Selected Reference Sources

A comprehensive guide to federal political representation.

**America Votes.** Governmental Affairs Institute, Congressional Quarterly.
Ref. JK1967 .A8 vol. 1 to date
Compendium of election statistics at the national, state, and county levels.

Ref. JK2352 .K87 1997
Describes the origins and evolution of the two major political parties in the United States.

Ref. JK 1967 .C662 2005
Comprehensive guide to the election process.

Finding Books

**Library Catalog** (http://libweb.hofstra.edu/search/Y)

Use the online Library Catalog (http://libweb.hofstra.edu/search/Y) to locate books, government documents, audiovisual sources and other materials located in the Hofstra University Library system.
Research Databases (http://www.hofstra.edu/libraries)

**Ebrary:** Database of over 23,000 electronic books.

**WorldCat:** WorldCat lists holdings for books, manuscripts, sound recordings, videotapes, etc. located in libraries around the world.

**Public Affairs Information Service (PAIS):** International index to books, periodicals, hearings, reports, gray literature, government publications on public policy and social issues.

**Worldwide Political Science Abstracts:** Provides citations, abstracts, and indexing to books, journal articles, dissertations, and websites for topics pertaining to political science. International in scope.

---

Finding Articles

---

Suggested Research Databases (http://www.hofstra.edu/libraries) for Newspaper and Magazine Articles

**Academic Search Premier:** Full text, multi-disciplinary database containing newspaper, magazine, and scholarly, peer-reviewed publications. Also contains indexing and abstracting for all journals in the collection.

**CQ Weekly:** In depth reports on issues looming on the congressional horizon. Includes bill status, committee and floor activity, debates, and roll-call votes.

**Factiva:** Full text of newspapers, newswires, and journal articles. International in coverage.

**Lexis Nexis Academic Universe:** Full text interdisciplinary database with international coverage. Includes newspapers, magazines, and scholarly journals. Use to access the New York Times and Washington Post.

---

Suggested Research Databases (http://www.hofstra.edu/libraries) for Scholarly Journal Articles

**Academic Search Premier:** Full text, multi-disciplinary database containing scholarly, peer-reviewed publications. Also contains indexing and abstracting for all journals in the collection.

**America: History and Life:** Contains citations to articles about the history of the U.S. and Canada.

**JStor:** Full text collection of scholarly, peer-reviewed journals in the arts and sciences.

**Public Affairs Information Service (PAIS):** Index to periodicals, books, hearings, reports, gray literature, government publications on public policy and social issues. International in coverage.

**PAIS Archive:** International index to periodicals, books, hearings, reports, gray literature, government publications on public policy and social issues for the period 1915-1976.

**Worldwide Political Science Abstracts:** Provides citations, abstracts, and indexing of the international serials literature in political science and its complementary fields, including international relations, law, and public administration / policy.
Research Reports and Tools for Analysis

Suggested Research Databases (http://www.hofstra.edu/libraries) and Websites

**CQ Electronic Library:** Provides access to a variety of databases that can be searched individually or simultaneously. Included are **CQ Researcher** (reports on hot issues), **CQ Weekly** (coverage of U.S. Congress), **Congress and the Nation** (legislative actions and events related to public policy issues by presidential administration), **Congressional Almanac** (analysis and data on major legislation).

**Voting and Elections:** Also offered by CQ, this collection provides a wealth of data, analyses, explanations and historical materials to enable researchers to explore and analyze voting patterns and trends in the United States.

**Congressional Universe:** Bills, testimony, documents and reports, and hearings of U.S. Congress. Contains **Congressional Research Service (CRS) Reports** written by experts on a wide range of issues to assist Congress in their legislative functions. More recent reports at:

  - **Guide to CRS Reports on the Web**
  - **CRS Reports**
    - http://digital.library.unt.edu/govdocs/crs/
  - **Congressional Research Service Reports**
  - **Open CRS**
    - http://www.opencrs.net/

**Congressional Universe: Congressional Hearings Digital Collection:** Access congressional hearings in fully searchable PDF format from 1824 to 2003. Current hearings are held in print format in the Government Document Depository in 201 Axinn.

**Congressional Universe: U.S. Serial Set Digital Collection:** Digitized collection of historic congressional materials including House and Senate reports, documents and maps. Fully searchable PDF documents from 1789 to 1969.

**Public Affairs Information Service (PAIS):** Index to periodicals, books, hearings, reports, gray literature, government publications on public policy and social issues. International in coverage.

