



DENISE W. MERRILL
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT



Connecticut Election Project

Election Math Webinar

August 16, 2012

Presenters

David Dippolino



Ken Keller



Agenda

- Introduction
- The Electoral College
- Voter Turnout
- *Break for Q & A*
- Polling
- Redistricting
- *Break for Q & A*
- Election Night Reporting
- *Break for Q & A*
- Next steps

Secretary of the State's Web site

<http://www.sots.ct.gov/sots/cwp/view.asp?a=3&Q=415810&sotsNav=|>

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Home

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Press Releases

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BUSINESS SERVICES

ELECTIONS AND VOTING

STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY

AGENCY RESOURCES

USEFUL LINKS

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Election Results

[Election Results](#) (*Current and Archive*)

[Calendars](#) (*Current and Archive*)

[List of Candidates](#) (*Current and Archive*)

[Ballots](#) (*Current and Archive*)

[Statement of Vote](#) (*Current and Archive*)

[Questions on the Ballot](#) (*Current and Archive*)

[Where do I vote?](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Voter Information

[Registration Deadlines](#)

[Register to Vote](#) (*Voter Registration Application in English and Spanish*)

Elections Information

[Calendars](#) (*Current and Archive*)

[Bill Tracking Link to Connecticut General Assembly](#)

[Election Laws and Advisory Opinions](#)

[Political Parties](#)

[Where do I vote?](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Election Officials

[Calendars](#) (*Current and Archive*)

[Offices to be Filled at a State Election](#) (*ED-101 Acrobat fillable form*)

Candidate Information

[Calendars](#) (*Current and Archive*)

[Instructions and Application for Nominating Petitions](#)

[Write-In Candidate](#)

[Link to Connecticut General Statutes](#)

[Campaign Finance](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

General Information

[What is Legislation and Elections Administration Division \(LEAD\)?](#)

[Central Voter Registration Database](#)

Electoral College

National Archives: <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/>

Why do we have the Electoral College?

The founding fathers established the Electoral College in the Constitution as a compromise between election of the President by a vote in Congress and election of the President by a popular vote of qualified citizens. However, the term “electoral college” does not appear in the Constitution. Article II of the Constitution and the 12th Amendment refer to “electors,” but not to the “electoral college.”

Since the Electoral College process is part of the original design of the U.S. Constitution it would be necessary to pass a Constitutional amendment to change this system.

<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/faq.html#whyec>

Electing a U.S. President in plain English ☺ Great teaching resource, less than 4 min.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ok_VQ8I7g6I&feature=fvwrel

Electoral College

The Pro's and Con's of the Electoral College System

http://uselectionatlas.org/INFORMATION/INFORMATION/electcollege_procon.php

There have, in its 200 year history, been a number of critics and proposed reforms to the Electoral College system - most of them trying to eliminate it. But there are also staunch defenders of the Electoral College who, though perhaps less vocal than its critics, offer very powerful arguments in its favor.

Arguments Against the Electoral College

Those who object to the Electoral College system and favor a direct popular election of the president generally do so on four grounds:

- the possibility of electing a minority president
- the risk of so-called "faithless" Electors,
- the possible role of the Electoral College in depressing voter turnout, and
- its failure to accurately reflect the national popular will.

Electoral College

Arguments for the Electoral College

Proponents of the Electoral College system normally defend it on the philosophical grounds that it: contributes to the cohesiveness of the country by requiring a distribution of popular support to be elected president

- enhances the status of minority interests,
- contributes to the political stability of the nation by encouraging a two-party system, and
- maintains a federal system of government and representation.

Electoral College

What happens if no presidential candidate gets 270 Electoral votes?

If no candidate receives a majority of Electoral votes, the House of Representatives elects the President from the 3 Presidential candidates who received the most Electoral votes. Each state delegation has one vote. The Senate would elect the Vice President from the 2 Vice Presidential candidates with the most Electoral votes. Each Senator would cast one vote for Vice President. If the House of Representatives fails to elect a President by Inauguration Day, the Vice-President Elect serves as acting President until the deadlock is resolved in the House.

Electoral College

What would happen if two candidates tied in a state's popular vote, or if there was a dispute as to the winner?

A tie is a statistically remote possibility even in smaller states. But if a state's popular vote were to come out as a tie between candidates, state law would govern as to what procedure would be followed in breaking the tie. A tie would not be known of until late November or early December, after a recount and after the Secretary of State had certified the election results. Federal law would allow a state to hold a run-off election.

A very close finish could also result in a run-off election or legal action to decide the winner. Under Federal law (3 U.S.C. section 5), state law governs on this issue, and would be conclusive in determining the selection of Electors. The law provides that if states have laws to determine controversies or contests as to the selection of Electors, those determinations must be completed six days prior to the day the Electors meet.

Electoral College

Teacher Resources:

How the Electoral College Works

http://nationalatlas.net/articles/government/a_electoralC.html

Election 2012 – NY Times

<http://elections.nytimes.com/2012/electoral-map>

U.S. Election Atlas

<http://uselectionatlas.org/>

Election 2012 – Washington Post

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/special/politics/election-map-2012/president/>

Election 2012 – 270 to win

<http://www.270towin.com/>

Election 2012 – Real Clear Politics

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2012/president/2012_elections_electoral_college_map.html

Electoral College

Teacher Resources:

How the Electoral College Works

http://nationalatlas.net/articles/government/a_electoralC.html



nationalatlas.gov™
Where We Are

Electoral College

Election 2012 – NY Times

<http://elections.nytimes.com/2012/electoral-map>

A New York Times assessment of how states may vote, based on polling, previous election results and the political geography in each state.

Lesson Plans on teaching the election from the NY Times:

<http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/02/28/election-2012-teaching-ideas-and-resources/>

<http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/04/05/candidates-and-campaigns-analyzing-the-2012-presidential-field/>

The New York Times

Electoral College

U.S. Election Atlas

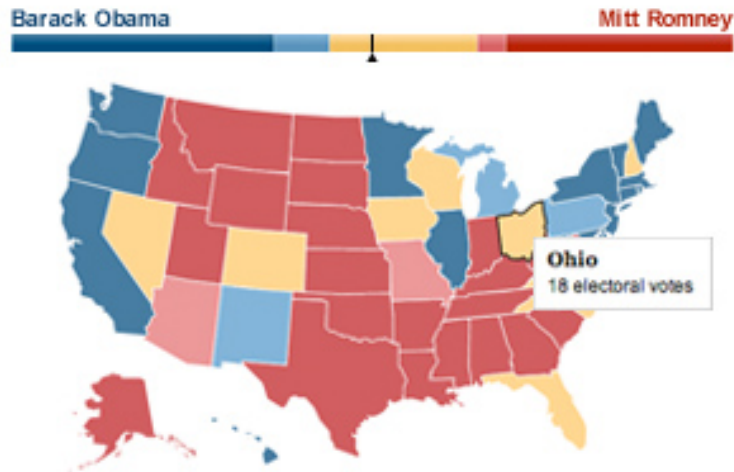
<http://uselectionatlas.org/>



Electoral College

Election 2012 – Washington Post

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/special/politics/election-map-2012/president/>



2012 Election Map: The Race for the Presidency

The presidential race will be decided in a few key states. Race, income and unemployment could impact the outcome.

Explore the swing states, the solid strongholds -
- and everything in between.

Electoral College

Election 2012 – 270 to win

<http://www.270towin.com/>



It takes 270 Electoral Votes to win the Presidential Election 2012 Interactive Electoral Map

First visit? Select a Starting View and an Electoral View. Click any state to start your personal 2012 election forecast. You can split ME and NE votes. As you modify a state, the total electoral vote counter will update. Been here before? If cookies are set, your map should be as you left it.

Share your Map: To share the exact map you create, click the 'Share Map' button and use the social media buttons that appear **BELOW** the map.

Electoral College

Election 2012 – Real Clear Politics

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2012/president/2012_elections_electoral_college_map.html



Great site for polling data on ALL state races as well 😊

Voting/Turnout

Why Don't Americans Vote?

