

# RESEARCH REPORT

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A PUBLICATION OF RESEARCH, HOME MISSION BOARD, SBC

*Classification of State Conventions*

Phillip B. Jones

*Classification of State Conventions*

Phillip B. Jones

September 1995

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**TABLE 1**  
**State Convention Priority Rankings, 1994**  
(Sorted by Priority Order)

Convention	Evangelism Index	Church Index	Ministry Index	Priority Index
California	9.67	9.50	6.55	8.84
New York	9.33	9.25	6.18	8.52
Florida	8.00	7.75	7.55	7.82
New England	8.67	8.50	4.73	7.64
Penn/S.J.	8.33	6.75	4.91	7.08
Illinois	7.67	6.50	5.55	6.84
Northwest	7.67	7.25	4.64	6.80
Michigan	7.00	7.50	5.18	6.67
Arizona	5.67	8.75	6.45	6.63
Ohio	7.67	6.75	4.45	6.63
Nevada	5.33	10.00	5.73	6.60
Maryland/Delaware	6.33	7.50	5.55	6.43
Texas	7.33	5.25	5.73	6.41
Utah-Idaho	6.00	10.00	3.36	6.34
Minnesota-Wisconsin	6.67	6.50	3.82	5.91
Hawaii	4.33	9.00	4.82	5.62
Virginia	6.00	5.00	5.00	5.50
Colorado	5.33	7.00	4.27	5.48
Indiana	5.67	5.00	4.45	5.20
District of Columbia	2.33	7.75	7.82	5.06
New Mexico	4.00	5.75	6.45	5.05
Georgia	4.67	3.75	6.45	4.88
Louisiana	4.00	5.25	6.27	4.88
Missouri	5.00	4.00	5.18	4.80
Alaska	3.67	6.50	5.18	4.75
North Carolina	4.67	3.00	6.00	4.58
Kansas-Nebraska	4.67	4.75	3.64	4.43
Montana	4.00	5.50	4.18	4.42
West Virginia	4.33	3.00	4.82	4.12
South Carolina	3.00	3.75	6.55	4.07
Tennessee	3.67	3.00	5.82	4.04
Iowa	4.00	4.75	3.36	4.03
Kentucky	4.00	3.00	4.82	3.95
Wyoming	3.33	5.50	3.09	3.81
Arkansas	3.00	2.25	5.64	3.47
Alabama	2.67	2.00	6.45	3.45
Mississippi	2.67	2.00	6.36	3.42
Oklahoma	2.67	2.75	5.27	3.34
Dakotas	3.00	3.25	3.55	3.20

**TABLE 2**  
**Evangelism Index**

Convention	Estimated Lost	Assigned Value 1	Percent Lost	Assigned Value 2	Evangelism Index
Alabama	1,862,773	3	46.10	2	2.67
Alaska	446,562	1	81.19	9	3.67
Arizona	2,933,649	4	80.04	9	5.67
Arkansas	1,256,957	3	53.47	3	3.00
California	24,256,379	10	81.51	9	9.67
Colorado	2,618,360	4	79.48	8	5.33
Dakotas	811,491	2	60.79	5	3.00
District of Columbia	380,175	1	62.64	5	2.33
Florida	9,721,936	8	75.14	8	8.00
Georgia	3,684,965	5	56.88	4	4.67
Hawaii	936,934	2	84.54	9	4.33
Illinois	8,048,690	8	70.41	7	7.67
Indiana	3,916,484	5	70.64	7	5.67
Iowa	1,808,017	3	65.11	6	4.00
Kansas-Nebraska	2,648,603	4	65.30	6	4.67
Kentucky	2,103,469	4	57.08	4	4.00
Louisiana	2,477,687	4	58.71	4	4.00
Maryland/Delaware	4,071,480	6	74.74	7	6.33
Michigan	6,875,281	7	73.97	7	7.00
Minnesota-Wisconsin	6,196,874	7	66.87	6	6.67
Mississippi	1,168,430	3	45.41	2	2.67
Missouri	3,248,729	5	63.49	5	5.00
Montana	623,109	2	77.98	8	4.00
Nevada	1,047,294	3	87.14	10	5.33
New England	10,065,780	9	76.22	8	8.67
New Mexico	1,056,582	3	69.74	6	4.00
New York	16,476,463	10	75.39	8	9.33
North Carolina	3,703,469	5	55.87	4	4.67
Northwest	6,381,963	7	82.79	9	7.67
Ohio	7,844,763	8	72.32	7	7.67
Oklahoma	1,564,257	3	49.73	2	2.67
Penn/S.J.	11,311,602	9	71.83	7	8.33
South Carolina	1,854,583	3	53.19	3	3.00
Tennessee	2,596,827	4	53.24	3	3.67
Texas	10,151,221	9	59.76	4	7.33
Utah-Idaho	2,360,895	4	86.49	10	6.00
Virginia	4,167,195	6	67.35	6	6.00
West Virginia	1,287,797	3	71.80	7	4.33
Wyoming	348,063	1	76.74	8	3.33

