

2008

THE ALMANAC OF AMERICAN POLITICS

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MICHAEL BARONE is a senior writer at *U.S. News and World Report* and a Fox News Channel contributor. *The Chicago Tribune* says, "Michael Barone is to politics what statistician-writer Bill James is to baseball, a mix of historian, social observer, and numbers cruncher who illuminates his subject with perspective and a touch of irreverence." His most recent book is *Our First Revolution: The Remarkable British Upheaval That Inspired America's Founding Fathers*.

RICHARD E. COHEN has 30 years of experience covering Capitol Hill. He is the 1990 winner of the Everett McKinley Dirksen Award for distinguished reporting on Congress and *National Journal's* congressional correspondent since 1977. Cohen has authored several books about Congress, including a biography of former Rep. Dan Rostenkowski.



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POLITICS

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In-depth profiles and photographs of every governor and member of Congress

Colorful, insightful narratives for each state and congressional district

District maps, campaign expenditures, voting records, census data and more

Access to the Web edition—see inside for details

MICHAEL BARONE

with RICHARD E. COHEN

and Founding Editor GRANT UJIFUSA



THE ALMANAC OF AMERICAN POLITICS 2008 offers a comprehensive, rich and remarkably detailed look at the 435 congressional districts. Other features include:

- ★ Insightful, colorful profiles and photographs of all 535 members of Congress, the 5 delegates and the 50 governors.
- ★ Voting records on important legislation, including congressional vote ratings by *National Journal* and ten influential interest groups.
- ★ Informative descriptions of each state and congressional district with historical, economic, social and political background information.
- ★ Updated maps showing each congressional district.
- ★ 2006 election results for each member of Congress, plus presidential results by state and congressional district.
- ★ Exclusive state-by-state analysis of the 2004 presidential election and outlook for 2008.
- ★ Access to *The Almanac* Web edition, including information on special elections in the 110th Congress.

About the Publisher

Called "the nation's most respected, non-partisan source of information about how Washington's policy-making machinery really works" by *Newsweek*, *National Journal* has been in the forefront of reporting on American politics for more than thirty years.

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WE SEEM TO BE ENTERING A NEW PERIOD IN AMERICAN POLITICS. We have come through a period of trench warfare, in which two armies of approximately equal size faced each other across the battlefield and tried to rally their sides to achieve the incremental gains that would make the difference between victory or defeat. There were few defections from either army in this culture war, and almost no one crossing the lines. Like the trench warfare of World War I, our politics in this period, which stretched from 1995 to 2005, was a conflict of many bitter battles and no final victories.

Now we seem to be entering a new period, a period of open-field politics. It seems to be a time when there are no permanent alliances, when new leaders arise with new strategies and tactics, when the voters, instead of forming themselves into two coherent and cohesive armies, wander about the field, attaching themselves to one band and then another, with no clear lines of battle and no landmarks to rally beside.

Americans are facing the first presidential election since 1928 that doesn't feature the incumbent president or the incumbent vice president as a candidate. We have gone through periods of open-field politics before, most recently between 1990 and 1995. In those years, a little-known governor of Arkansas challenged an incumbent president whose job approval rose to 89 percent; a Texas billionaire announced his candidacy on cable news and soon led the putative Republican and Democratic nominees in the polls; and the Republican Party, after 40 years in the minority in the House, won thumping majorities in the House and Senate. Similar surprises, or quite different ones, may be in store for us.