

Democracy North Carolina

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North Carolina Voters: Less White, More Independent

Despite North Carolina's continued population growth, the major political parties are losing thousands of members from their peak five years ago while the number of unaffiliated voters is climbing higher for all ages and races. *(See charts on next page.)*

Overall, after accounting for deaths, moves and party switches, the number of registered voters has increased by 210,000 since November 2008 to a total of 6,475,000 in November 2013, but there are 102,800 fewer Democrats and 12,400 fewer Republicans. The net gain of 306,500 Unaffiliated voters accounts for all the growth in registrations over the past five years.

The rapid growth of Unaffiliated voters indicates people are not attracted to either major party, said Bob Hall of Democracy North Carolina, the election reform group that compiled the data from State Board of Elections records. "More North Carolinians, especially new residents and young voters, are refusing to embrace or perhaps even understand a party's philosophy. That will make it harder for the parties to mobilize voters as their core supporters decline, particularly in a non-presidential year like 2014."

Unaffiliated voters are now 26% of all registered voters, up from 22% five years ago and just 8% in 1993. Democrats made up 60% of North Carolina voters twenty years ago, but their share of the electorate has fallen to 43% while Republicans' share has remained a fairly stable 31%.

In addition to party alignment, the racial make-up of North Carolina voters continues to change. The number of white voters has actually declined by 1,300 in the past five years. Whites now make up 71% of all registered voters, compared to 73% in 2008 and 81% twenty years ago.

Meanwhile, African-American registered voters increased by 99,200 and are now 23% of the state's electorate, up from 22% in 2008 and 18% in 1993.

Self-identified Hispanic or Latino voters (who may be of any race) are still less than 2% of all voters, but their number has nearly doubled over the past five years to 116,500.

Women still outnumber men by about 500,000 voters and make of 54% of all registrations. "If women consolidated around a message or messenger, they'd dominate state politics," said Hall, "but they are split by party and a growing minority is disenchanted with partisan politics."

The gender and racial changes are most apparent among Democrats. With deaths, moves, and new registrations, the number of white women affiliating with the Democratic Party has dropped by 113,400 over the past five years, and white male Democrats have declined by 96,800. Meanwhile, the number of black Democrats has increased by 31,100 women and 33,400 men.

African Americans now make up 45% of the Democrats' membership, while whites are 95% of the Republican Party. (1.0% of Republicans and 1.9% of Democrats do not list their race.)

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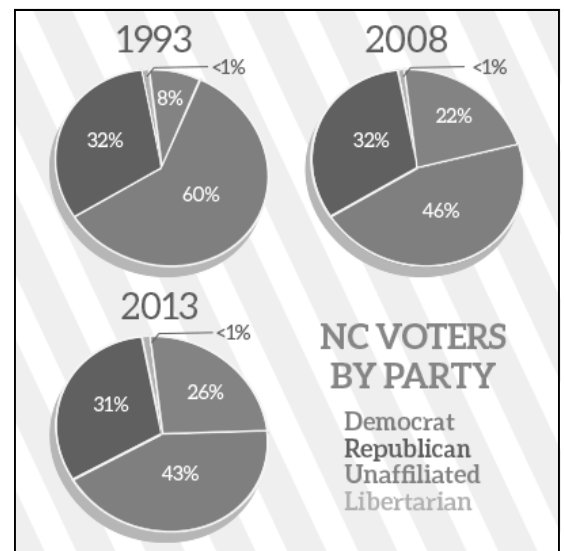
CHANGE IN NC VOTER REGISTRATION, 2008 to 2013

	Nov. 2008	Nov. 2013	Change 2008 to 2013	
	# Regis.	# Regis.	# Regis.	%Up/Down
TOTAL	6,264,733	6,474,667	209,934	3.4%
DEMOCRATS	2,866,669	2,763,885	-102,784	-3.6%
- Dem White Women	910,421	797,047	-113,374	-12.5%
- Dem Black Women	689,108	720,213	31,105	4.5%
- Dem Women	1,673,846	1,611,835	-62,011	-3.7%
- Dem Men	1,173,644	1,125,331	-48,313	-4.1%
- Dem White Men	649,401	552,645	-96,756	-14.9%
- Dem Black Men	470,170	503,542	33,373	7.1%
REPUBLICANS	2,002,416	1,990,065	-12,351	-0.6%
- Rep Women	1,016,069	1,009,416	-6,653	-0.7%
- Rep Men	977,640	967,426	-10,214	-1.0%
LIBERTARIAN	3,637	22,173	18,536	509.7%
UNAFFILIATED	1,392,011	1,698,544	306,533	22.0%
- Unaffiliated Women	701,741	845,105	143,364	20.4%
- Unaffiliated Men	670,277	815,119	144,842	21.6%
BLACK	1,354,976	1,454,176	99,200	7.3%
- Black Democrats	1,164,037	1,231,682	67,645	5.8%
- Black Republicans	38,878	35,798	-3,080	-7.9%
- Black Unaffiliated	151,769	184,927	33,158	21.8%
WHITE	4,596,479	4,595,131	-1,348	0.0%
- White Democrats	1,561,623	1,354,173	-207,450	-13.3%
- White Republicans	1,907,988	1,887,319	-20,669	-1.1%
- White Unaffiliated	1,123,554	1,335,604	212,050	18.9%
HISPANIC	68,053	116,492	48,439	71.2%
WOMEN	3,391,427	3,476,083	84,656	2.5%
MEN	2,822,503	2,920,194	97,691	3.5%
AGE 18-25	752,890	802,487	49,597	6.6%
- Young Whites	477,628	474,541	-3,088	-0.6%
- Young Blacks	212,238	231,742	19,504	9.2%
- Young Hispanics	17,722	32,589	14,867	83.9%
- Young Democrats	314,651	301,310	-13,341	-4.2%
- Young Republicans	195,210	195,179	-31	0.0%
- Young Unaffiliated	243,028	298,790	55,762	22.9%
AGE 26-40	1,687,505	1,613,029	-74,476	-4.4%
AGE 41-65	2,772,969	2,871,950	98,981	3.6%
AGE OVER 65	1,051,274	1,187,202	135,927	12.9%
- Senior Whites	867,986	965,915	97,929	11.3%
- Senior Blacks	162,319	186,465	24,146	14.9%
- Senior Hispanics	2,743	5,749	3,006	109.6%
- Senior Democrats	593,156	593,774	618	0.1%
- Senior Republicans	332,161	393,186	61,025	18.4%
- Senior Unaffiliated	125,957	199,529	73,572	58.4%

CHANGE IN SHARE, 1993 to 2013

	1993	2008	2013
	% Total	% Total	% Total
All Reg.	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Dems	59.5%	45.8%	42.7%
Reps.	32.4%	32.0%	30.7%
Lib.	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%
Unaffil.	8.1%	22.2%	26.2%
White	81.2%	73.4%	71.0%
Black	17.7%	21.6%	22.5%

Change in NC Voters by Party



Change in NC Voters by Race