**TABLE 3**  
**Church Index**

Convention	Population per New Testament Church	Assigned Value 1	Population per Saved	Assigned Value 2	Church Index
Alabama	713.4	2	1.86	2	2.00
Alaska	1,558.2	6	5.32	8	6.50
Arizona	3,014.2	9	5.01	8	8.75
Arkansas	698.6	2	2.15	3	2.25
California	4,449.1	10	5.41	8	9.50
Colorado	2,492.0	7	4.87	7	7.00
Dakotas	960.3	3	2.55	4	3.25
District of Columbia	3,865.6	9	2.68	4	7.75
Florida	2,684.2	8	4.02	7	7.75
Georgia	1,166.4	4	2.32	3	3.75
Hawaii	3,706.5	9	6.47	9	9.00
Illinois	2,348.6	7	3.38	5	6.50
Indiana	1,490.8	5	3.41	5	5.00
Iowa	1,351.2	5	2.87	4	4.75
Kansas-Nebraska	1,262.8	5	2.88	4	4.75
Kentucky	782.4	3	2.33	3	3.00
Louisiana	1,748.1	6	2.42	3	5.25
Maryland/Delaware	2,743.0	8	3.96	6	7.50
Michigan	2,687.3	8	3.84	6	7.50
Minnesota-Wisconsin	2,314.4	7	3.02	5	6.50
Mississippi	700.2	2	1.83	2	2.00
Missouri	1,138.4	4	2.74	4	4.00
Montana	1,320.8	5	4.54	7	5.50
Nevada	4,788.2	10	7.78	10	10.00
New England	3,970.8	9	4.20	7	8.50
New Mexico	1,725.6	6	3.30	5	5.75
New York	4,469.9	10	4.06	7	9.25
North Carolina	956.7	3	2.27	3	3.00
Northwest	2,385.2	7	5.81	8	7.25
Ohio	2,011.3	7	3.61	6	6.75
Oklahoma	878.2	3	1.99	2	2.75
Penn/S.J.	2,448.8	7	3.55	6	6.75
South Carolina	1,007.4	4	2.14	3	3.75
Tennessee	798.1	3	2.14	3	3.00
Texas	1,685.3	6	2.49	3	5.25
Utah-Idaho	4,098.5	10	7.40	10	10.00
Virginia	1,441.6	5	3.06	5	5.00
West Virginia	710.0	2	3.55	6	3.00
Wyoming	1,378.7	5	4.30	7	5.50