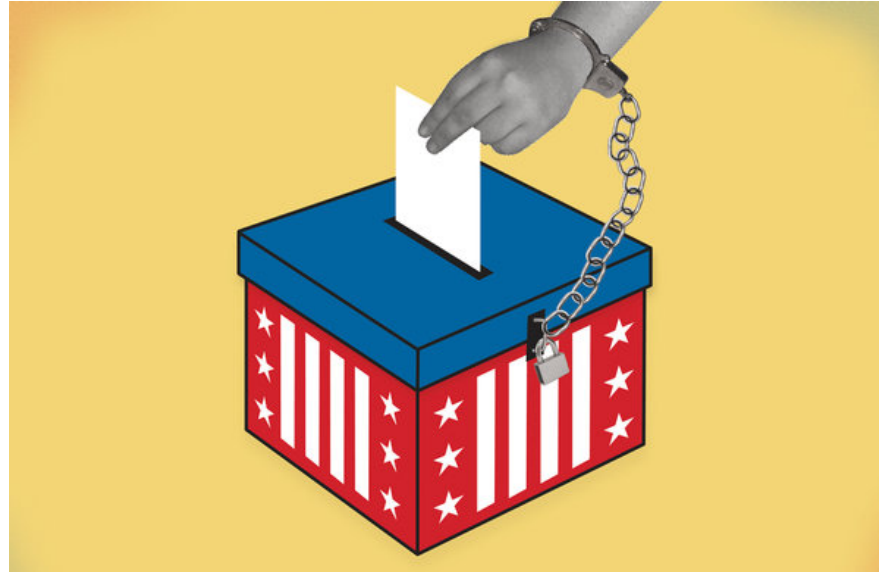
***Some possible reasons:**

- **Not understanding the political system.**
- **Not being registered to vote in spite of being eligible.**
- **Not being interested in politics.**
- **Not being taught from an early age that voting is important.**
- **Not feeling as though one vote will make a difference.**
- **Not being able to vote in spite of being eligible and registered.**

***Teachers should have their students brainstorm possible reasons, have associated discussion and then have them research voting patterns and associated regions/patterns in different regions of our country and/or in other countries before giving them this list 😊**



Voting/Turnout

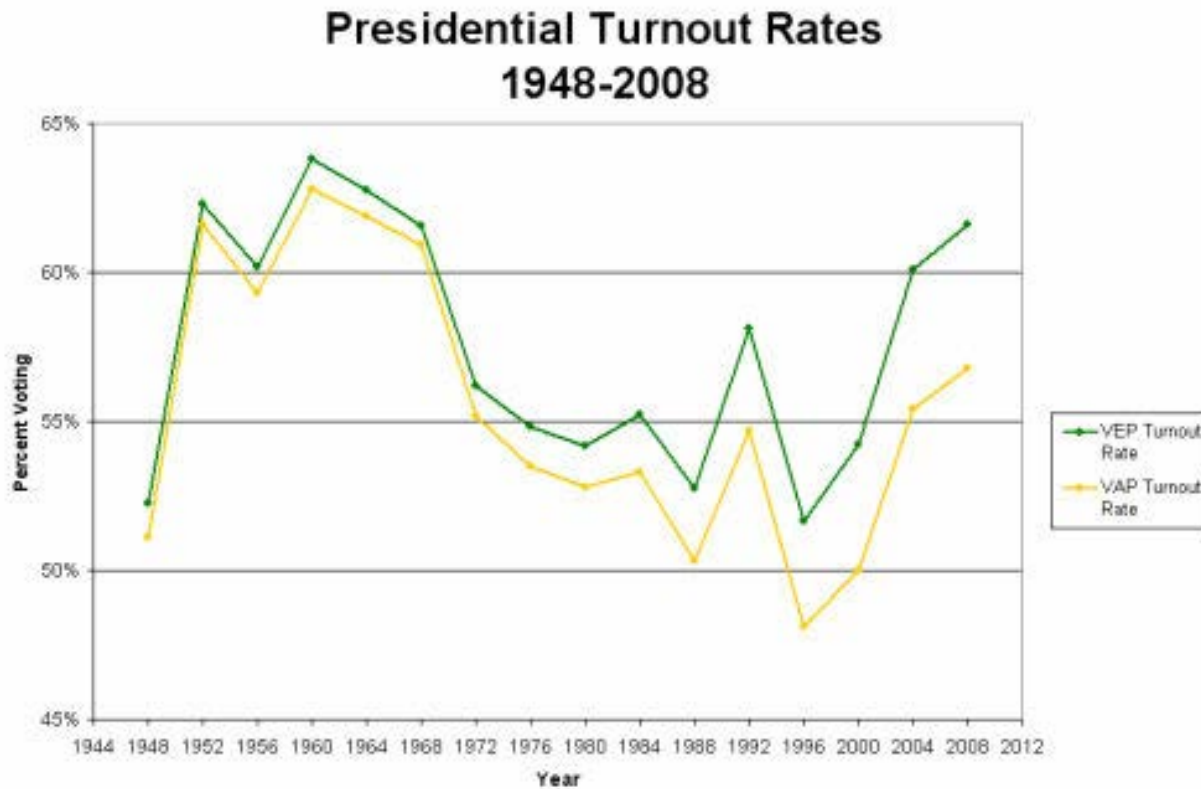


<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/06/opinion/sunday/telling-americans-to-vote-or-else.html>

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/08/01/us/voting-systems-plagues-go-far-beyond-identification.html?_r=1&hp

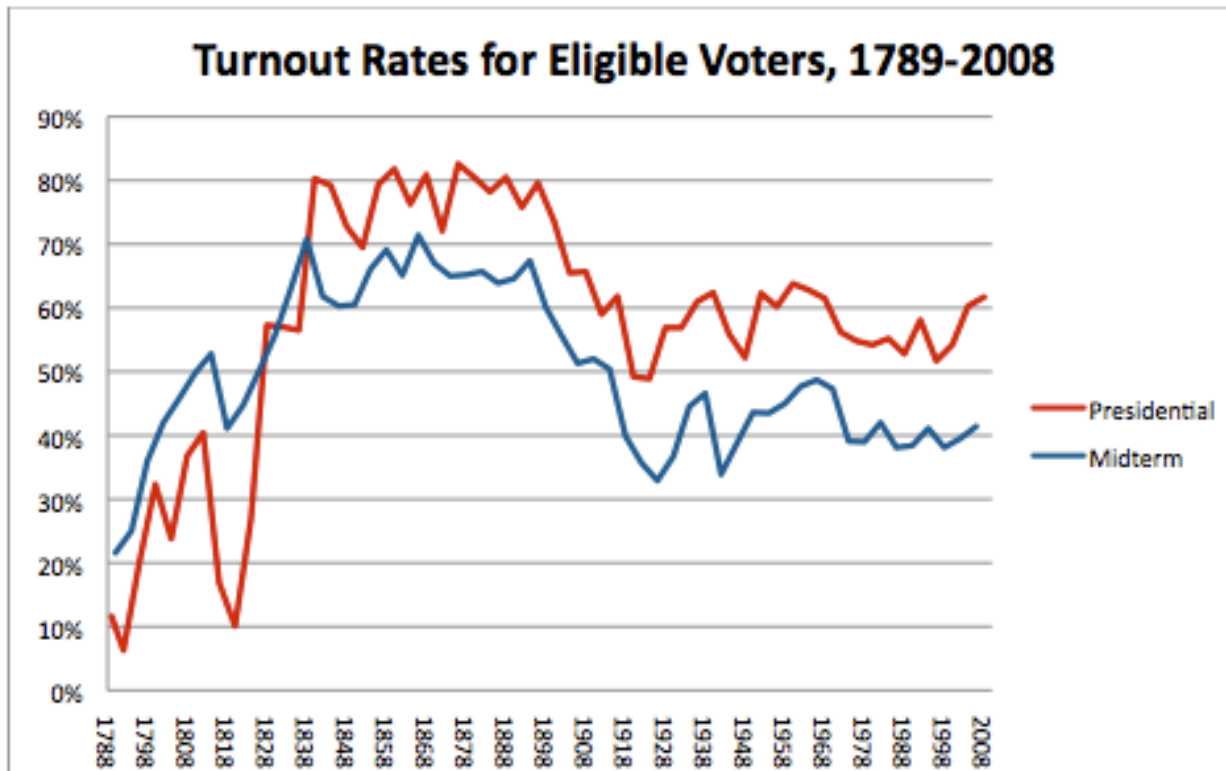
Two great pieces from the *NY Times* to have our students read and then discuss how we can get more Americans to come out and vote.

Voting/Turnout



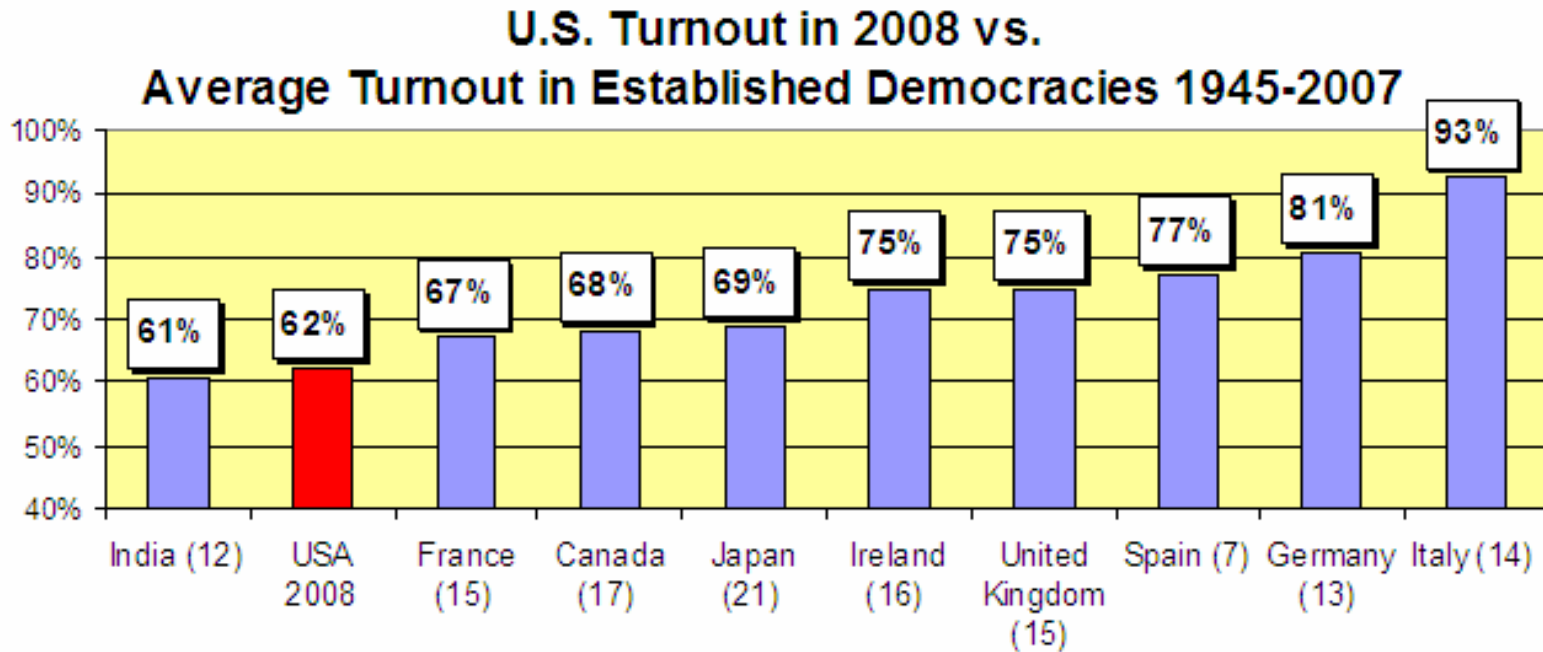
http://trace.tennessee.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2373&context=utk_chanhonoproj

