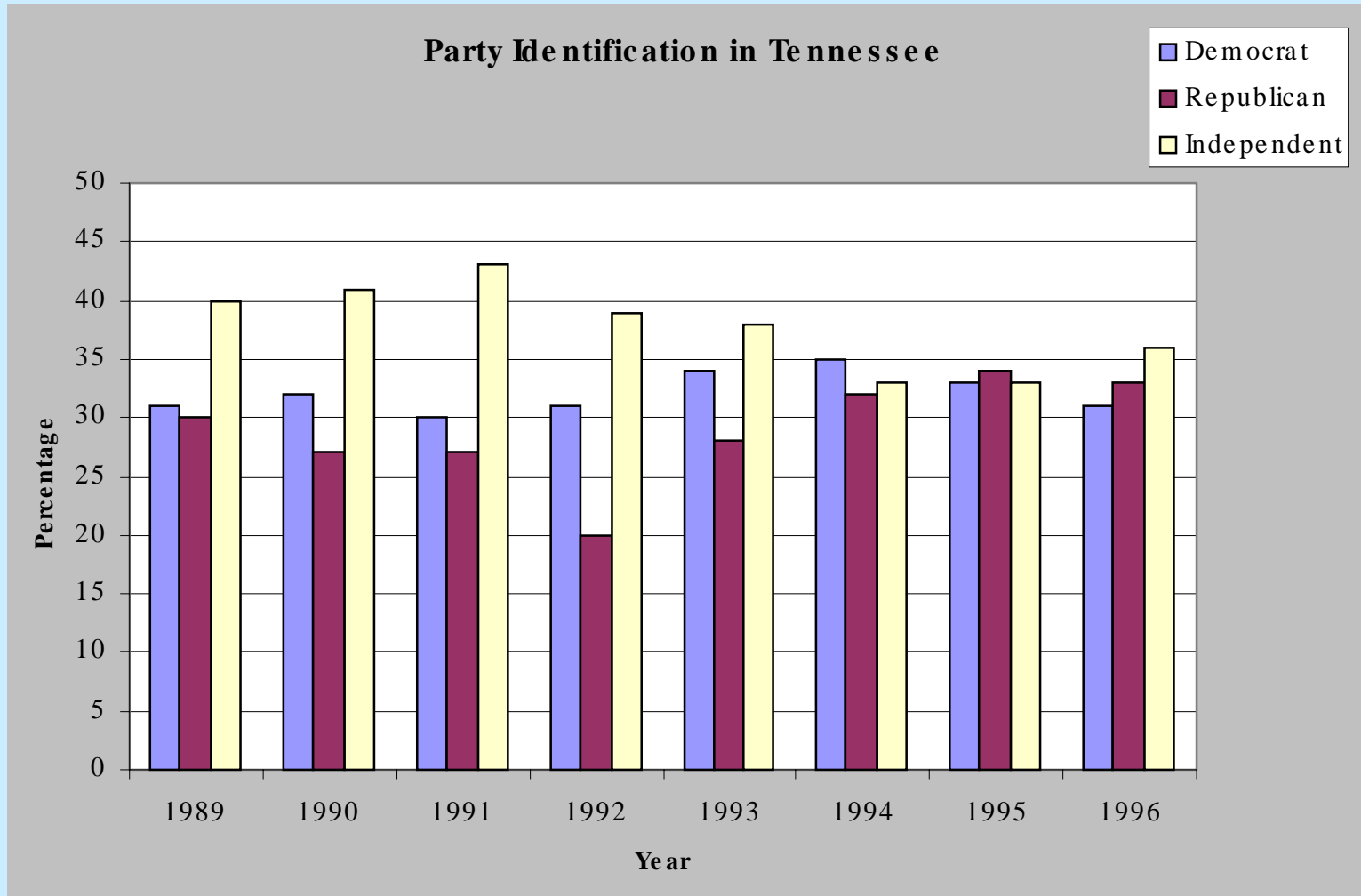
**Blue=Republican, Red=Democrat

Republicans in the South: What Happened to the Democrats?