**TABLE 4**  
**Ministry Index**

Convention	Absolute Percent Change in Population 1980-90	Assigned Value 1	Legal Abortion Ratio per 1,000 Live Births 1988	Assigned Value 2	Infant Mortality Rate 1988	Assigned Value 3
Alabama	3.76	3	284	4	12.1	8
Alaska	36.88	9	215	3	11.6	7
Arizona	34.92	9	350	6	9.7	5
Arkansas	2.82	3	182	2	10.7	6
California	25.74	8	598	8	8.6	4
Colorado	14.00	6	335	5	9.6	5
Dakotas	0.65	1	141	2	10.3	6
District of Columbia	4.94	3	1,257	10	23.2	10
Florida	32.74	9	437	7	10.6	6
Georgia	18.58	7	333	5	12.6	8
Hawaii	14.88	6	579	8	7.2	3
Illinois	0.03	1	395	6	11.3	7
Indiana	0.98	1	185	2	11.0	7
Iowa	4.70	3	254	4	8.7	4
Kansas-Nebraska	3.10	3	298	4	8.4	4
Kentucky	0.68	1	215	3	10.7	6
Louisiana	0.33	1	243	3	11.0	7
Maryland	13.23	6	486	7	11.4	7
Michigan	0.36	1	446	7	11.1	7
Minnesota-Wisconsin	5.53	5	263	4	8.1	4
Mississippi	2.08	3	123	2	12.3	8
Missouri	4.07	3	264	4	10.1	6
Montana	1.57	3	265	4	8.7	4
Nevada	50.13	10	558	8	8.4	4
New England	6.95	5	436	7	8.2	4
New Mexico	16.25	7	251	4	10.0	6
New York	2.89	3	618	8	10.6	6
North Carolina	12.73	6	392	6	12.5	8
Northwest	13.95	6	403	7	8.8	4
Ohio	0.46	1	326	5	9.7	5
Oklahoma	3.97	3	257	4	9.0	5
Penn.-S. Jersey	1.28	3	367	6	9.9	5
South Carolina	11.73	6	259	4	12.3	8
Tennessee	6.23	5	292	4	10.8	6
Texas	19.41	7	333	5	9.0	5
Utah-Idaho	13.49	6	135	2	8.2	4
Virginia	15.72	7	385	6	10.4	6
West Virginia	8.04	5	141	2	9.0	5
Wyoming	3.40	3	90	1	8.9	4

TABLE 4 (continued)

Convention	Violent Crime Rate per 100,000		Divorce Rate per 1,000		Unmarried Women as a Percent of Live Births	
	Population 1989	Assigned Value 4	Population 1989	Assigned Value 5	1988	Assigned Value 6
Alabama	591	5	6.1	7	27.9	7
Alaska	498	4	6.3	7	23.4	5
Arizona	600	6	6.5	7	28.7	7
Arkansas	474	4	6.8	7	26.5	6
California	978	8	4.3	4	28.6	7
Colorado	471	4	5.6	5	19.5	3
Dakotas	101	1	4	4	18.3	3
District of Columbia	2,142	10	4.0	4	61.7	10
Florida	1,109	9	6.3	7	28.7	7
Georgia	736	7	4.7	4	29.6	7
Hawaii	270	2	5.1	5	22.2	4
Illinois	846	8	4.0	4	29.5	7
Indiana	406	4	NA	5	22.7	5
Iowa	266	2	3.5	3	17.7	3
Kansas-Nebraska	354	3	5	4	18.1	3
Kentucky	357	3	5.5	5	21.9	4
Louisiana	782	7	NA	5	33.5	8
Maryland	818	8	3	3	31.8	8
Michigan	709	7	4.3	4	21.6	4
Minnesota-Wisconsin	254	2	4	4	20.2	4
Mississippi	311	3	4.9	4	37.6	8
Missouri	633	6	5.1	5	25.0	6
Montana	116	1	5.1	5	20.8	4
Nevada	625	6	11.9	10	19.1	3
New England	496	4	3.3	3	21.6	4
New Mexico	704	7	5.0	5	32.2	8
New York	1,039	9	3	3	29.1	7
North Carolina	546	5	4.9	4	26.3	6
Northwest	489	4	6	5	22.8	5
Ohio	469	4	4.5	4	26.4	6
Oklahoma	492	4	7.1	8	22.4	4
Penn.-S. Jersey	435	4	3	3	25.9	6
South Carolina	814	8	4.2	4	30.3	8
Tennessee	549	5	6.5	7	27.6	7
Texas	659	6	5.5	5	19.7	3
Utah-Idaho	258	2	5	5	12.4	1
Virginia	313	3	4.2	4	23.8	5
West Virginia	147	1	5.1	5	22.6	5
Wyoming	258	2	6.4	7	17.2	3

