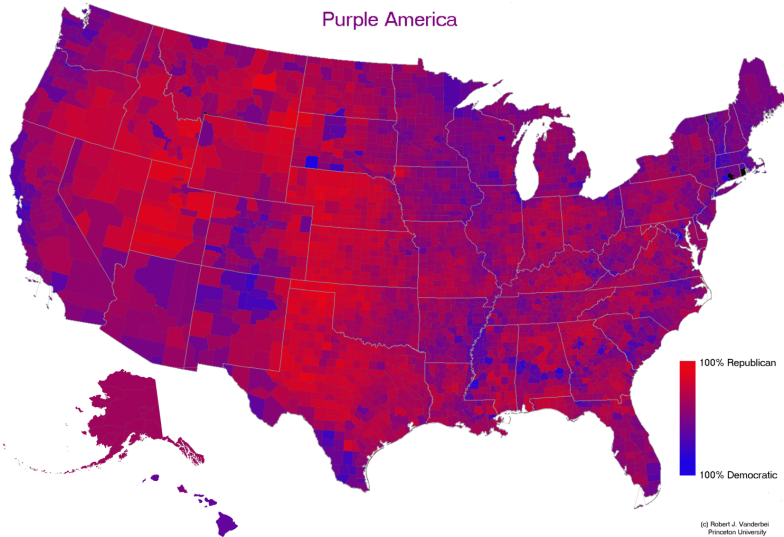


2004 Presidential Election

Purple America



On January 18th, 2008, John McLaughlin made this statement during the broadcast of "The McLaughlin Group":

MR. MCLAUGHLIN:

Issue Two: Super Tuesday. Not since 1928 has a U.S. presidential race been so wide open. Neither party has an incumbent running. Neither party has a front-runner running. Less than 10 months from the November 4 election, the presidential nominations are still up for grabs. That may change on Super Tuesday, February 5, two weeks from this coming Tuesday. Twenty-four states are participating in primary and caucus contests two weeks from Tuesday. Here they are, blue states and red states. Blue means left wing. Red means right wing. Blue means left of center. Red means right of center.

Northwest. Blue: Connecticut, Massachusetts. Red: None.

Mid-Atlantic. Blue: Delaware, New Jersey, New York. Red: None.

Midwest. Blue: Illinois, Minnesota, Kansas. Red: Missouri, North Dakota.

South. Blue: None. Red: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Oklahoma, Tennessee, West Virginia.

Southwest. Blue: None. Red: Arizona, New Mexico.

West. Blue: California. Red: Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah.

All up a week from Tuesday, February the 5th.

[The McLaughlin Group Library : Transcript](#)

Hmm... Where does he get this stuff? Let's see, he lists Arizona and New Mexico as Red states, true enough that in 2004 Bush took both states, Arizona by 10% and New Mexico by 1%, but both have Democratic two-term governors (Janet Napolitano and Bill Richardson, respectively); Arizona has two red senators, Kyl and McCain, but an evenly split house delegation, 4 apiece, whereas New Mexico has a split senatorial delegation, Bingaman (D) and Domenici (R - retiring) and a 2 to 1 advantage for Republicans in the house. I think both states are fairly purple, don't you?

How about the others? Colorado also went for Bush by 5% in '04, but has since come to its senses, with a split Senate, Salazar (D) and Wayne (R, up for election) and a 4 to 3 Democratic house delegation. Gov. Bill Ritter is a Democratic.

Montana elected Democrat Brian Schweitzer as Governor some years back, and this last election sent Jon Tester (D) to join Max Baucus (D) in Washington along with their sole Republican, a Representative.

So, things are looking more Purple than Red or Blue out west right now. Especially when you consider the message in this article from Tuesday's Las Vegas Sun:

One intriguing outcome of Saturday's Democratic caucus is that Barack Obama, a Chicago politician whose appeal nationwide is deep among affluent liberals and college students, broke through in Nevada's mining and ranching counties.

Obama beat rival Hillary Clinton decisively in nine of 14 rural Republican-dominated counties. In Esmeralda, on the state's western edge, he won 22 delegates to nine for the New York senator.

...
One example of that hope could be found in Shirley Jones, a Republican who said she showed up to Elko's Democratic caucus because Obama appealed to her more than any other candidate from either party. "I think we need to get out of the Republican mind-set, because they've gotten us into debt," she said.

At another precinct in Elko, Richard Todd switched parties to caucus with the Democrats and was swiftly chosen to advocate for Obama to undecided caucusgoers. Twelve of Todd's Republican neighbors in the precinct joined him in changing parties to caucus for Obama. Whitney said newly registered Democrats made up one-third of the voters who showed up in his precinct.

[Why rural voters broke for Obama - Las Vegas Sun > Elko Supporter](#)

Food for thought, [Purple thought...](#)