



USVNS2000-STELEC-FL

Country: United States
Title: VNS 2000 Election: Florida Election Day Exit Poll
Survey Organization: Voter News Service (VNS is an association of ABC News, CNN, CBS News, FOX News, NBC News and the Associated Press.)
Sponsor: ABC News/Associated Press/CBS News/CNN/Fox News/NBC News
Field Dates: November 7, 2000
Sample: Exiting voters
Sample Size: 1,829
Sample Notes:
Interview method: Self-administered
Weight Location: Columns 75-80 (xxx.xxx)
No. of records per respondent: 1
Usage Notes: Read all documentation before running the data

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YOUR ANSWERS ARE
CONFIDENTIAL

[A] Are you:

- 1 Male 2 Female

[B] Are you:

- 1 White 4 Asian
 2 Black 5 Other
 3 Hispanic/Latino

[C] In today's election for president, did you just vote for:

- 1 Al Gore (Dem)
 2 George W. Bush (Rep)
 3 Pat Buchanan (Ref)
 4 Ralph Nader (Gre)
 9 Other: Who? _____
 0 Did not vote for president

[D] When did you finally decide who to vote for in the presidential election?

- 1 In the last three days
 2 In the last week
 3 In the last month
 4 Before that

[E] Which one issue mattered most in deciding how you voted for president? (Check only one)

- 1 World affairs
 2 Medicare/Prescription drugs
 3 Health care
 4 Economy/Jobs
 5 Taxes
 6 Education
 7 Social Security

[F] Which comes closer to your view:

- 1 Government should do more to solve problems
 2 Government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals

[G] To which age group do you belong?

- 1 18-24 4 40-44 7 60-64
 2 25-29 5 45-49 8 65-74
 3 30-39 6 50-59 9 75 or over

[H] Which one candidate quality mattered most in deciding how you voted for president? (Check only one)

- 1 He understands complex issues
 2 He is honest and trustworthy
 3 He cares about people like me
 4 He has the right experience
 5 He is a likeable person
 6 He is a strong leader
 7 He would have good judgment in a crisis

[I] In today's election for U.S. senator, did you just vote for:

- 1 Bill Nelson (Dem)
 2 Bill McCollum (Rep)
 3 Willie Logan (Ind)
 9 Other: Who? _____
 0 Did not vote for U.S. senator

[J] Which is more important to you?

- 1 Protecting the environment
 2 Encouraging economic growth

[K] Did either of these candidates for president attack the other unfairly?

- 1 Al Gore did 3 Both did
 2 George W. Bush did 4 Neither did

[L] Is your opinion of Gov. Jeb Bush:

- 1 Favorable 2 Unfavorable

[M] Are you of Cuban or Hispanic descent?

- 1 Yes, Cuban
 2 Yes, other Hispanic
 3 No

PLEASE TURN THE QUESTIONNAIRE OVER

[O] Regardless of how you voted today, which of these candidates do you think would say anything to get elected president?

- 1 Only Gore 3 Both would SAYANY
2 Only Bush 4 Neither would

[P] Compared to four years ago, is your family's financial situation:

- 1 Better today FINSIT
2 Worse today
3 About the same

[Q] Do you have any children under 18 living in your household?

- 1 Yes 2 No CHILD

[R] Are you currently married?

- 1 Yes 2 No MARRIED

[S] In the 1996 election for president, did you vote for:

- 96VOTE
1 Bill Clinton (Dem) 4 Someone else
2 Bob Dole (Rep) 5 Did not vote
3 Ross Perot (Ref)

[T] Which was more important in your vote for president today?

- ISSVQUAL
1 My candidate's positions on the issues
2 My candidate's leadership/personal qualities

[U] Do you work full-time for pay?

- 1 Yes 2 No WORK

[V] Regardless of how you voted today, which of these candidates has the knowledge to serve effectively as president?

- PRESKNOW
1 Only Gore 3 Both do
2 Only Bush 4 Neither does

[W] Which of these should be the top priority for the federal budget surplus:

- SURPLUS4
1 Cut federal income taxes
2 Reduce the national debt
3 Strengthen Social Security
4 Fund other domestic programs

[X] Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling his job as president?

- 1 Approve 2 Disapprove CLINTON

[Y] Is your opinion of Bill Clinton as a person:

- 1 Favorable 2 Unfavorable BCPERSON

[Z] Are you:

- 1 Protestant 4 Jewish
2 Catholic RELIGION 5 Something else
3 Other Christian 6 None

[AA] How often do you attend religious services?