- Transformation of South begins in 1948
- LBJ's Administration and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 causes many Southern whites to change parties
- Democratic party fails to develop fresh support outside of the South

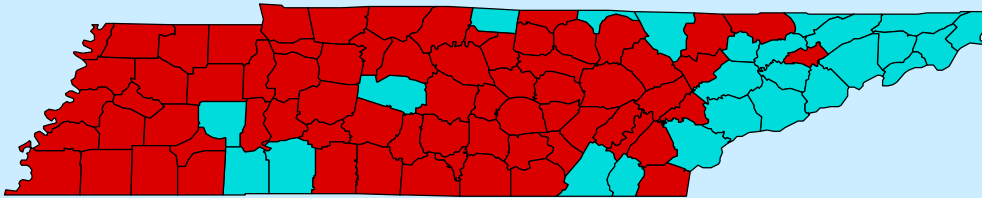


Party Identification

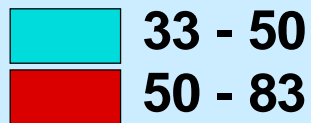


What About National Elections?

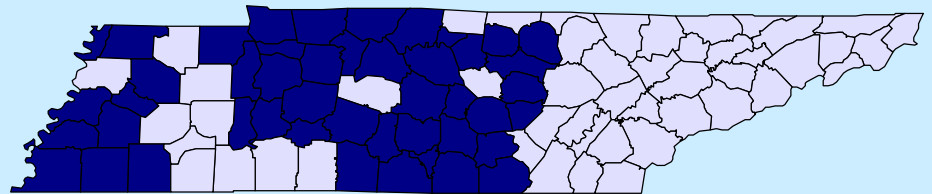
Carter in the 1976 Presidential Election (Ford-R)



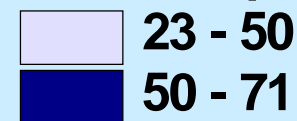
Pres76.shp



Carter in the 1980 Presidential Election (Reagan-R)



Pres80.shp

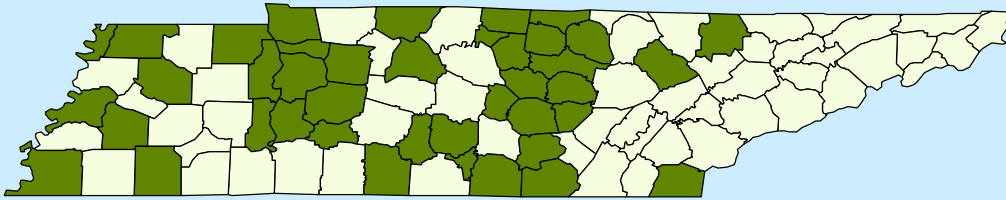


Tennessee Political Facts...

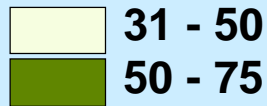
- Between 1966 and 1982... TN had 11 elections for Governor & Senator... Republicans win 7, Democrats 4.
- 1966 Republicans gain control of TN State House of Representatives
- By 1972 Republicans captured offices of Governor, both US Senators, 5 of 8 US House seats

What did this Mean for National Elections?

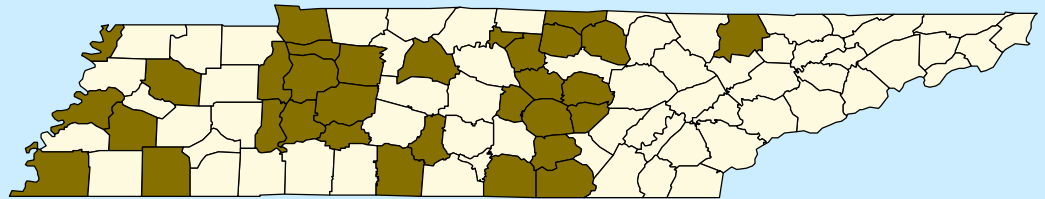
Clinton in the 1992 Presidential Election (Bush-R)



Pres92.shp



Gore in the 2000 Presidential Election (W.Bush-R)



