I moved here to get away from people like you.
1976 Politics Before the Sort
Presidential election results by county,
Jimmy Carter vs. Gerald Ford

- Competitive counties (margin less than 20 percentage points)
- Republican landslide counties (Ford won by 20 percentage points or more)
- Democratic landslide counties (Carter won by 20 percentage points or more)
2004
Politics After the Sort

Presidential election results by county,
John Kerry vs. George W. Bush

- Competitive counties (margin less than 20 percentage points)
- Republican landslide counties (Bush won by 20 percentage points or more)
- Democratic landslide counties (Kerry won by 20 percentage points or more)
2008
The Sort Continues
Presidential Election Results by County,
Barrack Obama vs. John McCain

- Competitive counties (margin less than 20 percentage points)
- Republican landslide counties (McCain won by 20 percentage points or more)
- Democratic landslide counties (Obama won by 20 percentage points or more)

(Democratic and Republican votes only)
2008: Political Divide Widens

Communities Continue to 'Sort' Politically in Obama/McCain Election

Chart shows standard deviation of Republican vote in nation's 3114 counties, weighted by population, in all Presidential elections since 1948.
THE MIGRATION OF COLLEGE GRADUATES
Since 1970, college graduates have flocked to select American cities.

College graduates in each county, compared with the national average (per 100 residents)

-20 -10 +10 +39

Within four graduates of the national average

1970
National average = 11 college graduates per 100 residents
B.A. Degrees and the Vote

The Greater the Democratic Margin in 2008, the Higher the Percentage With a College Degree

- Democratic Landslides > 20%: 32.7%
- Democratic Competitive < 20%: 28.2%
- Republican Competitive < 20%: 24.3%
- Republican Landslide > 20%: 20.4%
Democrats Like 'Em Big

Republicans are Strongest in Small Counties; Democrats Win Landslides in Metros

Average County Population

Democrat Landslide > 20%: 278,601
Democrat Competitive < 20%: 169,638
Republican Competitive < 20%: 76,608
Republican Landslide > 20%: 37,475
The Big (Income) Sort

Since 2004, richer migrants move to more Democratic counties; Republican counties collect poorer voters.

Source: IRS/Robert Cushing
Counties Where a Different Party Won This Time
2008 Presidential Election

- **Republican**
  - Rural Counties: 34 Counties
  - Exurban Counties: 10 Counties
  - Urban Counties: 1 County

- **Democratic**
  - Rural Counties: 177 Counties
  - Exurban Counties: 39 Counties
  - Urban Counties: 111 County

County elections data not used in Alaska
How About the Flippers?
Migrants to counties flipping Democratic earned 50% more than those moving to places flipping Republican

Average Personal Income of state-to-state migrants 2003-07

- Those moving into counties that voted for Bush in '04 and Obama in '08: $24,872
- Those moving into counties that voted for Kerry in '04 and McCain in '08: $16,500

Source: IRS/Robert Cushing
Figure 1.1
Bush Vote as a Function of Willingness to Physically Discipline Children, By State
Trust in Government: 1964-2004

Trust Peaked in 1965, the Year Congress Passed Medicare

The American National Election Studies' Trust in Government Index