- 1 More than once a week
2 Once a week ATTEND
3 A few times a month
4 A few times a year
5 Never

[BB] No matter how you voted today, do you usually think of yourself as a:

- PARTYID
1 Democrat 3 Independent
2 Republican 4 Something else

[CC] What was the last grade of school you completed?

- EDUC
1 Did not complete high school
2 High school graduate
3 Some college or associate degree
4 College graduate
5 Postgraduate study

[DD] If these were the only two presidential candidates on the ballot today, who would you have voted for?

- 2WAY2000
1 Al Gore (Dem)
2 George W. Bush (Rep)
3 Would not have voted for president

[EE] On most political matters, do you consider yourself:

- PHIL3
1 Liberal
2 Moderate
3 Conservative

[FF] 1999 total family income:

- INCOME
1 Under \$15,000 4 \$50,000-\$74,999
2 \$15,000-\$29,999 5 \$75,000-\$99,999
3 \$30,000-\$49,999 6 \$100,000 or more

Please fold the questionnaire and put it in the box. Thank you.

Voter News Service Exit Poll

Florida General Election Exit Poll
 11/7/00

Total number of respondents: 1829

Start Column	Short Label	Long Label	Valueset
1	'1'		
3	VERSION	QUESTIONNAIRE VERSION	1=STATE ONLY 2=NATIONAL WHITE 3=NATIONAL YELLOW 4=NATIONAL GREY 5=NATIONAL PINK
7	'G'		
9 to 10	STATEID	STATE NUMBER	
11 to 13	PRECINCT	PRECINCT NUMBER	
14 to 16	SEQ	SEQUENCE NUMBER WITHIN PRECINCT	
17	CALL	CALL NUMBER	1=FIRST CALL 2=SECOND CALL 3=THIRD CALL
18	'1'		
19	AGE9	AGE	1=18-24 2=25-29 3=30-39 4=40-44 5=45-49 6=50-59 7=60-64 8=65-74 9=75+
20	RACE	RACE	1=WHITE 2=BLACK 3=HISP 4=ASIAN 5=OTHER
21	SEX	SEX	1=MALE 2=FEMALE
22	PRES	PRESIDENTIAL VOTE	1=GORE 2=BUSH 3=BUCHANAN 4=NADER 9=OTHER
23	SEN	SENATOR VOTE	1=NELSON 2=MCCOLLUM 3=LOGAN 9=OTHER
25	TIME	DECIDED TO VOTE	1=LAST.3DAYS 2=LASTWEEK 3=LAST.MONTH 4=BEFORE
26	CLINTON	CLINTON APPROVAL	1=APPROVE