Voting/Turnout



http://www.pollster.com/blogs/mcdonald_does_enthusiasm_porte.php?nr=1

Voting/Turnout

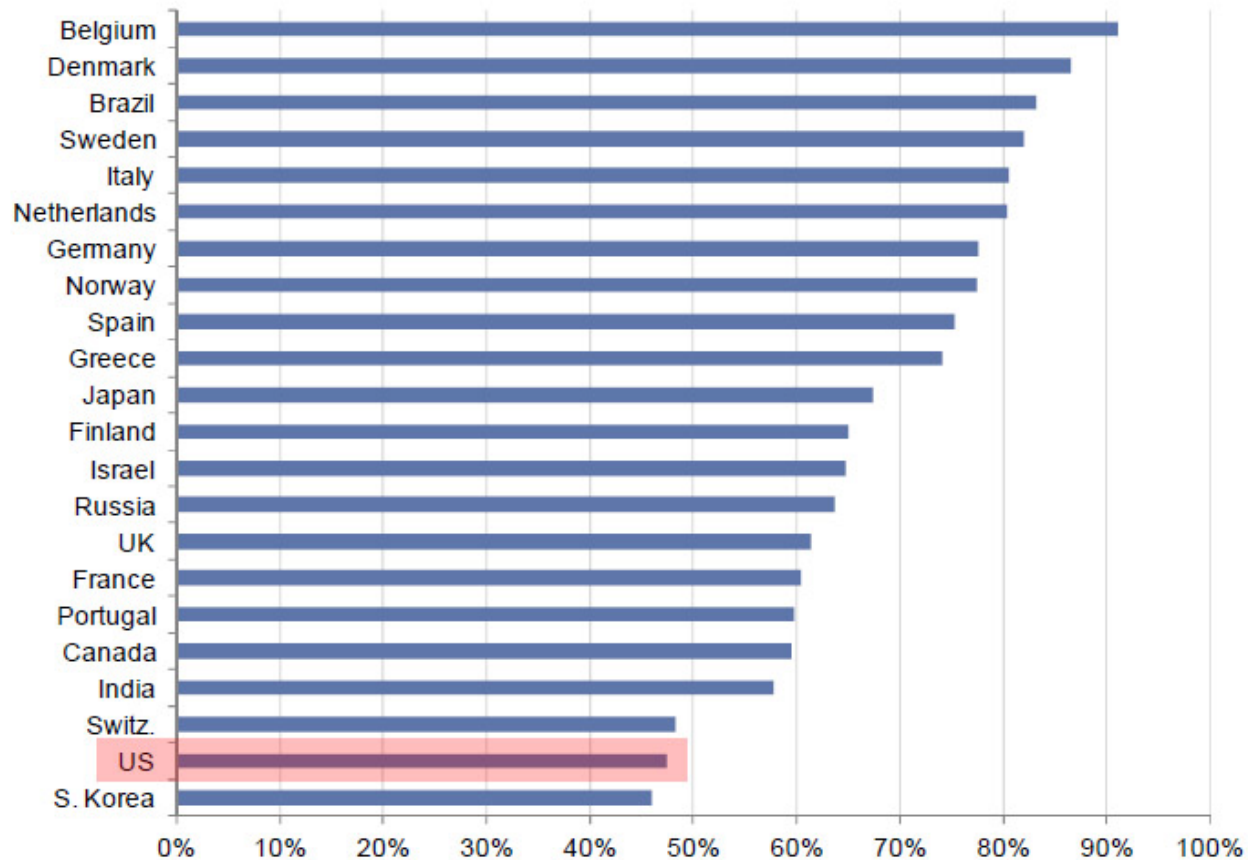


http://trace.tennessee.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2373&context=utk_chanhonoproj

Voting/Turnout

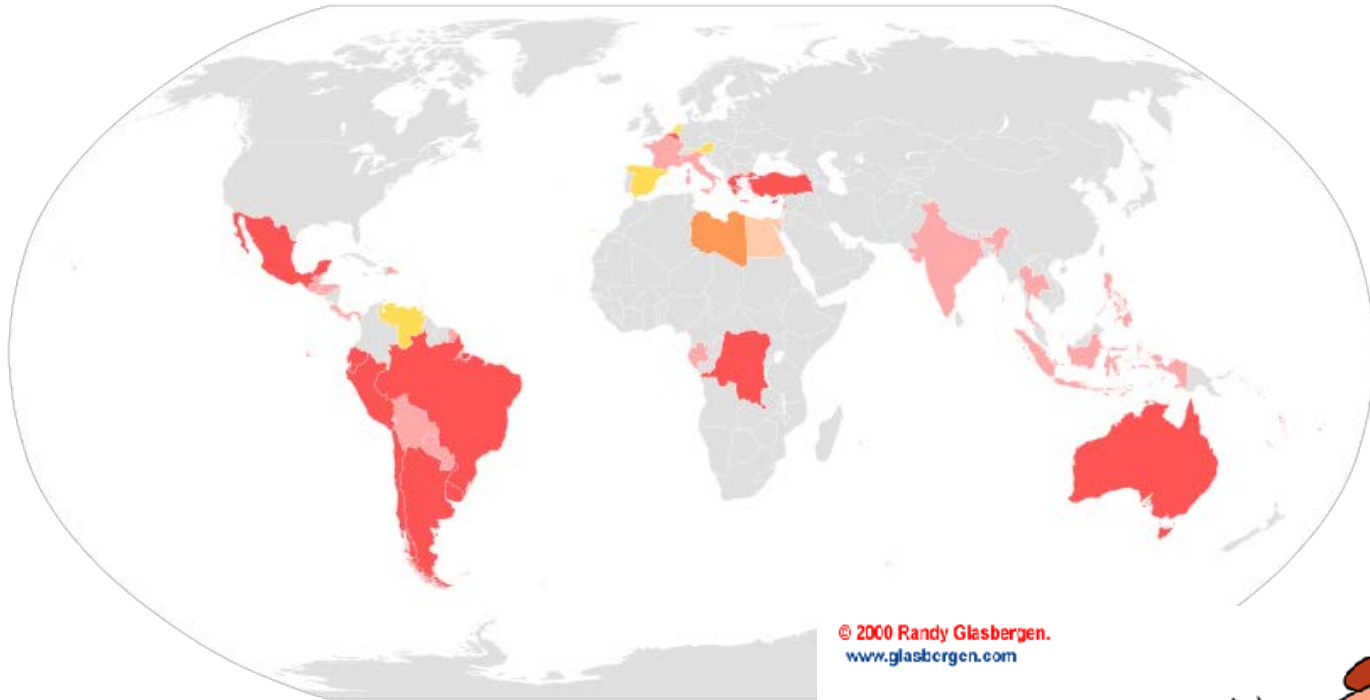
Who cares the most?

Voting turnout rates in the most recent election



Source: OECD, (2011 report).

Voting/Turnout



© 2000 Randy Glasbergen.
www.glasbergen.com

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compulsory_vote

- Compulsory voting, enforced.
- Compulsory voting, not enforced.
- Compulsory voting, enforced (only men).
- Compulsory voting, not enforced (only men).
- Historical: the country had compulsory voting in the past.



"I'M VOTING FOR THE GUY WITH THE COOLEST WEB SITE."