Pres2000.shp

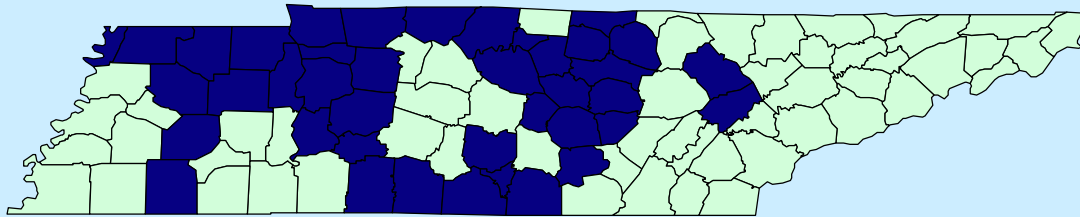


More Tennessee Facts...

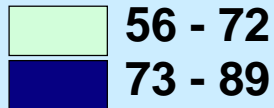
- Mid 1970's Democrats begin to see that they can win statewide elections... 1976 Sasser elected to Senate, 1984 Gore Jr. elected to Senate
- 1987: Democrats hold Governor's seat, both US Senate seats, 6 of 9 US House Seats, & majority in State House and Senate
- 1994 elections: Republicans win Governor's office, both US Senate seats, pick up 2 US House seats held by Democrats

What About Al Gore?