2=DISAPPR

27 BCPERSON CLINTON AS PERSON 1=FAVORABLE
2=UNFAVORABLE

29 2WAY2000 IF ONLY GORE/BUSH 1=GORE
2=BUSH
3=WOULDNOTVOTE

31 GOVTD0 GOVT SHOULD DO: 1=MORE
2=LESS

32 CUBAN3 CUBAN/HISP DESCENT 1=CUBAN
2=OTHERHISP
3=NO

34 SIZEPLC3 POP OF AREA 1=CITYOVER50K
2=SUBURBS
3=RURAL

35 ISSUE ISSUE MATTERS MOST 1=WORLDAFFAIRS
2=MEDICARE/RX
3=HEALTHCARE
4=ECON/JOBS
5=TAXES
6=EDUCATION
7=SOCIALSECUR

36 QUAL QUALITY MATTERS MOST 1=COMPLEXISSUE
2=HONEST
3=CARES
4=EXPERIENCE
5=LIKEABLE
6=STRONGLEADER
7=GOODJUDGMENT

39 96VOTE 1996 PRES VOTE 1=CLINTON
2=DOLE
3=PEROT
4=OTHER
5=NOVOTE

40 ENVIRON MORE IMPORTANT 1=PROENVIR
2=PROGRWTH

42 UNFAIR ATTACK OTHER UNFAIR 1=GOREDID
2=BUSHDID
3=BOTHDID
4=NEITHERDID

44 FINSIT FINANCIAL SITUATION 1=BETTER
2=WORSE
3=SAME

45 JOBPERS CLINTON JOB/PERSON 1=APP/FAV
2=APP/UNFAV
3=DIS/FAV
4=DIS/UNFAV

46 WORK WORK FULL TIME 1=YES
2=NO

48 PARTYID PARTYID 1=DEMOCRAT
2=REPUBLICN
3=INDEPEND
4=ELSE

50	SIZEPLAC	POPULATION OF AREA	1=OVER500K
		2=50-500K	
		3=SUBURBS	
		4=10-50K	
		5=RURAL	
51	EDUC	EDUCATION	1=NOHS
		2=HSGRAD	
		3=SOMCOL/ASSOC	
		4=COLGRAD	
		5=POSTGRAD	
52	RELIGION	RELIGION	1=PROTESTANT
		2=CATHOLIC	
		3=OTHERCHRIST	
		4=JEWISH	
		5=ELSE	
		6=NONE	
53	ATTEND	ATTEND CHURCH	1=MORETHAN1AWK
		2=ONCEAWEEK	
		3=AFEWAMONTH	
		4=AFEWAYEAR	
		5=NEVER	
54	INCOME	INCOME	1=LESS15K
		2=15-30K	
		3=30-50K	
		4=50-75K	
		5=75-100K	
		6=OVER100K	
55	MARRIED	MARRIED	1=YES
		2=NO	
56	CHILD	CHILDREN IN HH	1=YES
		2=NO	
58	PHIL3	POLITICAL PHIL	1=LIBERAL
		2=MODERATE	
		3=CONSERV	
59	OVER65	AGE-65 & OVER	1=18-64
		2=65+	
61	SURPLUS4	PRIORITY FOR SURPLUS	1=CUTFEDINCTAX
		2=REDUCNATDEBT	
		3=SOCIALSECURI	
		4=OTHRPROGRAMS	
65	STATE	STATE ONLY	1=NATIONAL
		2=STATE	
66	BACKSIDE	BACKSIDE	1=COMPLETE
		2=NOTCOMPLETE	
67	GEOCODE	GEOCODE FL	1=MIAMI
		2=SOUTH	
		3=TAMPABAYAREA	
		4=CENTRAL	
		5=NORTH	
68	AGE	AGE	1=18-29
		2=30-44	
		3=45-59	
		4=60+	



NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CODES:

N or NA = NATION

E = EAST

M = MIDWEST

S = SOUTH

W = WEST

REGIONAL DEFINITIONS:

E: EAST

CONNECTICUT
 DELAWARE
 DIST. OF COL
 MAINE
 MARYLAND
 MASSACHUSETTS
 NEW HAMPSHIRE
 NEW JERSEY
 NEW YORK
 PENNSYLVANIA
 RHODE ISLAND
 VERMONT
 WEST VIRGINIA

M: MIDWEST

ILLINOIS
 INDIANA
 IOWA
 KANSAS
 MICHIGAN
 MINNESOTA
 MISSOURI
 NEBRASKA
 NORTH DAKOTA
 OHIO
 SOUTH DAKOTA
 WISCONSIN

S: SOUTH

ALABAMA
 ARKANSAS
 FLORIDA
 GEORGIA
 KENTUCKY
 LOUISIANA
 MISSISSIPPI
 NORTH CAROLINA
 OKLAHOMA
 SOUTH CAROLINA
 TENNESSEE
 TEXAS
 VIRGINIA

W: WEST

ALASKA
 ARIZONA
 CALIFORNIA
 COLORADO
 HAWAII
 IDAHO
 MONTANA
 NEVADA
 NEW MEXICO
 OREGON
 UTAH
 WASHINGTON
 WYOMING

STATE CODE ABBREVIATIONS:

AL = ALABAMA
AK = ALASKA
AZ = ARIZONA
AR = ARKANSAS
CA = CALIFORNIA
CO = COLORADO
CT = CONNECTICUT
DE = DELAWARE
DC = DIST. OF COLUMBIA
FL = FLORIDA
GA = GEORGIA
HI = HAWAII
ID = IDAHO
IL = ILLINOIS
IN = INDIANA
IA = IOWA
KS = KANSAS

KY = KENTUCKY
LA = LOUISIANA
ME = MAINE
MD = MARYLAND
MA = MASSACHUSETTS
MI = MICHIGAN
MN = MINNESOTA
MS = MISSISSIPPI
MO = MISSOURI
MT = MONTANA
NE = NEBRASKA
NV = NEVADA
NH = NEW HAMPSHIRE
NJ = NEW JERSEY
NM = NEW MEXICO
NY = NEW YORK
NC = NORTH CAROLINA