**TABLE 4 (continued)**

Convention	Unemployed Rate Aug-92	Assigned Value 7	Poverty Rate 1991	Assigned Value 8	Age 25 and Over with Less than	
					8th Grade Education	Assigned Value 9
Alabama	7.50	7	18.8	9	19.6	9
Alaska	7.80	7	11.8	4	5.6	4
Arizona	7.00	7	14.8	6	8.5	5
Arkansas	6.60	6	17.3	8	18.0	8
California	9.50	9	15.7	7	9.3	5
Colorado	5.50	4	10.4	3	5.3	4
Dakotas	3.66	2	14.2	6	6.8	4
District of Columbia	8.30	8	18.6	9	12.1	6
Florida	9.40	9	15.4	7	10.8	6
Georgia	7.30	7	17.2	8	18.3	8
Hawaii	4.20	3	7.7	1	10.6	6
Illinois	6.50	6	13.5	5	8.5	5
Indiana	5.90	4	15.7	7	7.7	5
Iowa	3.60	2	9.6	2	5.8	4
Kansas-Nebraska	3.79	2	11.2	4	5.2	4
Kentucky	6.90	6	18.8	9	18.7	8
Louisiana	8.00	8	19.0	9	19.6	9
Maryland	6.45	5	8.9	2	9.8	5
Michigan	8.50	8	14.1	6	7.4	4
Minnesota-Wisconsin	4.61	3	11.3	4	6.1	4
Mississippi	9.20	9	23.7	10	20.7	10
Missouri	6.20	5	14.8	6	9.2	5
Montana	6.00	5	15.4	7	5.6	4
Nevada	6.80	6	11.4	4	4.8	3
New England	7.45	7	10.4	3	8.1	5
New Mexico	6.80	6	22.4	10	11.9	6
New York	8.36	8	14.3	6	9.7	5
North Carolina	5.80	4	14.5	6	19.6	9
Northwest	6.45	5	11.0	3	4.9	3
Ohio	6.90	6	13.4	5	7.4	4
Oklahoma	6.20	5	17.0	8	10.7	6
Penn.-S. Jersey	7.89	7	10.7	3	8.6	5
South Carolina	6.10	5	16.4	7	20.7	10
Tennessee	6.20	5	15.5	7	17.8	8
Texas	6.70	6	17.5	8	15.6	7
Utah-Idaho	5.45	4	13.3	5	4.5	3
Virginia	6.10	5	9.9	2	18.0	8
West Virginia	11.00	10	17.9	8	4.7	3
Wyoming	4.40	3	9.9	2	4.2	3

TABLE 4 (continued)

Convention	Percent of Pop Age 65+	Assigned Value 10	Non-Anglo Population as a Percent of Total 1990	Assigned Value 11	Ministry Index
Alabama	12.94	6	26.74	6	6.40
Alaska	4.07	1	26.06	6	5.00
Arizona	13.06	7	28.35	6	6.40
Arkansas	14.89	8	17.77	4	5.60
California	10.54	4	42.78	8	6.30
Colorado	10.00	4	19.29	4	4.30
Dakotas	14.49	8	7.37	2	3.70
District of Columbia	12.83	6	72.63	10	7.80
Florida	18.31	10	26.76	6	7.40
Georgia	10.10	4	29.87	6	6.40
Hawaii	11.28	5	68.63	10	5.00
Illinois	12.57	6	25.20	6	5.50
Indiana	12.56	6	10.44	3	4.50
Iowa	15.35	9	4.07	1	3.50
Kansas-Nebraska	13.95	7	9.99	2	3.80
Kentucky	12.67	6	8.34	2	4.70
Louisiana	11.11	5	34.22	7	6.10
Maryland	10.98	4	29.25	6	5.60
Michigan	11.92	5	17.70	4	4.90
Minnesota-Wisconsin	12.93	6	7.56	2	3.90
Mississippi	12.49	6	36.88	7	6.10
Missouri	14.03	8	13.07	3	5.20
Montana	13.33	7	8.16	2	4.10
Nevada	10.62	4	21.26	5	5.70
New England	13.40	7	10.91	3	4.50
New Mexico	10.76	4	49.56	8	6.50
New York	13.18	7	29.90	6	6.00
North Carolina	12.13	6	25.01	6	6.20
Northwest	12.54	6	11.77	3	4.60
Ohio	12.97	6	12.93	3	4.30
Oklahoma	13.49	7	19.01	4	5.30
Penn.-S. Jersey	14.89	8	15.66	4	4.70
South Carolina	11.38	5	31.45	7	6.70
Tennessee	12.69	6	17.42	4	5.90
Texas	10.11	4	39.41	7	5.70
Utah-Idaho	9.94	3	8.41	2	3.30
Virginia	10.74	4	24.01	5	5.00
West Virginia	14.99	8	4.16	1	4.30
Wyoming	10.40	4	9.01	2	3.10