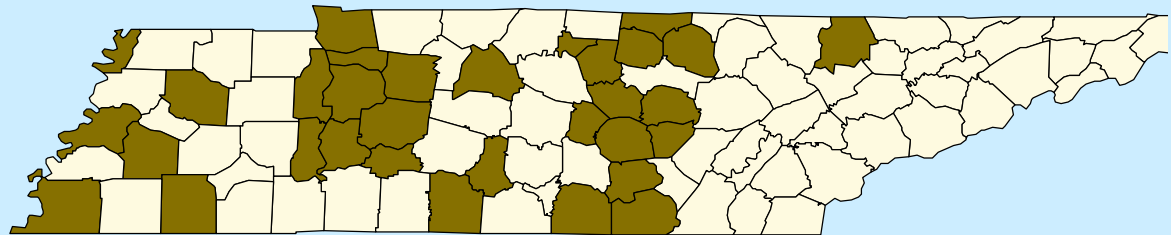
Al Gore's 1990 Senate Election



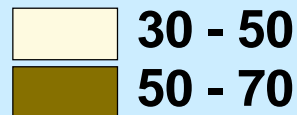
Senate90.shp



Al Gore in the 2000 Presidential Election

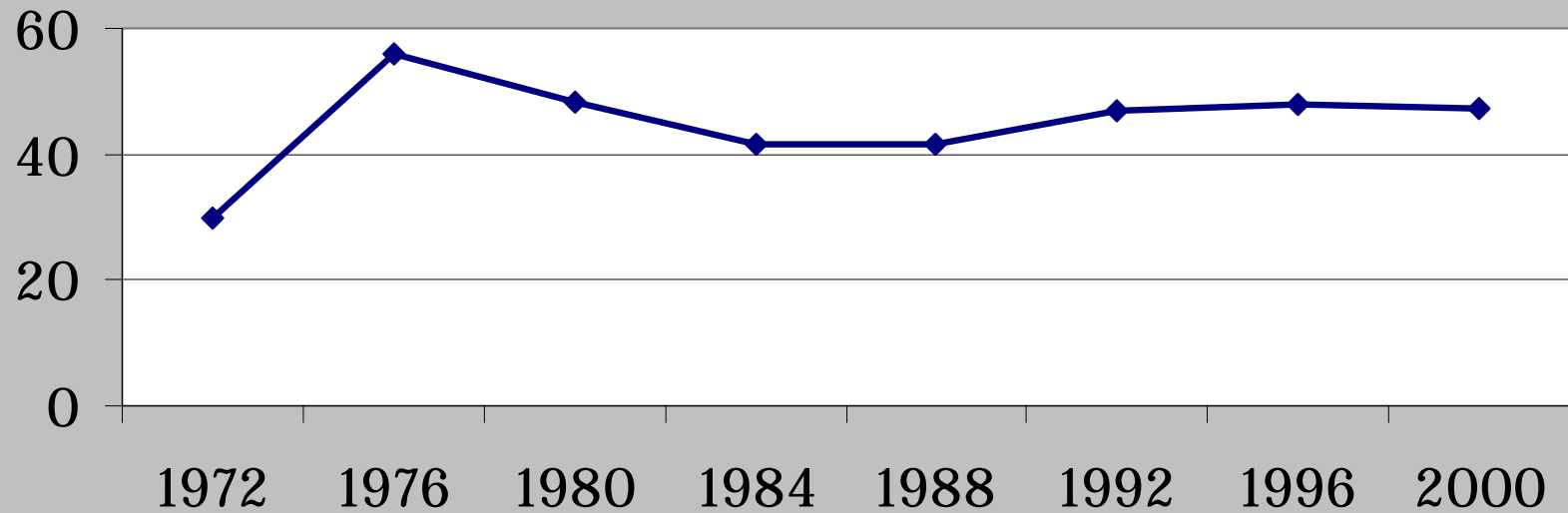


Pres2000.shp



The Tennessee Vote

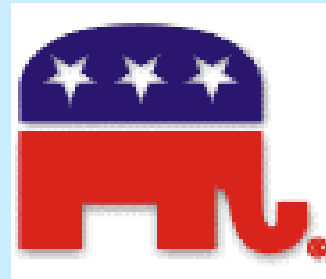
Vote for the Democratic Presidential Candidate in Tennessee





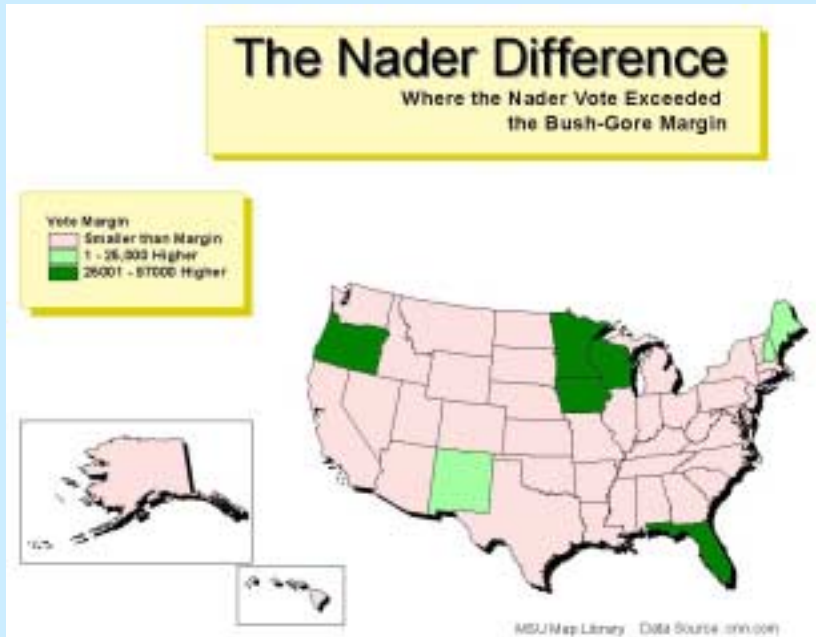
Why the Republican Party?

- Understand the dynamics of Presidential politics in the South far better than Democrats
- Have secured the votes of white Southerners
- The economy
- Values: conservative and traditional



What About Nader?

The Tennessee Numbers



Gore Vote	981, 720	Bush Vote	1,061, 949
Nader Vote	19, 781	Nader Vote	19, 781
Gore & Nader	1,001, 501	Bush- Nader	1,042, 168

The Notion of a Home State Advantage

- Home State: The state where a candidate established his/her political career
- What goes into the home state advantage:
 - 1.State population
 - 2.Political party
 - 3.Incumbency
- Candidate should expect a 4% increase in votes in his/her home state

So Where Did Al Gore Go Wrong?

- Failed to take advantage of a favorable political situation
- Spent too little time in Tennessee
- “The Clinton Factor”
- Failed to take advantage of his connection to Clinton
- His views have changed since his days in the Senate: too liberal for many

Consulted Sources

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