ND = NORTH DAKOTA
OH = OHIO
OK = OKLAHOMA
OR = OREGON
PA = PENNSYLVANIA
RI = RHODE ISLAND
SC = SOUTH CAROLINA
SD = SOUTH DAKOTA
TN = TENNESSEE
TX = TEXAS
UT = UTAH
VT = VERMONT
VA = VIRGINIA
WA = WASHINGTON
WV = WEST VIRGINIA
WI = WISCONSIN
WY = WYOMING



VOTER NEWS SERVICE

Exit Poll Data Documentation for November 7, 2000

I. All Surveys

The information in this section applies to the national and all of the state surveys.

a. Weights

Columns 75-80 contain respondent weights. The weight has 3 implied decimal places (e.g., '164222' in columns 75-80 means the respondent's weight=164.222). These weights should be applied in all analyses. Unweighted tabulations may be seriously misleading and should not be used. In the SPSS data file, these values can be found under the variable label WEIGHT. The decimal places have already been allocated in these files.

For additional information on weighting, see the "2000 VNS Exit Poll Methodology" below.

b. Backside Variable

When Column 66 (or the variable BACKSIDE in the SPSS file)=1 it means that the respondent answered at least one question on the backside of the questionnaire, indicating that the questionnaire was turned over. When analyzing backside items, this variable allows the researcher to omit respondents who did not turn over the questionnaire.

c. Omitted Questions

So that your results will match the numbers published by VNS, we have applied our policies for coding omits to the SPSS files we distribute. It is our policy to exclude omits (item non-response) from analyses of most demographic variables, but include omits for most opinion questions. In our SPSS files, for those variables where we do not count the omits, non-responses have been entered as “System Missing” - they will appear as dots in the file. For those variables where we do count the omits, we have re-coded the non-responses from a blank to a “9” so that by default they will appear in your analyses. For example, omits to a question on Bill Clinton’s job approval were entered as “9”, whereas omits to the Age question were entered as “System Missing”.

It is also our policy to exclude the omits for questions that appear on the back of the questionnaire in cases where the respondent did not answer ANY questions on the back of the questionnaire. The “backside” variable is used to flag such cases. We have also applied this adjustment to the SPSS files.

d. Additional Items

These items, not on the questionnaire, were added to all of the data files (the national and all states):

<u>Short Label</u>	<u>Column Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
STATE	65	State or National Questionnaire: 1=National 2=State
BACKSIDE	66	Completed Backside of Exit Poll: (where 1=Yes 2= No
OVER65	59	Age 65+ 1= 18-64 2= 65 and Over
AGE	68	Age (4 Categories): 1= 18 - 29 2= 30 - 44 3= 45 - 59 4= 60 and Over
AGEABC	69	Age 60 (6 Categories): 1= 18 - 24 2= 25 - 29 3= 30 - 39 4= 40 - 49 5= 50 - 59 6= 60 and Over

<u>Short Label</u>	<u>Column Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
AGE65	71	Age 65 (6 Categories): 1= 18 - 24 4= 40 - 49 2= 25 - 29 5= 50 - 64 3= 30 - 39 6= 65 and Over (The age variables above are regroupings of the original nine-category Age question in Column 19.)
PARTY	70	Party ID (3 Categories): 1= Democrat 2= Republican 3= Independent/Something else (This is a regrouping of the four-category Party ID question in column 48.)
JOBPERS	45	Combined Bill Clinton job approval and personal favorability. 1=Approve/Favorable 2=Approve/Unfavorable 3=Disapprove/Favorable 4=Disapprove/Unfavorable
REL5	74	Religion (5 Categories): 1=Protestant/Other Christian 2=Catholic 3=Jewish 4=Other 5=None (This is a regrouping of the six-category Religion question in column 52.)
CALL	17	Call Number: 1= First call 2= Second call 3= Third call (Interviewers called in results three times during election day.)
STATEID	9 to10	State Number
PRECINCT	11 to 13	VNS Precinct Number
SEQ	14 to 16	Sequence number within precinct
WEIGHT	75 to 80	Weight (3 implied decimal places)

II. National Survey

The information in this section applies only to the national survey.

a. Design

A sample of exit poll precincts was drawn in each state. A subsample of these precincts was selected to form the national sample. Respondents in the national precincts were given one of four versions of the national questionnaire. The four versions were interleaved on pads that were handed out to respondents. Responses to the four versions are combined into one dataset. All versions have questions in common as well as questions unique to each version.