Voting/Turnout

Questions we need to ask our students, have them research, etc...:

- Is the turnout in the United States truly that poor?
- How bad is it in relation to other countries?
- Is it better in some U.S. states in relation to other U.S. states?
- What are the demographic characteristics for the average U.S. voter?
- What are the implications of low voter turnout?
- How do we increase turnout? Does Rock the Vote help?
- Why is U.S. turnout consider poor?
 - a.Voter registration laws
 - b.Frequency of elections
 - c.Voter attitudes
 - d.Relatively weak political parties or mistrust of political parties



Voting/Turnout

Turnout Rates Among Eligible Voters In The 2008 Election - by race/ethnicity and gender

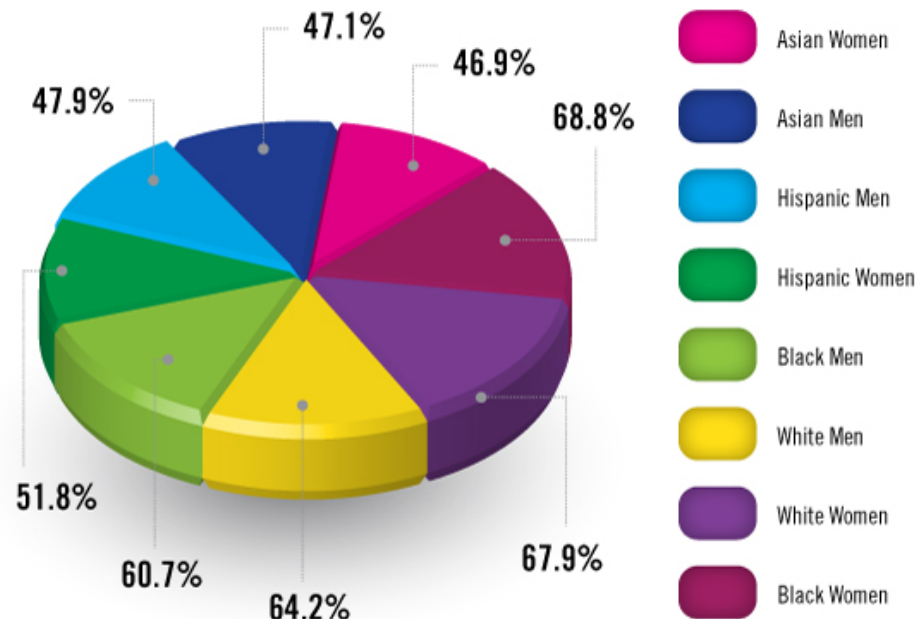


Chart by: The NorthStar News 6/30/2011

Source: PewResearchCenter

Voting/Turnout

2012 CT Republican Primary:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ClMG7eYQY74>

Short video clip from NBC 30 newscast.

No one is voting, is this a problem?



Polling

Overview of how polling is done

Public opinion polls would have less value in a democracy if the public -- the very people whose views the polls represent -- didn't have confidence in the results. This confidence does not come easily. The process of polling is often mysterious, particularly to those who don't see how the views of 1,000 people can represent those of hundreds of millions.

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/101872/how-does-gallup-polling-work.aspx>

Political polling techniques take many forms. Some polls ask individuals to fill out an online questionnaire, frequently providing money or a gift for volunteer subjects. Other polling questionnaires are sent via the U.S. mail and include a stamped envelope for the survey to be returned. Pollsters occasionally walk the streets in large cities asking people a few central questions. Other polls are commissioned by companies located in shopping malls. Telephone polling has been a favorite survey technique over the past two decades. Both mall and telephone political polling have declined sharply in the last year due to the reduction in landline telephones and a significant decline in mall shopping. Online polling has increased dramatically, notably in the 2008 national presidential election.

http://www.ehow.com/how-does_4927564_how-political-polls-done.html

Polling

Probability sampling is the fundamental basis for all survey research. The basic principle: If selected correctly, a randomly selected small sample, 1000 people, of a population *can* represent the attitudes, opinions, or projected behavior of all of the people from which the sample is obtained.

The fundamental goal of a survey is to come up with the same results that would have been obtained had every member of a population been interviewed. In the case of elections, the objective is to have the opinions of a sample of people represent the opinions that would have been obtained if it were possible to interview all adult Americans in the country.

The key to reaching this objective is a fundamental principle called *equal probability of selection*, which states that if every member of a population has an equal probability of being selected in a sample, then that sample will be representative of the population.

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/101872/how-does-gallup-polling-work.aspx>

Polling

How sample size and demographics are determined

The formula for determining the sample size needed to accurately reflect the opinions of a population is:

$$SS = \frac{Z^2 * (p) * (1 - p)}{c^2}$$

Z – value is 1.96 for a 95% confidence

p – percent picking a choice, expressed as a decimal, .5 used for sample size needed.

c – margin of error, as a decimal (e.g. .04 = $\pm 4\%$)

As you can see, the size of the population is irrelevant in choosing a sample size. This is why a sample of 1068 can represent the population of adults in the United States, which is approximately 250 million!

Polling

$$SS = \frac{1.96^2 * (.5) * (1 - 0.5)}{.03^2} = 1067.111$$

So a sample size of 1068 is sufficient for a 95% confidence and a margin of error of $\pm 3\%$. This is as long as the sample is chosen randomly from the population of all American adults registered to vote.

Polling

Selecting a Random Sample

To conduct a national opinion poll, choose a method by which all or most Americans have an equal or known likely chance to be selected. Of course, most Americans have a place of residence, making it immediately obvious that if it were possible to sample for a list of all residential addresses in the country, the principle of comprehensive sampling frame could be achieved.

With this in mind, interviewers conducted the earliest polls in person by selecting places of residences from all possible geographic areas within the country and then fanning out across the country knocking on Americans' doors. This was the standard method of interviewing for nearly 50 years, from about 1935 to the mid-1980s, and it was a demonstrably reliable method.

Gallup polls across the 12 presidential elections held between 1936 and 1984 were highly accurate, with the average error in Gallup's final estimate of the election being less than three percentage points.

Polling

It became obvious over time that household sampling with in-home interviewing had problems. For one thing, it was increasingly expensive. Americans became increasingly resistant to allowing interviewers to come into their homes to conduct surveys. And the need for rapidly gathered data made the in-home interview procedure less and less attractive.

For now, however, the vast majority of Gallup surveys intended to represent the national population are based on interviews conducted by landline and cell telephones. This method builds off of the central assumption that most Americans still either live in a residence with a telephone or own a personal cell phone. So, reaching people on their telephones is the starting place for current national surveys.

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/101872/how-does-gallup-polling-work.aspx>

Sometimes the politician wants to know the opinion of certain groups of people. For instance: women, 18 – 25 year olds, ethnic and minorities, or the elderly.

The same technics are used, except now the population is that particular group. Again, if a true random sample is selected, the results will be similar to that population.

Polling

What margin of error means

The *margin of error* is a measure of the accuracy of a sample proportion.

The *conservative margin of error* for a sample proportion is calculated by using the formula $\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$, where n represents the *sample size*. The amount by which the sample proportion differs from the true population proportion is less than this quantity in at least 95% of all random samples.

A *confidence interval* is an interval of values that *estimates* an unknown population value. Calculated as *sample percentage* \pm *margin of error*.

95% Confidence Interval for a Population Proportion

For about 95% of properly conducted sample surveys, the interval sample percentage $\pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$ will contain the actual population proportion.

Polling

In public opinion surveying, the margin of error refers to the expected range of variation in a poll, if it were to be conducted multiple times under the same procedures. This is not necessarily indicative of a true result, but establishes a statistical average within which most polls will line up. As an example, if a Democratic candidate has 47% in a poll and the Republican 45%, with a $\pm 4\%$ margin of error, the poll could potentially show the Democrat as high as 51% or as low as 43%, and the Republican ranging from 41%-49%, if the poll were repeated. In statistical terms, the margin of error is typically established for a 95% confidence interval, meaning that the officially listed variation will occur in 19 out of 20 times that a poll is conducted -- but also that in 1 of 20 cases, a pollster will produce a result that lies far outside the norm.

Polling

How polls are used by candidates' campaigns and by news media

“Statistics are no substitute for judgment”: [Henry Clay](#).

Most campaigns for high-profile offices employ professional pollsters. Many of the prominent polling firms that specialize in political campaigns are located in Washington, D.C., and New York City, but polling firms exist in most large cities. They are hired to perform polls that the *handler* (that is, the campaign consultant) and the candidate need and for which they can afford to pay.

If you get called for a poll, it's probably because your number came up at random. On the other hand, you may have been selected because you fit a certain profile. You may still have been selected at random, but from a small subgroup of the voting population.

Polling

For example, suppose that Harry Handler thinks a position taken by the opponent will anger women under the age of 50. Harry may believe that publicizing this position will lose the opponent votes among that age and gender group. He wants to test that theory before spending any resources getting the word out to voters. It's not worth spending the money if the opponent won't lose votes.

Your name may have been selected from among those who fit the profile of the interested subgroup — women under 50. The answers you give to the pollster's questions tell the handler whether or not to spend money getting the word out to other voters like you.

Other ways polls are used:

- **Getting people out to vote** – if a supported candidate, by the media, is behind in the polls the media may saturate the news with the information to get more people out to vote.
- Candidates will use opinion polls about certain demographics for speech writing, making people aware of their stands on issues and to try and get people out to vote.

Polling

Any campaign with sufficient money uses polls these days. The level of the office being sought doesn't matter — county and legislative candidates use polls, too.

Polling is advisable whenever an office involves policy or a campaign is going to be anything more than "I'm Carly Candidate; vote for me!" A well-run, well-funded candidate tests his message before he spends money communicating it.

Sometimes candidates for less visible offices pool their resources and poll together.

Sometimes party organizations pay some or all of the costs. Occasionally, special interest groups use polling to convince candidates or officials of the wisdom of supporting the special interest position on an issue. Special interest groups use polls to show candidates that their ideas are popular or that an issue they are opposing is unpopular.

<http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/understanding-the-role-of-polls-in-politics.html>

Polling

Impact of polls on campaigns

An attempt can be made to use polls to influence rather than to reflect public opinion. Polls can be manipulated to give a false picture of public opinion. Moreover, there is evidence that since polls are believed to be reliable and useful, the public could be misled by unreliable surveys.