Polling Data

Selected Research Databases (http://www.hofstra.edu/libraries)

**Polling the Nations:** compilation of more than 14,000 surveys conducted by more than 700 polling organizations in the United States and more than 80 other countries from 1986 to the present.
Selected Websites

CBS News Polls
http://www.cbsnews.com/sections/opinion/polls/main500160.shtml

Los Angeles Time Poll

PollingReport.com

RealClearPolitics Polls
http://www.realclearpolitics.com/polls/

The Gallup Organization
http://www.gallup.com/home.aspx

The Pew Research Center for the People and the Press
http://people-press.org/

Selected Government Documents

See also the John W. Wydler Government Documents
(http://www.hofstra.edu/Libraries/Axinn/axinn_libdepts_docs_index.cfm) website which provides a comprehensive guide to locating government information.

Library Catalog (http://www.hofstra.edu/libraries)

The online library catalog can be used to search for government documents held at Axinn. You can limit your search by using the Documents limiter.

Suggested Research Databases (http://www.hofstra.edu/libraries)

Government Documents Catalog: Index of official federal government publications from 1976 to the present.

Congressional Universe: Bills, testimony, and hearings of the United States Congress.

Public Affairs Information Service (PAIS): Index to periodicals, books, hearings, reports, gray literature, government publications on public policy and social issues. International in coverage.

Print and Electronic Documents

Bureau of the Census Publications

Statistical Abstract of the United States.
http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/
Docs. C2.134
Comprehensive statistical compilation covering social and economic conditions in the U.S. that contains a section devoted to election statistics.
Voting and Registration Statistics
http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/voting.html
Available electronically, offers demographics for the voting population by state.

Census 2000: 108th Congressional District Summary Files
http://factfinder.census.gov/jsp/saff/SAFFInfo.jsp?_lang=en&_sse=on&_content=sp4_decennial_cd108.html&_title=108th+Congressional+District+Summary+Files
Available electronically, contains census statistics arranged by congressional district.

Federal Election Commission Publications

Campaign Finance Reports and Data
http://www.fec.gov/disclosure.shtml
Financial disclosure information on campaign expenses filed by House and Presidential campaigns, parties and Political Action Committees, and political party committees

Combined Federal/State Disclosure and Election Directory 2007
Guide used to locate and identify those organizations and individuals that are responsible for disclosing information on money in politics.

Federal Election Commission: Laws and Regulations
http://www.fec.gov/law/law.shtml
A compilation of all federal election campaign laws currently in force.

Selected Websites

Comprehensive Websites

American National Election Studies
http://www.electionstudies.org
Provides data on voting, public opinion, and political participation.

Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections
http://www.uselectionatlas.org
David Leip’s site provides color-coded atlases of polls and predictions for the 2008 election as well as past elections.

Center for Voting and Democracy
http://www.fairvote.org/
Site for a think tank that provides background on issues as well as redistricting and apportionment.

CQ Politics
http://www.cqpolitics.com/wmspage.cfm?parm1=5
Provides news and analysis to enable users to track the campaigns, the candidates and the issues.

Elections 2008 (University of Michigan)
Comprehensive guide to 2008 election resources that covers areas such as candidates, campaigns and campaign finance, policy areas, and election and voting statistics.
Election 2008 (Vanderbilt University)
http://lib11.library.vanderbilt.edu/diglib/godort.pl?searchtext=Election2008&Type=Simple&Resource=DB&Website=FDTF
Compiled by the Government Documents Roundtable (GODORT), this is a gateway site to information on elections, voting, and campaign finance.

ElectionGuide
http://www.electionguide.org/index.php
Provides comprehensive international election information and election results. Users can create a My Eguide profile which will allow creation of comparative reports.

Elections 2008 (GovSpot)
http://www.govspot.com/election/index.html
Portal site for election information.

Elections 2008: U.S. Department of State Foreign Press Center
http://fpc.state.gov/fpc/c21250.htm
Includes information on the election process, primaries, caucuses, issues, elections and foreign policy, elections trivia, the role of minorities in elections, and public opinion polls.

Politics1
http://www.politics1.com
Offers information on presidential elections, state and federal races, candidate profiles, political parties, issues, and links to news sites.

Project Vote Smart
http://www.votesmart.org
Intended as a guide for voters to become better informed about the candidates and the issues, the site provides candidate background, issue position, voting records, campaign finance, and interest group ratings.

RealClearPolitics
http://www.realclearpolitics.com
This website pulls together the days commentary, news, polling data, and links to important resources. It provides a comprehensive overview of all that is happening in politics.

Voting America: United States Politics, 1840-2008
http://americanpast.richmond.edu/voting
Sponsored by the Digital Scholarship Lab of the University of Richmond, this site provides visual information about how Americans have voted in presidential elections and also includes analysis and commentary.