On the bottom right corner of each version of the national questionnaire is a code that indicates the color of the questionnaire. These colors correspond to the version numbers in column 3:

- 2 = W – White
- 3 = Y – Yellow
- 4 = G – Grey
- 5 = P – Pink

To determine which questions are on which version of the questionnaire, simply crosstab each question by “Version” (column 3). All questions which do not appear on a particular version are entered as “System Missing” and will not affect your analysis for that version.

The generic versions of the national questionnaires are included in .PDF form. The national questionnaire used in each state included the appropriate candidates in the statewide races. For the House vote, cards with the names of the candidates running in that congressional district were attached to the questionnaire pad next to the House vote question.

In addition, VNS has made a provision for asking a question about a late breaking news event. On the Sunday before the election, VNS interviewers were given question wording to add to one version of the National questionnaire. This language was added by the interviewer to Question AA on the version labeled “G-2000-N-Pink.” In the national dataset, this variable is labeled BREAKING.

It appeared on the questionnaire as:

In your vote for president today, how would you rate the importance of: Bush’s 1976 drunken driving arrest?

- 1=Very important
- 2=Somewhat important
- 3=Not too important
- 4=Not at all important

b. The Race Question

On the national questionnaire a “Hispanic Descent” question was asked in addition to the Race question. When a respondent answered “yes” to the “Hispanic Descent” question, the respondent's Race was coded "Hispanic" in column 20/SPSS variable RACE (regardless of how he/she answered the Race question). This was done to better identify Hispanic voters who could have answered "white" or some other race on the Race question. It is these data (in column 20/RACE) that were reported on election day. The original responses to the Race question, called “Q-Race,” can be found in column 73/SPSS variable QRACE.

Findings on Hispanics in the 2000 exit poll will NOT be comparable to results in previous presidential election years because Voter News Service changed how it measures Hispanics after 1996.

Before 1998, the exit polls treated Hispanics as a racial group. Respondents were asked whether they were white, black, Hispanic/Latino, Asian or another race. Since 1998, the exit polls have added a separate question asking respondents, regardless of their race, if they're of Hispanic descent. People who answer either question positively are now counted as Hispanics. The effect of the change is to increase the number of self-identified Hispanics in exit poll results.

Comparisons to previous years can be made only among the subset of Hispanics who identify themselves as Hispanic in the race question.

c. Additional Items

These items, not on the questionnaire, were added to the national data file:

<u>Short Label</u>	<u>Column Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
INCPARTY	101	1 - House seat previously held by a Dem 2 - House seat previously held by a Rep Omits - All others
INCVOTE	102	1 - If the respondent voted for the House incumbent 2 - If the respondent voted against the House incumbent Omits - All others
OPEN	105	1 - Open Dem House seat 2 - Open Rep House seat Omits - All others
OPPOSE	107	1 - The House seat is contested between a Dem and a Rep. 2 - Not contested between a Dem and a Rep (e.g., there is only one major party candidate).

<u>Short Label</u>	<u>Column Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
VERSION	3	Questionnaire Version 2 – W = White Version 3 – Y = Yellow Version 4 – G = Grey Version 5 – P = Pink Version
REGION	8	Region of Country 1 - East 2 - Midwest 3 - South 4 - West
STATEID	9-10	State Number (see attached list of states)
SIZEPLAC	50	Size of Area 1 - Cities over 500,000 4 - Cities 10,000 - 50,000 2 - Cities 50,000 - 500,000 5 - Rural 3 - Suburbs
SIZEPLC3	34	Size of Area (3 Categories): 1 – Cities over 50,000 2 – Suburbs 3 – Small Cities/Rural (This is a regrouping of the five-category Size of Area question in column 50.)

III. State Surveys

The information in this section applies only to the state surveys.

a. Design

As mentioned above, a sample of exit poll precincts was drawn in each state. A subsample of these precincts was selected to form the national sample. The remaining precincts in each state made up the state sample and were given questionnaires specific to that state. Because the national questionnaire has several items in common with the state questionnaire, national respondents are included in the state exit poll dataset for these common questions.