What influence have they?

But the major polling organizations argue that the polls exert an influence on the public in much the same manner that any book, any set of facts, or discussion of public affairs does. Opinion surveys can, doubtless, help the public by stimulating discussion of current problems.

The public itself—if we are to judge by a poll on the subject—has a lot of confidence in opinion sampling. Asked if they think the polls “are a good thing or bad thing in our country,” 73 percent said, “a good thing,” while 21 percent admitted they didn’t know.

Polling

Impact of polls on campaigns

Many political scientists say they do—by exerting a subtle form of peer pressure. Experts speak of a so-called bandwagon effect, in which voters flock to the candidate with a healthy lead in the polls because they want to pick a winner. On the flip side, there's the underdog effect, when voters switch to the trailing candidate out of sympathy; that may have played a part in Hillary Clinton's surprise win in New Hampshire. Then there's the boomerang effect, when people are so sure that their favored candidate will win that they don't bother to vote. Historians say the boomerang effect helped President Truman defeat Thomas Dewey in 1948; with polls showing Dewey holding an insurmountable lead, many Republicans stayed home and Truman snatched an upset victory.

Polling

They certainly have a downside. Polls help turn elections into proverbial “horse races,” in which more attention is paid to who’s ahead or behind than to candidates’ leadership qualities and ideas. And when one candidate has a big lead close to the election, as Bill Clinton did against Bob Dole in 1996, voters can lose interest and stay home on Election Day. Only 49 percent of eligible voters showed up that year—the lowest turnout since 1924. The polls “dampened voters’ interest and participation by announcing that the presidential contest was really no contest at all,” said political scientist Everett Ladd. But pollsters say their work satisfies a natural curiosity about what other people are thinking, while helping to identify the priorities of the electorate. As for those who complain that polls are inaccurate, pollsters don’t take it personally. “People always think there’s something wrong with the polls,” said pollster Micheline Blum, “if they don’t agree with them.”

<http://theweek.com/article/index/33441/briefing-how-polls-work>

Polling

What to look for in determining what a poll says about the electorate

Pollsters of varying methods ultimately have one very public test: Election Day. Who is right – and how the electorate shapes up – will be indisputably clear.

Reputable outlets, like Gallup, have a track record of results. In its final pre-election polls in the 19 presidential contests since 1936, Gallup has incorrectly predicted just three: 1948, 1976, and 2004, in which the final Gallup survey showed a tie between George W. Bush, the winner, and the Democratic nominee John F. Kerry. It's worth noting that Gallup's pre-election poll in 2000 gave Mr. Bush the advantage over Democrat Al Gore, and while Bush ultimately won the election, Gore won the popular vote.

For Americans hoping to follow this season's polls on their own, experts say the source of a poll is the best place to start when determining veracity of numbers. When evaluating data, citizens seek out not just who conducted the survey, but also its field dates, who was sampled, and what questions were asked, and review the full questionnaire.



Redistricting

Teacher Resources:

U.S. Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov/rdo/pdf/StrengthInNumbers2010.pdf>

American Fact Finder

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?ref=top&refresh=t>

Redistricting in Connecticut

http://www.ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/Redistricting_in_Connecticut

The Redistricting Game

<http://www.redistrictinggame.org/>

All About Redistricting

<http://redistricting.lls.edu/where-state.php>

Redistricting

U.S. Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov/rdo/pdf/StrengthInNumbers2010.pdf>

Strength in Numbers Publication

Your Guide to Census 2010 Redistricting Data From the U.S. Census Bureau

According to the Constitution, the census has one fundamental purpose: to ensure that the representation of each state in the U.S. House of Representatives reflects the relative size of its population as compared with other states.

Voting districts—areas such as election districts, wards, or precincts identified by the states. They appear on separate voting district/state legislative district reference maps and on the county block maps. Voting district boundaries may coincide with boundaries of other areas, such as incorporated places, minor civil divisions, or census tracts, and they always follow a census block boundary.

Redistricting

American Fact Finder

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?ref=top&refresh=t>

Census Statistics for 2010: The American Factfinder

The screenshot shows the American Factfinder website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Main, Search, Feedback, FAQs, Glossary, Site Map, and Help. Below this is a section titled "Fast Access to Information" with a form to "Get a Fact Sheet for your community...". The form includes fields for "city/ town, county, or zip" and "state" (with a dropdown menu set to "-- select a state --"), and a "GO" button. There is also a link to "or select a state using a map >". To the left of the form is a small image of a group of people. Below the form is a section titled "Getting Detailed Data" with several links to various data products, including Decennial Census, American Community Survey, Puerto Rico Community Survey, Population Estimates Program, Economic Census, and Annual Economic Surveys. On the far left, there is a vertical navigation menu with categories like POPULATION FINDER, FACT SHEET, PEOPLE, HOUSING, BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT, ABOUT THE DATA, DATA SETS, DOWNLOAD CENTER, MAPS, TOOLS AND REFERENCES, and Address Search... At the bottom left, there are links for "Browser Notes" and "Confidentiality".

The American Factfinder (AFF) is a data-access system that gives users facts and information about communities, the economy, and society. The interactive electronic system allows data users access to predefined data products, metadata, and online help, as well as the ability to create custom data products online. This dissemination method allows for a quicker release of the detailed data users want. Users may access data and create their own reports.

The screenshot shows the "What's New" section of the American Factfinder website. It features a "GET EMAIL UPDATES" button. Below this is a "ROAD TOUR LAUNCH" banner for the "2010 Census" with the slogan "IT'S IN OUR HANDS". The text below the banner reads: "January 4th, 2010: Census Bureau Launches 2010 Census Road Tour across the nation!". There is a small image of a hand holding a pen over a document. Below this is a link to "2009 Population Estimates for counties and Puerto Rico municipios are now available from the Data Sets page". At the bottom, there is a link to "2009 Population Estimates for the U.S. and states are now available from the Data Sets page".

How to Use American Factfinder?

How do I find all the Census Tract Data in a Place?

Go to American Factfinder. <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>

The process to find all Census Tracts within a City, Town, or County Subdivision varies based on the dataset you are using as follows: (For the purpose of this example, we will use 2010 Census Datasets -- the process will be similar for Census 2000 datasets.)

Click on the Topics button on the left side of the Main or Search Page.

Click on the Geographies button located below Topics on the left side of the Main or Search Page.

Click on Census Tract and enter the tract number to get the specific data. If you do not know the census tract number you can use the following resource from the NY Times to help you ☺

Mapping America: Every City, Every Block

<http://projects.nytimes.com/census/2010/explorer?hp>



Redistricting

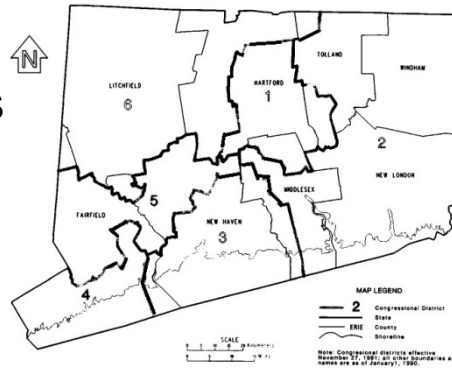
Redistricting in Connecticut

http://www.ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/Redistricting_in_Connecticut

The Connecticut General Assembly bears primary responsibility for redistricting. To this end, the legislature appoints a bipartisan committee tasked with drafting new maps. These maps are then presented to both chambers and require a 2/3 majority vote for approval. If the legislature cannot agree on a plan by the deadline (September 15 in this case), a nine-member redistricting commission is selected to complete the task. Minority and majority leaders in both chambers each appoint two members, and the eight appointees select a ninth, tie-breaking member. The commission, which does not require legislative approval, has until another deadline (November 30) to create new maps, or the Connecticut Supreme Court can intervene and complete the maps itself.

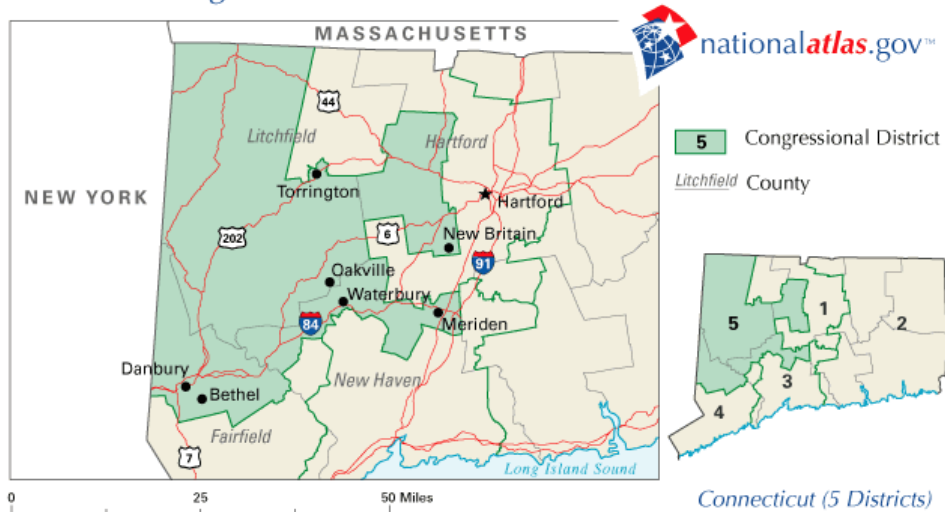
Connecticut's 5th and 6th District

Connecticut's
6 Congressional Districts
Circa 1997



<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CDIR-1997-06-04/pdf/CDIR-1997-06-04-STATEMAP-CT.pdf>

Congressional District 5



http://www.ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/Redistricting_in_Connecticut

Connecticut's 6th congressional district is an obsolete district. It was created for a short time beginning in 1837 from the State's At-Large District. It was eliminated after the 1840 Census. It was reestablished in 1965 after the At-Large District was eliminated due to the Voting Rights Act of that year. Finally, it was eliminated in 2003 after the 2000 Census. Its last Representative was Nancy Johnson who was redistricted into the fifth district. Prior to its elimination the Sixth District was the northwest Connecticut district, including Litchfield County, the Farmington Valley, and the more urban communities of Bristol, New Britain, Enfield and Southington.

