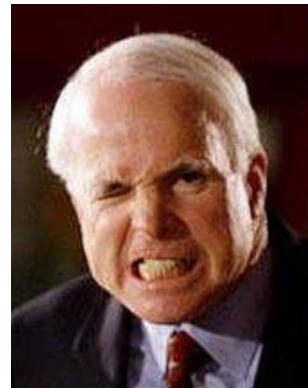


**2008 Presidential Election Analysis**  
**November 4, 2008**

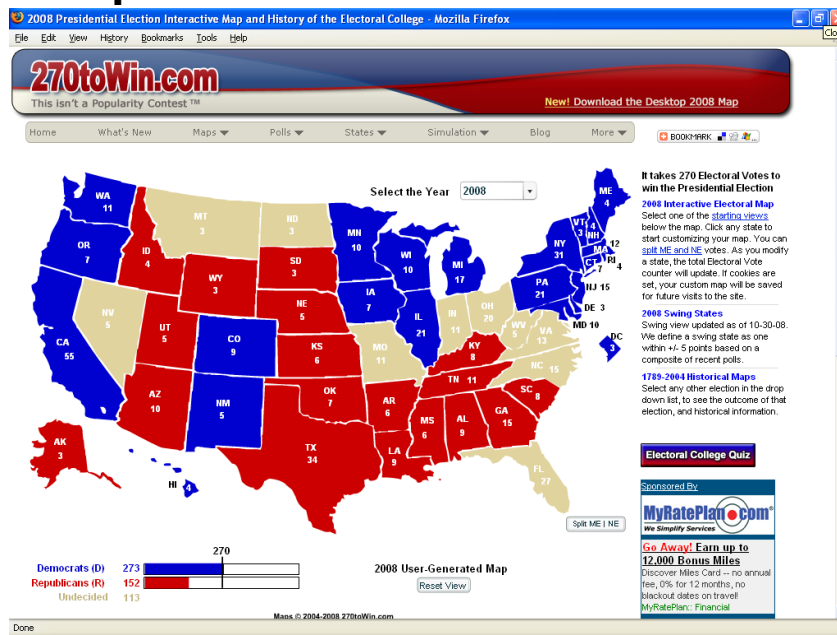


**Obama vs. McCain**



**Introduction:** On December 6, 2008, 538 electors will cast their votes for President and Vice President of the United States. A candidate must receive 270 votes to win. These electors will be chosen on November 4, with a popular vote within each state, with a winner take all system in 48 states, and the District of Columbia. Maine and Nebraska award 2 electoral votes to the winner of the state at large, as well as one vote for the winner of each congressional district. Although in about half of the states, electors are bound by law to vote for their chosen candidate, electors in other states face no such constraints. Occasionally an electoral vote is cast for someone other than the candidate, however, this is very rare, and is always done to make a statement. No elector would take such a risk in a very close electoral contest.

## The Map:



State	# of electoral votes	Status
States and DC that were blue in 2004	252	Obama has leads in the opinion polls well outside the margin of error, and in most cases a double digit lead
Iowa, New Mexico, and Colorado	21	Obama has leads in the opinion polls well outside the margin of error
Alaska, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Wyoming,	152	McCain has leads in the opinion polls

South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, South Carolina		well outside the margin of error, and in most cases a double digit lead
Toss Up states: Florida, Indiana, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia	113	States that are a statistical tie, or a small lead for one candidate

### Totals\*

Obama	McCain	Tossup
273	152	113

\*270 electoral votes needed to win

**Caveats:** There are several caveats that may affect the outcome of this election.

1. Potential disenfranchisement of voters: Voters in poor urban areas are much more likely to vote for Obama than McCain. These voters are also most likely to fall victim to efforts to challenge voter eligibility.
2. Election result integrity: In several jurisdictions, the majority of votes will be cast on electronic machines leaving no “paper trail”. In Ohio in 2004, the exit poll results did not match up with the official vote total. Without a “paper trail”, there is no way to verify the official vote if there is a discrepancy with exit poll results.
3. Under representation of probable Obama voters: One third of Americans aged 18-25 have no land line, thus would not be in the pool of probable voters that the pollsters sample from. Additionally due to the tight primary race between Clinton and Obama, the Democrats registered many more voters than the Republicans did this year. Theses new voters will presumably vote heavily for Obama, but will not show up as a “probable voter” according to the pollsters.