Mapping the Vote

With the **United States presidential election of 2008** scheduled for Tuesday November 4, instead of an East-West Gateway Map of the Month, below are some links to web sites that map the vote, show historical voting data, or can be used interactively for "what if" scenarios based on the States' electoral votes.

Of course there's **Google**, with the **Elections '08 Map Gallery** containing Primary Results, Campaign Trail, and many other maps. The "Electoral Votes" map can be used to predict possible state combinations each candidate needs to win the election. Users can click on a state and change the total electoral vote count per candidate, comparing different scenarios.

One of the sites featured in the Google Elections '08 Map Gallery is liberal blogger and author Arianna Huffington's **FundRace2008**. In their words, "FundRace makes it easy to search by name or address to see which presidential candidates your friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors are contributing to." Users can pan and zoom around an interactive U.S. map or search by first name, last name, address, city, zip code, occupation, and employer.

Dave Leip's **Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections** was started as a paper [nondigital] hobby after the 1992 Presidential Election and was originally hosted at MIT. In the "Election 2008" section, Leip's 2008 US President Complied Poll map of the average of the three most recent polls presently (9/23/08) gives Obama a 269 to 187 lead in electoral votes with 82 "tossups." The Election Results link directs the browser to detailed national results for the major and minor candidates for U.S. President from 1789 through 2004.

Voting America examines the evolution of presidential politics in the U.S. from 1840 through 2004. Developed by the Digital Scholarship Lab at the University of Richmond, this application displays a wide spectrum of static and interactive mapping of data at the county level. Videos that discuss some of the most interesting and significant trends in American political history are also available.

At Princeton University, Robert J. Vanderbei has used election results from 1960 through 2004 to create a **"Purple America"** U.S. map depicting the changing voter patterns of Republicans [red] and Democrats [blue]. Other maps show results of individual elections of 2000-2006 and primary results from 2008.

The **National Atlas** offers a series of printable maps covering the presidential elections from 1789 through 2000. (Yes, for some reason they stopped at 2000.) These maps show electoral votes won by political party at the State level.

Map of the Month will return to its regular format after the election.