The Redistricting Game

**A leader steps back from the entire system and tries to build a more collaborative, more innovative system to work over the long term.--
Robert Reich**

Have your students play. It's very cool 😊

<http://www.redistrictinggame.org/>

The Redistricting Game is not only fun to play, it's educational. It allows players to see how politicians use the redistricting process to select their voters, overwhelming the voters' right to choose their elected representatives."- Gerry Hebert, Executive Director Campaign Legal Center.

"A funny and insightful game that sheds light on redistricting and the complexity -- yet necessity -- of reform. Be prepared to be challenged in trying to win -- and challenged to consider how we all can win."- Rob Richie, Exec Director, FairVote.org

Redistricting – What the 50 states do?



All About Redistricting

<http://redistricting.lls.edu/where-state.php>

What is redistricting?

Redistricting is the way in which we adjust the districts that determine who represents us.

Most of our federal legislators, all of our state legislators, and many of our local legislators in towns and counties are elected from districts. These districts divide states and the people who live there into geographical territories. Districts are occasionally the same size as the whole jurisdiction: members of a local school board, for example, may each be elected from an area with the same boundaries as the overall school district that the board governs. Most of the time, though, district lines subdivide territory, so that there are several districts within one city or state, and representatives for each separate district. When that happens, we need some way to decide where the lines will be drawn.

Media's Impact – Election Night Returns

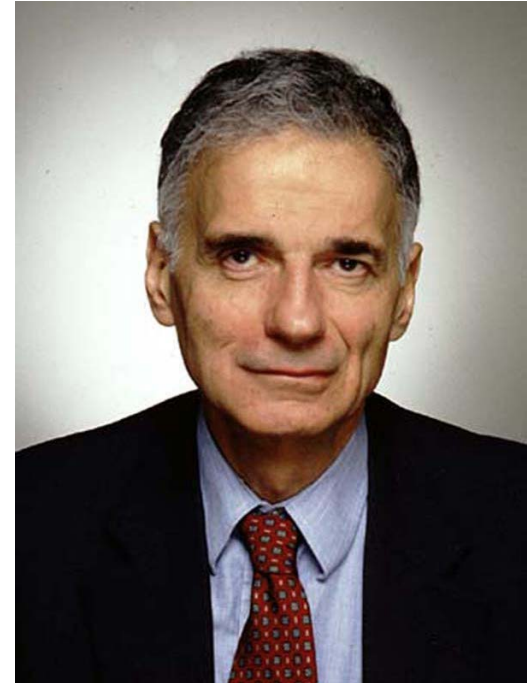
Election of 2000 – The Candidates:



George W. Bush (R)

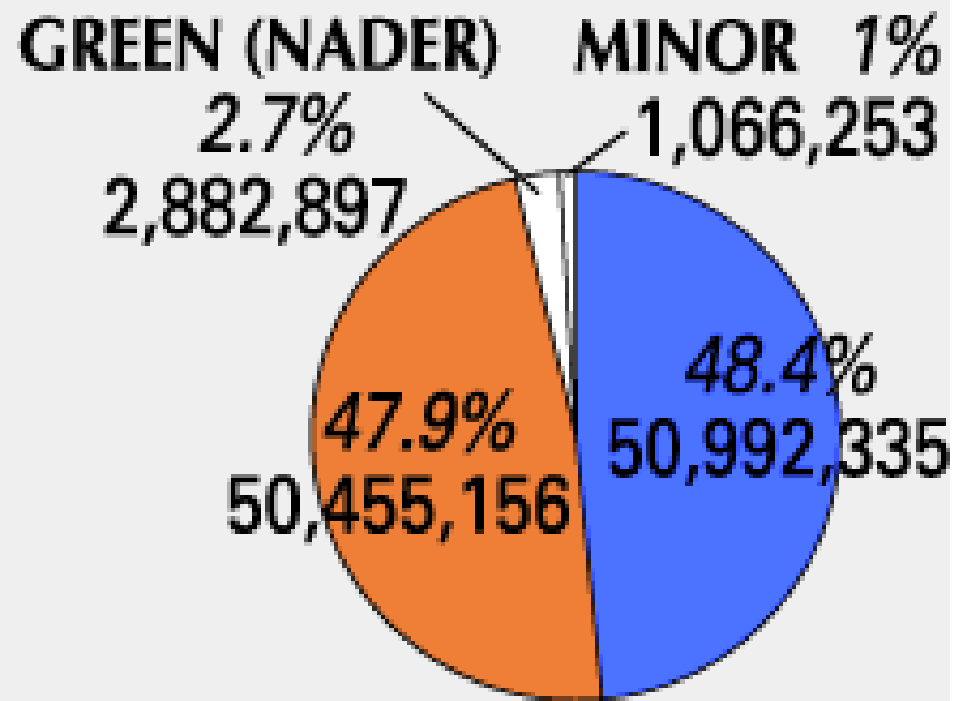


Al Gore (D)

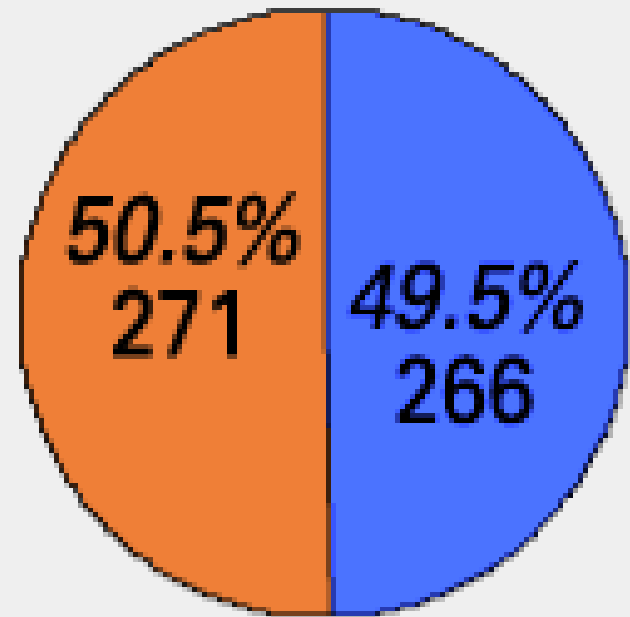


Ralph Nader (G)

· Republican George W. Bush beat Democratic challenger Al Gore in one of the closest elections in American history.

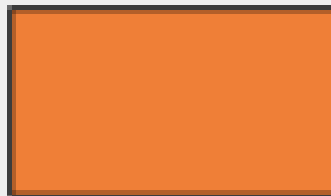


**POPULAR VOTE
TOTAL: 105,396,641**

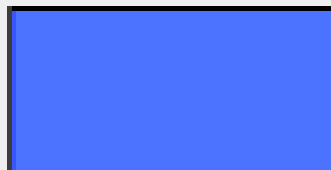


**ELECTORAL VOTE
TOTAL: 537
NOT VOTING: 1**

. Bush)



