

GOP Win In Illinois Depends On Downstate Vote

By RUSSEL LANE
CHICAGO (U.S. — Illinois, with 27 electoral votes at stake in next Tuesday's presidential election, remains in the doubtful column. Although Illinois is the home state of Democratic Gov. Adlai Stevenson and delivered him a record 572,000-vote plurality four years ago, it is a good even bet now as to whether he can carry the state against Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, the Republican candidate.

Eisenhower is given a slight edge in one state-wide newspaper poll and in a survey of newsmen who previously thought Stevenson was ahead. Other observers see the leaning slightly to Stevenson. All are agreed that it probably will be very close.

President Truman garnered the state in 1948, by the slim margin of 33,612 votes of the 4,075,000 cast.

It was conceded that Stevenson's overwhelming gubernatorial victory delivered Illinois for Truman. Democratic national tickets have carried the state since 1932, although a Republican governor was elected in 1946 and 1944. The GOP presidential candidates won Illinois' electoral votes in four contests from 1916 to 1928.

Traditionally, the Illinois electorate is divided into sharply defined party strongholds. Chicago, with approximately one half of the state's population, is Democratic. The rest of the state, with exceptions such as the urban industrial area across the Mississippi River from St. Louis, votes Republican.

The Republicans are basing their predictions of victory for Gen. Eisenhower in Illinois upon the expectation of an unusually large vote in the 101 downstate counties and in the heavily Republican suburban portions of Cook County, Chicago is in Cook County.

President Truman's victory in 1948 might not have materialized had the downstate vote been heavier. He received 54.5 per cent of the 2,235,000 Cook County total. But he got only 43.1 per cent of the comparatively light downstate vote of 1,732,000. Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, Truman's opponent, received 54.9 per cent of the downstate vote.

For a rule of thumb estimate on how the Illinois vote is going as election night returns come in, it would appear that Stevenson could be considered to be leading if returns from Cook County show him getting 55 per cent of the votes or more. If Eisenhower's tally runs better than 55 per cent downstate, it would appear he would win.

Here's how the straw have been blowing in Illinois as the election nears:

A poll by the Chicago Sun-Times, on the basis of straw vote samplings in 16 downstate counties—

including a substantial proportion from Democratic St. Clair County—indicated an Eisenhower lead of 53.57 per cent to Stevenson's 46.42 per cent in results published Oct. 24.

In Cook County, the Sun-Times found, a Chicago lead for Stevenson of 52.31 per cent was offset by a 64.50 per cent preference for Eisenhower in the suburban Cook County area. Republican leaders say the suburbs will account for a larger proportion of the Cook County vote this year than ever before.

Substantial increases in voter registrations have been reported in both Chicago and the rest of the state.

In mid-October, a county-by-county survey of vote prospects was made by The Associated Press among member newspapers and election correspondents in Illinois. The editors, gauging only their home territories, supplied estimates which pointed toward a

slim Eisenhower majority in Illinois. This represented a reversal, in that the same newsmen, in another AP survey late in August, thought Stevenson was ahead.

Jacob M. Arvey, Democratic national committeeman from Illinois, says Stevenson will carry the state by "100,000 or more." C. Wayland Brooks, one of Illinois' two GOP national committeemen, says the state will give Eisenhower "at least 150,000" plurality.

Eisenhower's Illinois fortunes may be closely linked with those of the GOP state ticket, which is

headed by State Treasurer William G. Stratton, 38, the candidate for governor, whose vote-getting record is impressive.

When Gov. Stevenson stepped out of the role of state Democratic ticket leader, his place was taken

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by Lt. Gov. Sherwood Dixon, 56-year-old, slow-speaking downstate lawyer with little campaigning experience.

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The verdict carried an automatic penalty of life imprisonment at hard labor.

Hoover, 28, thanked the jurors and Criminal District Judge J. Bernard Coker.

The nude and battered body of James Mahoney, 55, was found in bed in his hotel room on Feb. 22, 1949, during the carnival season. Hoover, a former parking lot attendant in Louisville, Ky., was convicted of his murder in December, 1949, and sentenced to the electric chair. A new trial was ordered by the State Supreme Court on grounds that the state had made prejudicial statements before the jury.

At his first trial, Hoover pleaded innocent by reason of temporary insanity, and defense attorneys depended heavily upon the insanity plea during the second trial.

Hoover testified he had accompanied Mahoney to his hotel room after drinking with the millionaire. Hoover said he remembered striking Mahoney because he had proposed unnatural sexual relations.

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