

**Baseball and politics are data-driven.** 

# Nate Silver

□ A math genius and celebrated baseball statistician whose uncannily accurate presidential election forecasts have shaken up the world of political polling. □

Nate Silver has been called a "spreadsheet psychic" and "number-crunching prodigy" by *New York Magazine*. Nate comes out of the world of baseball statistics, but during the 2008 presidential election primaries, he turned his sights and his amazing predictive abilities and forecasting models to the game of politics and current events - with incredible results.

Founder, FiveThirtyEight.com; Analyst, Baseball Prospectus; Author.



Ahead of the Cueign Bureau

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Founder, FiveThirtyEight.com.

## Highlights

Nate Silver began by predicting 2008 primary election results with stunning accuracy – and often in opposition to the better-known political pollsters. He then moved on to the general election, where he correctly predicted the presidential winner in 49 states and the District of Columbia.

As *Newsweek* put it at the time: "an all star in the world of baseball stats, may be the political arena's next big draw." *Newsweek* was right.

#### PECOTA

Nate originally gained his reputation as a baseball statistical analyst, where his mathematical models have been accurately forecasting baseball outcomes for years. He has received wide acclaim for his famous PECOTA (Player Empirical Comparison and Optimization Test Algorithm) system for predicting player performance, career development, and seasonal winners and losers.

### **Books**

Nate is a prolific writer and has co-authored a fascinating series of books that unlock the secrets of baseball through statistical analysis and forecasting -

- Baseball Prospectus (annual publication since 2003)
- Mind Game: How the Boston Red Sox Got Smart, Won a World Series, and Created a New Blueprint for Winning
- Baseball Between the Numbers
- It Ain't Over 'til It's Over: The Baseball Prospectus Pennant Race Book

Nate has been a contributor to *ESPN.com, Sports Illustrated, Slate, New York Sun, New York Times.* His work has been reported in such publications as the *New York Times, Newsweek, Huffington Post,* and *Vanity Fair,* to name just a few.



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#### FiveThirtyEight.com

Nate's award winning political website is <u>FiveThirtyEight.com</u>. The name comes from the total number of votes in the electoral college. On the website, he crunches data, statistical studies, polls, election results, demographics, and voting patterns to publish a running forecast of a wide variety of current events, including the UK elections, the US midterm elections, health care passage, immigration issues, and more.

### Honors

Accuracy of his predictions have brought him acclaim throughout the world. He has been honored as -

- One of the World's 100 Most Influential People, 2009, Time
- Blogger of the Year, *The Week*
- Rolling Stone 100: Agents of Change, by *Rolling Stone*
- FiveThirtyEight.com for Best Political Coverage, 2008 Weblog Awards

## Credentials

- Founder, <u>FiveThirtyEight.com</u>
- Managing Partner, Baseball Prospectus
- Economic Consultant, KPMG, Chicago
- □ BA, Economics, University of Chicago