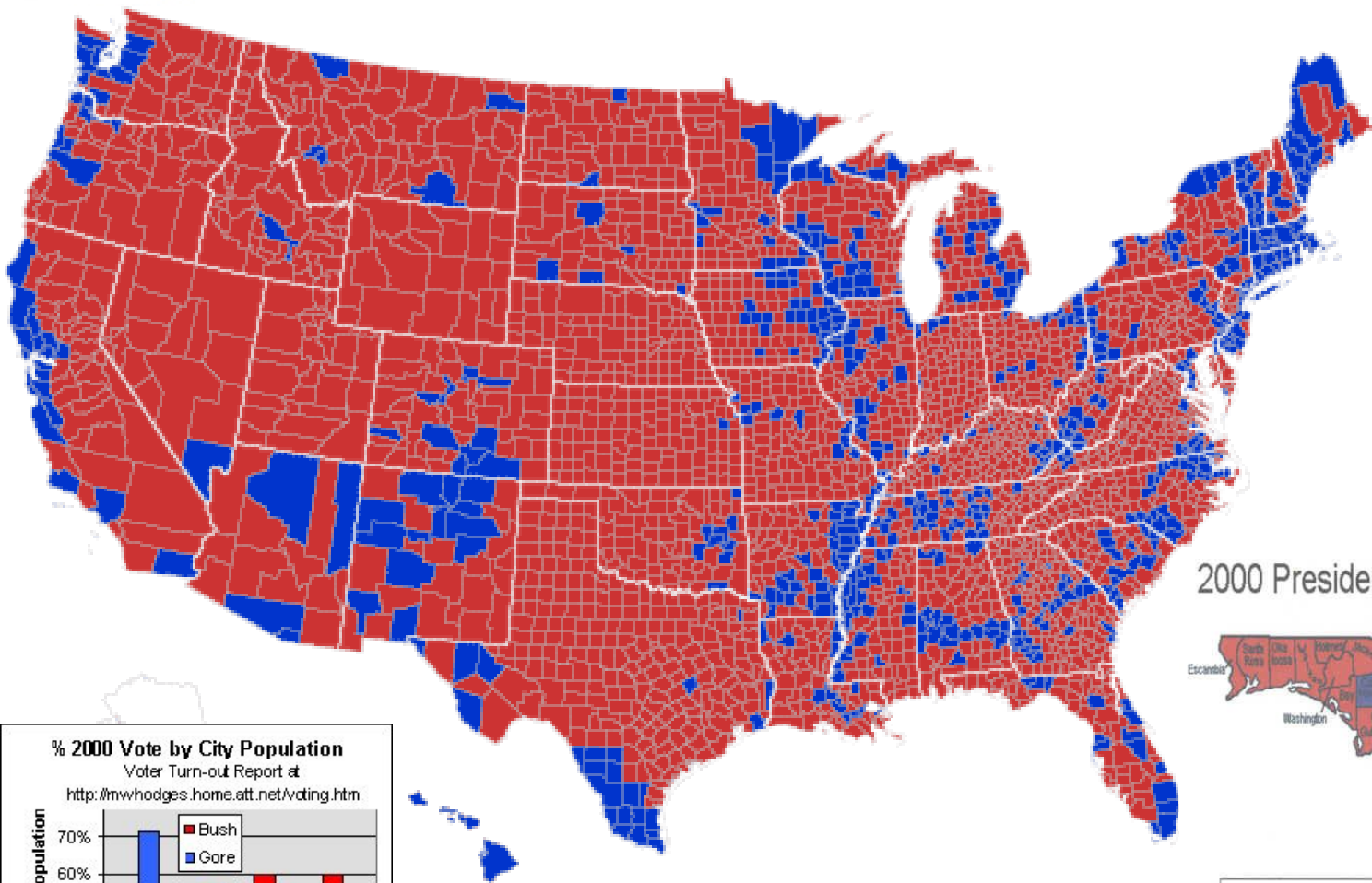
(Gore)



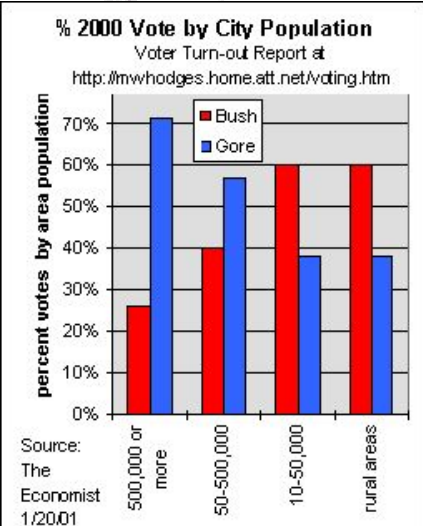
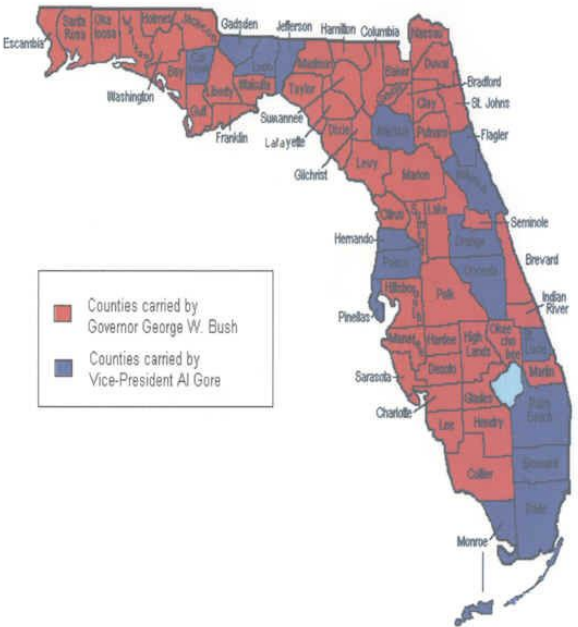
• Gore received more of the popular vote, but Bush received more of the electoral votes, winning the election.

2000 Election Results By County

■ Bush ■ Gore

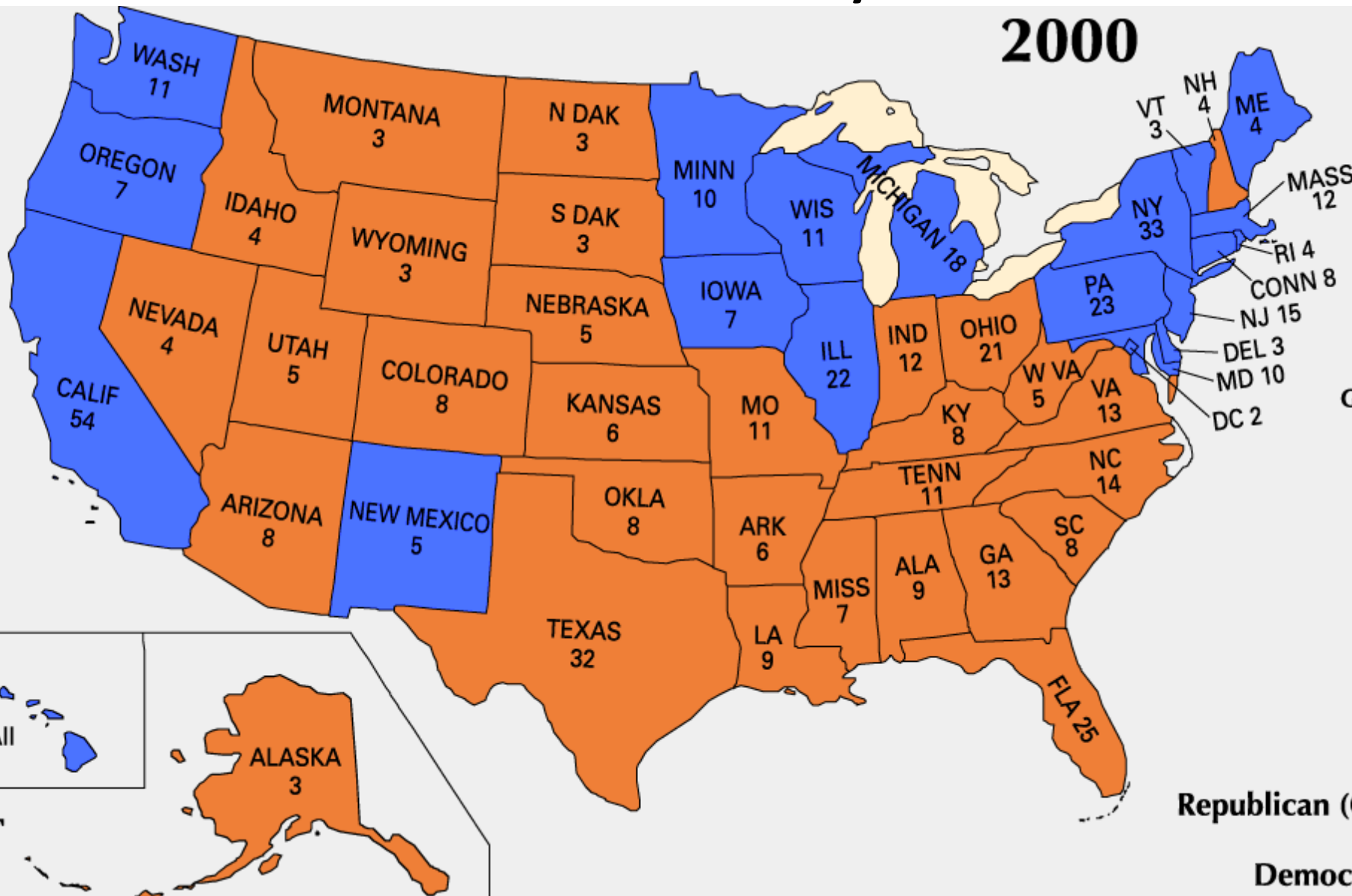


2000 Presidential Results By County



2000 Election – Results By State

2000



Republican (R)

Democrat (D)



George W. Bush (R)



Al Gore (D)