**TABLE 5**  
**Strength Index**

Convention	1993		1993		Total Money *		Strength Index
	Churches	Assign Value 1	Members	Assign Value 2	for State Work	Assign Value 3	
Dakotas	69	10	8,556	10	175,603	10	10.0
New York	220	7	23,352	9	515,569	10	9.0
Penn/S.J.	160	8	26,681	8	913,486	10	9.0
Utah-Idaho	94	9	20,552	9	699,099	10	9.5
Nevada	85	9	26,945	8	1,599,942	9	8.8
New England	173	8	20,556	9	2,165,851	8	8.3
Montana	90	9	10,475	10	924,688	10	9.8
District of Columbia	66	10	24,964	9	1,417,867	9	9.3
Iowa	63	10	11,243	10	1,403,344	9	9.5
Arizona	282	7	130,539	6	4,442,122	6	6.3
Alaska	62	10	24,602	9	1,512,457	9	9.3
Wyoming	67	10	15,182	10	1,138,435	9	9.5
Northwest	338	6	81,399	7	4,273,331	6	6.3
Colorado	206	7	67,652	7	2,136,875	8	7.5
Michigan	254	7	50,382	7	3,982,290	7	7.0
Hawaii	64	10	16,126	10	2,729,589	8	9.0
West Virginia	132	8	33,368	8	1,218,617	9	8.5
Kansas-Nebraska	270	7	88,583	7	4,275,068	6	6.5
Minnesota-Wisconsin	92	9	14,554	10	1,560,626	9	9.3
California	1139	5	404,038	5	12,397,539	4	4.5
Maryland/Delaware	305	6	99,550	7	4,915,160	6	6.3
New Mexico	271	7	113,035	6	4,255,902	6	6.3
Indiana	320	6	98,479	7	3,328,849	7	6.8
Oklahoma	1496	5	780,675	3	27,785,254	3	3.5
Florida	1809	4	992,697	3	34,916,448	2	2.8
Illinois	941	6	240,498	5	8,529,405	5	5.3
Ohio	506	6	153,343	6	7,458,146	5	5.5
Louisiana	1361	5	598,223	4	23,980,464	3	3.8
Georgia	3092	2	1,287,237	2	49,498,619	2	2.0
North Carolina	3554	2	1,200,711	2	31,949,897	2	2.0
Virginia	1531	5	608,512	4	18,625,292	4	4.3
Alabama	3079	2	1,069,758	2	25,391,379	3	2.5
Missouri	1861	4	637,328	4	19,303,794	4	4.0
South Carolina	1799	4	726,572	3	28,534,582	3	3.3
Arkansas	1313	5	507,182	4	15,203,379	4	4.3
Tennessee	2836	3	1,108,739	2	26,286,444	3	2.8
Kentucky	2297	3	774,082	3	20,131,105	3	3.0
Mississippi	1994	4	693,293	4	28,329,501	3	3.5
Texas	4435	1	2,609,599	1	62,329,172	1	1.0

Source: 1993 Uniform Church Letter data, Sunday School Board; compiled by the Research Division, Home Mission Board

@ Note: Total Money for State Work = Cooperative Program Undesignated Received by State Convention – Cooperative Program Funds sent to the SBC Executive Committee + Funds Designated for State Causes + State Missions Offerings.

**TABLE 6**  
**The Priority Index and**  
**Strength Index Combined**

Convention	Combined Strength and Priority Index
New York	8.8
Penn/S.J.	8.0
New England	7.9
Utah-Idaho	7.9
Nevada	7.7
Minnesota-Wisconsin	7.6
Hawaii	7.3
District of Columbia	7.2
Montana	7.1
Alaska	7.0
Michigan	6.8
Iowa	6.8
California	6.7
Wyoming	6.7
Dakotas	6.6
Northwest	6.5
Colorado	6.5
Arizona	6.4
Maryland/Delaware	6.3
West Virginia	6.3
Ohio	6.1
Illinois	6.0
Indiana	6.0
New Mexico	5.7
Kansas-Nebraska	5.5
Florida	5.3
Virginia	4.9
Missouri	4.4
Louisiana	4.3
Arkansas	3.9
Texas	3.7
South Carolina	3.7
Kentucky	3.5
Mississippi	3.5
Georgia	3.4
Oklahoma	3.4
Tennessee	3.4
North Carolina	3.3
Alabama	3.0

FIGURE 1

Comparison of Priority and Strength