WikitheVote: 2008 Congressional Elections Portal
http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=WikitheVote
Collaborative site that provides a wealth of information about the 2008 elections and also welcomes contributions from users.

Campaign Finance

Campaign Finance Information Center
http://www.campaignfinance.org/
Provides tools for journalists investigating money in politics. Also links to current news stories.

Open Secrets.org
http://www.opensecrets.org/
The Center for Responsive Politics is largely devoted to campaign financing issues and how they impact elections and public policy.

National Center for Policy Analysis Idea House: Campaign Finance Reform
http://www.ncpa.org/pd/govern/govern2.html
Offers an analysis of issues related to campaign finance reform.
Political Money Line: Money in Politics Databases
http://moneyline.cq.com/pml/home.do
Allows users to search campaign contributions databases by name, state, or Political Action Committee. Also provides charts and tables detailing political contributions.

Candidate Sites

John McCain (AZ)(Republican)
http://www.johnmccain.com/

Barack Obama (IL) (Democrat)
http://www.barackobama.com/splash/aid_ike.html

Bob Barr (GA) (Libertarian)
http://www.bobbarr2008.com/splash/?s0620

Cynthia McKinney(GA) (Green)
http://votetruth08.com/

Ralph Nader (Independent)
http://www.votenader.org/

Donald Allen (Independent)
http://donaldkallenforpresident.com/

James McCall (Independent)
http://www.callonmccall.com/

Chuck Baldwin (Constitution)
http://www.baldwin08.com/

Brian Moore (Socialist USA)
http://www.votebrianmoore.com/

Debates

Commission on Presidential Debates
http://www.debates.org/
Sponsors and produces debates for the U.S. Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates. Also undertakes research and educational activities related to debates.

Debates (George Washington University)
http://www.gwu.edu/%7Eaction/2004/chmdebs.html
Contains background information relating to debates including information on the 2004 debates, negotiations, format and media coverage.

Open Debates
http://www.opendebates.org/
Webpage of nonprofit, nonpartisan group committed to reforming the current presidential debate process.

Presidential Debate History and Resources (Poynter Institute)
http://poynter.org/column.asp?id=49&aid=71327
Compiled by the Poynter Institute, a school for journalists, this list of websites and other resources related to debates, provides a good starting point for researchers interested in the topic of debates.
Major Political Parties

These sites include information on party platforms, biographical information for party leaders, history of the party, public policy and campaign issues, voter information and online registration forms, and contribution information.

Constitution Party
http://www.constitutionparty.org/

Democratic National Committee
http://www.democrats.org/index.html

Green Party
http://www.greenparty.org/index.php

Libertarian Party
http://www.lp.org/

Republican National Committee
http://www.gop.com/

Media Sites

ABC News Decision 2008
http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/Decision2008/

CBS News-Politics
http://www.cbsnews.com/sections/politics/main250.shtml

CNN Election Center 2008

C-Span Election Guide

Fox News
http://elections.foxnews.com/

MSNBC Decision Dashboard
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3032553/

MSNBC Newsweek Politics
http://www.newsweek.com/id/38584

PBS Online Newshour: Vote 2008
http://www.pbs.org/newshour/vote2008/

Public Policy Issues

Almanac of Policy Issues
http://www.policyalmanac.org/
Site offers background and a non-partisan analysis of the following issues: criminal justice, culture and society, economics, education, environment, government operations, health, social welfare, and world affairs.

Center for Voting and Democracy
http://www.fairvote.org/
Site for a think tank that provides background on issues as well as redistricting and apportionment.
Congress.org
http://www.congress.org/congressorg/home/
Provides background information on the candidates as well as their position on issues. Also contains state election information.

On the Issues
http://www.ontheissues.org/default.htm
Analyzes candidates' positions on an extensive array of political issues as evidenced by their voting records, position statements, news reports and speeches.

Project Vote Smart
http://www.votesmart.org/
Intended as a guide for voters to become better informed about the candidates and the issues, the site provides candidate background, issue position, voting records, campaign finance, and interest group ratings.

Fact Checkers

PolitFact.com
http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/
Joint project of St. Petersburg Times and Congressional Quarterly whose purpose is to analyze the accuracy of claims made by the candidates to the media

FactCheck.org
http://www.factcheck.org
Sponsored by the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania to “monitor the factual accuracy of what is said by major U.S. political players.”

FactChecker
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/fact-checker
Washington Post’s site for analyzing the accuracy of candidates claims involving national issues. This is a collaborative effort—readers are encouraged to contribute to the site. Also provides links to the Presidential Field (profiles of major candidates, http://projects.washingtonpost.com/2008-presidential-candidates/) and Issue Coverage Tracker ( http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/interactives/campaign08/issues/).