Media's impact on the 2000 election

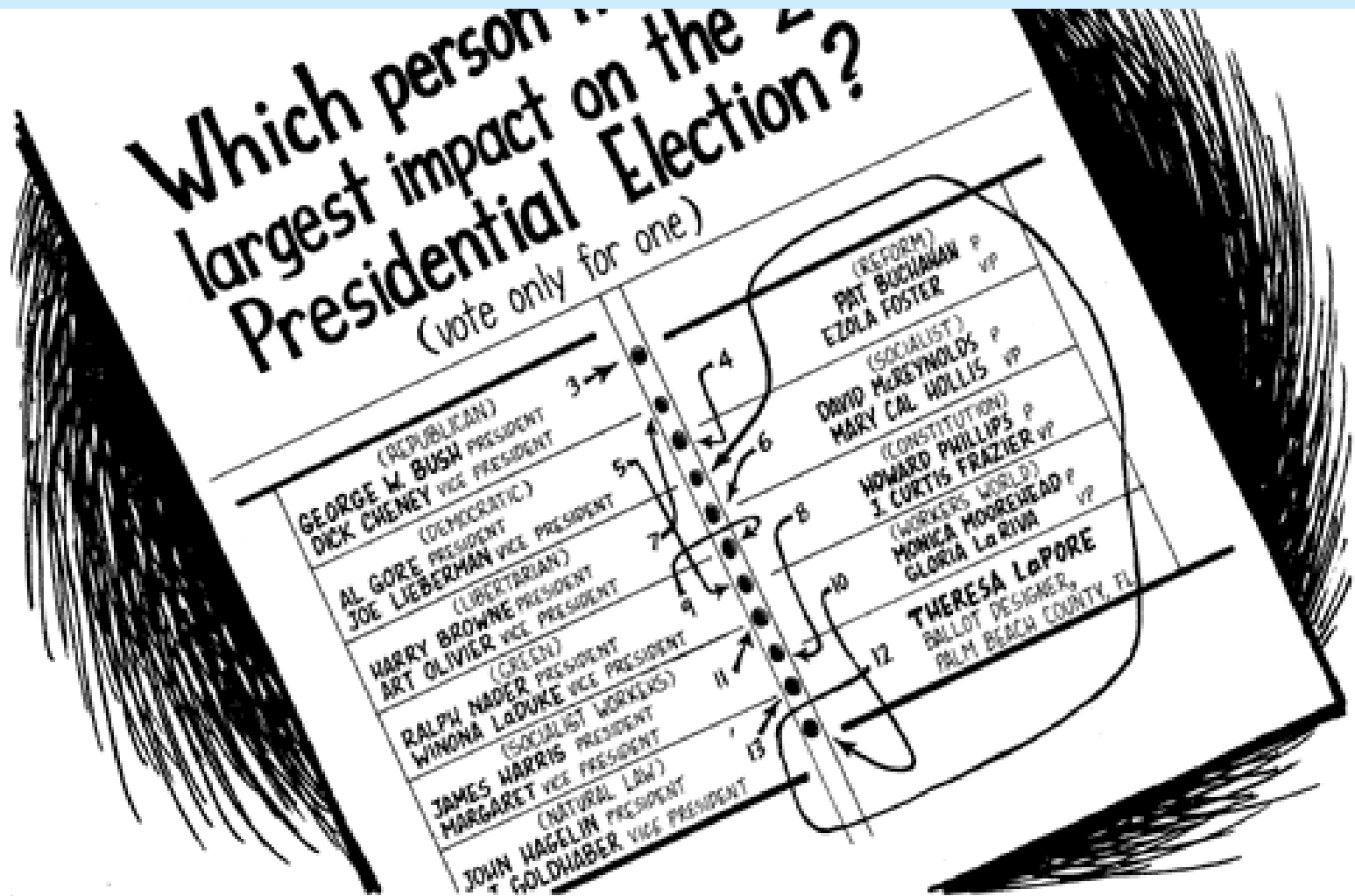
Early Florida call for Gore

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrkhywYX15k&feature=related>

NBC news 2000 election coverage

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOaaUackKFQ&feature=related>

• The election had been contested due to controversial election results in Florida. So what really happened in Florida?
Possible Electoral Bias vs. specific ethnic groups, criminals, etc...



Judges
against
recount



William Ferrigan



Sandra Day O'Connor



Antonin Scalia



Anthony Kennedy



Clarence Thomas

Chronicle-Tribune

Wednesday, December 13, 2000

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TODAY'S WEATHER
SNOWY
Upper 20s
Lower 20s
Becoming cloudy later with light snow developing around noon. There are a high to low in West weather. Page A4

Coming
THURSDAY



The latest Polar Maxima has been seen from home was when he went to Maine with his family. Thursday, born from the R. J. Bankett Middle School sixth-grader is now hoping to travel to Australia with more than 100 other students from all over the state as a part of the People for People Student Ambassador Program.

Al Gore's uncle threatened

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 (AP) - Flare erupted in Vice President Al Gore's 80th birthday week led to federal charges against a former uncle. According to court papers filed last night, federal grand jury in New York charged Gore's uncle with threatening the president's life.

Michael was questioned several years ago about threatening phone calls made to Gore's father, the late U.S. Sen. Al Gore Sr. Jeffrey, a former state circuit court judge, began receiving calls in 1995. The calls threatened his wife and the King of England and advised that he had declined to sign the treaty. It continued, the same, a malicious act of eight years in prison and death in New York.



DOUGLAS STREET

Ruling edges Bush closer to presidency

U.S. Supreme Court rules out Florida recount

Judges
against
recount



William Ferrigan



Sandra Day O'Connor



Antonin Scalia



Anthony Kennedy



Clarence Thomas

—JUDGES VOTED TO RECOUNT

In a likely death blow to Al Gore's last-ditch quest to win Florida, a bitterly divided Supreme Court ordered a Florida Supreme Court order late Tuesday and said there could be no further recount of disputed votes.

The court gave the case back to the Florida Supreme Court for further proceedings, but the five justices in the majority gave them no leeway to order another recount — in fact, the decision came only two hours before the deadline for certifying the state's electors.

The decision by the highest court, the second highest the justice have given Bush within two weeks apparently gave an end to the longest election in modern American history. The decision came shortly five weeks after 140 million voters went to the polls.

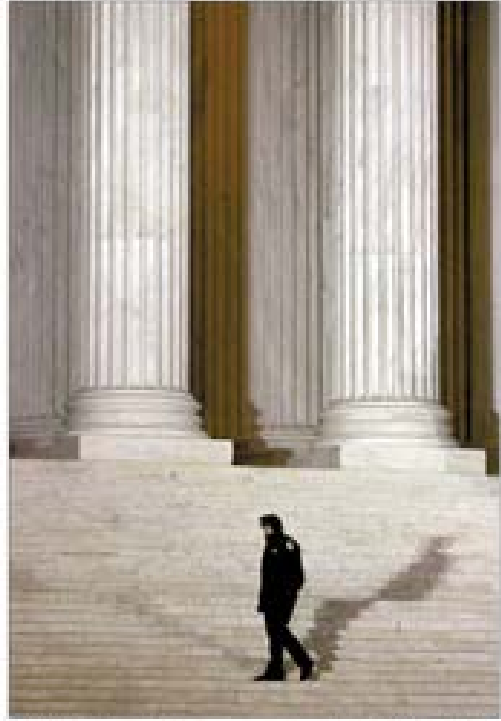
But the court ruling put out a statement saying the five justices and the lawyers representing the voters, and would address the nation Wednesday.

Gore, who was the national leader over his almost 400,000-vote lead at an Electoral College vote, for three weeks and failed to be stopped enough to get certified Florida state government. Gore's uncle threatened Bush winning the election with 10 million votes, which would give him the state's 30 electoral votes that would make his brother's third presidency.

Seven justices agreed that there are constitutional problems with the recount ordered by the Florida Supreme Court, but each outlined equal protection principles under the Constitution, but five of them wanted to allow the Florida Supreme Court to conduct a recount that would meet those concerns — and said there was time to do it.

But the majority said the deadline for recounting was Tuesday midnight. They let the Dec. 10 deadline for the state's electors to meet and vote.

The decision was a majority vote — justice joined different sections of the majority opinion and there were several dissenting opinions — that the Gore and Bush campaigns were granted more time to go to court and did not immediately re-



LAST STAND — Before U.S. Supreme Court justices often enter the steps of the court building in Washington, the nation's highest court has ruled on the Florida presidential election.

Judges
for the
recount



John Paul Stevens



David Souter



Stephen Breyer



Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Judges
for the
recount



John Paul Stevens



David Souter



Stephen Breyer



Ruth Bader Ginsburg



"Because it is stated that my record in trying to save the (the 11) does not be... (unreadable)... we were the judgment of the Supreme Court of Florida ordering the recount to proceed," the statement.

***Florida election official
searching for “hanging chads”
on a 2000 Presidential
election ballot.***

Supreme Court Rules on
2000 election:

Recount ordered by the courts, eventually U.S.
Supreme Court by petition from the
Democratic National Committee and the Gore
campaign.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CI2U79yk>
[gA](#)



Predicting Election Results

<http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/10/18/predicting-the-vote-analyzing-election-data/>

Great lesson plan to get students to analyze the voting and predict the results ☺

Predicting the Vote: Analyzing Election Data



The Learning Network

Teaching & Learning With The New York Times



Predicting Election Results



Importance of Social Media:

For our students today the impact of social media, etc.... is tremendous in relation to how decisions are made, not only with regard to voting but with volunteering for campaigns, and the associated canvassing of the electorate. Likewise, the impact of celebrity endorsements and associated fund raising is also tied to the emerging relevance of social media vehicles such as Twitter, Facebook and Election related Blogs to name just a few.

The following websites as examples of many others lend themselves to having students do an analysis and associated evaluation of the impact social media has on our current day electoral landscape.

<http://www.politico.com/2012-election/map/>

<http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/category/2012/>







What next?

- Visit www.ct.gov/sots for supplemental materials
 - Lesson plans
 - Resources
 - Helpful links
- View this and other webinars on demand:
 - Election History, Election Literacy, and Elementary level
- Sign up to participate in fall activities
- Share these free resources with your colleagues
- Email CTelectionproject@ct.gov
- Call 860.509.6212



DENISE W. MERRILL
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT