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Abstract
This paper describes and analyzes the 2016 general election results in Illinois and compares those results to the 2012 and 2008 presidential elections. The primary unit of analysis in this paper is the 102 counties in Illinois and the aggregate vote results at the state and county level. Those aggregate data voting returns are supplemented with statewide survey data taken from the Paul Simon Institute’s periodic polls which allows an individual voter level of analysis to add to the aggregate data.

Main article: United States presidential election, 2012 United States presidential election in Illinois, 2012 -- 2008 November 6, 2012 2016. Obama won Cook County with 74%, receiving 1,480,537 votes, compared to Romney who received only 24.6% of the votes in Cook County, or 495,542 votes.[2] The importance of the vote in Chicago and the rest of Cook County to Obama's victory in Illinois can be illustrated by a hypothetical scenario in which its votes are not included in the overall state total. Many counties in Southern Illinois that voted for then Senator Obama in 2008, swung back to the GOP due to decreased enthusiasm for the Democratic incumbent. The last Republican to win Illinois in a Presidential Election was George H.W. Bush in 1988.