To determine which questions are on the national questionnaire, simply crosstab each question by Column 65/SPSS variable STATE, indicating whether the respondent completed the state or national survey. If the corresponding item did not appear on that respondent’s version of the questionnaire, it was entered as “System Missing” and will appear as a dot in the dataset. Remember, as noted above, some questions on the national survey appear on all four versions of the national and some do not.

b. The Race Question

A separate “Hispanic Descent” question was asked in states with a large Hispanic population. For the 2000 general elections, these states were: Arizona, California, Colorado, the District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon and Texas. This was treated in the state files the same way as in the national file (see above).

c. Additional Item

The following item, not on the questionnaire, was added to all of the state datasets:

<u>Short Label</u>	<u>Column Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
GEOCODE	67	Geographic Code (2 to 5 categories): VNS-coded geographic regions within a state (See attached column location documentation for description of codes)

d. Telephone Surveys

For the 2000 general elections, VNS conducted telephone surveys of absentee/early voters in two states – California and Washington – and a survey of voters in Oregon. The telephone surveys asked the same questions that were on the exit poll questionnaire. The telephone data were combined with the exit poll data in California and Washington and were weighted to reflect the relative proportion of absentee/early voters and election day voters. There is a variable in each of these files indicating whether the respondent was interviewed as part of the exit poll or the telephone poll (Column 64).

The telephone surveys were conducted the week before the election in Oregon and Washington. In California, the survey was conducted ten days before the election. In each state, the survey included voters who had either already voted absentee/early or who were likely to do so. These are the sample sizes for each survey: California, N=300; Oregon, N=600; Washington, N=300.

The Ohio State University Survey Research Unit conducted the fieldwork for the Oregon and Washington surveys and the Field Institute conducted the fieldwork for the California survey. Households were selected using random-digit dialing, and a respondent was randomly selected within each household. Before the telephone survey results were combined with the exit poll data they were weighted to reflect the probabilities of selection and to reflect the demographic characteristics in that state.

In the Oregon survey, given the relatively short field period for the data collection, it was noted that proportionately more Republicans were interviewed than the known proportions of Republicans who had voted in 1994, 1996, and 1998. As such, in Oregon a final weighting adjustment was made for party affiliation.

2000 VNS EXIT POLL METHODOLOGY

The VNS exit polls were developed and conducted by Voter News Service. VNS is an association of ABC News, CNN, CBS News, FOX News, NBC News and the Associated Press. The exit poll results are based on interviews with a probability sample of voters exiting polling places around the state on Election Day.

The error due to sampling for most state exit poll questions is approximately plus or minus 4 percentage points (see the attached chart). This means 95 times out of 100, samples like this one will have results within 4 points of what a complete count of all voters would show. Results based on part of the sample will have larger margins of error, as will groups of voters -- such as Blacks -- who are found disproportionately only in some precincts.

Sampling

The samples were selected in two stages. **First**, a probability sample of voting precincts within each state was selected that represents the different geographic areas across the state and the vote by party. Precincts were selected with a probability proportionate to the number of voters in each precinct. Each voter in a state had the same chance to have his or her precinct selected. There is one exception. In some states, precincts that have large minority populations were sampled at a higher rate than other precincts. The sample weighting (described below) adjusts the representation of these precincts to their correct share of the total vote. **Second**, within each precinct, voters were sampled systematically throughout the voting day at a rate that gives all voters in a precinct the same chance of being interviewed.

The National sample is a subsample of the state sample precincts. The probability of selecting these precincts was the same as if the sample had been selected at a uniform rate nationwide, with the exception that minority precincts were again selected at a higher rate.

Weighting

The exit poll results are weighted to reflect the complexity of the sampling design. That is, the weighting takes into account the different probabilities of selecting a precinct and of selecting a voter within each precinct. For example, minority precincts that were selected at a higher rate receive a smaller weight than other precincts of the same size. There is also an adjustment for voters who were missed or refused to be interviewed, which is based on their observed age, race and sex.

NOTE: The exit poll results are only meaningful if they are weighted. Unweighted tabulations may be seriously misleading and should not be used for any reason.

The Grabbag Question Format

Prior to 1996, VNS used a question format called the "Grabbag" which consisted of a list of 7-9 items with the instruction to check all that apply. Some examples of items that were asked as part of the

Grabbag are union, religious right and gay/lesbian/bisexual. Starting in 1996, VNS dropped the Grabbag question format in favor of asking separate questions for each item. Exit poll users are cautioned against comparing estimates from the Grabbag with those from the full questions because the Grabbag format significantly underestimates the population values

Other Altered Questions

Comparing data from one election year to another should be done carefully. “Trends” are established by comparing questions that are asked in exactly the same way. Failure to exercise appropriate care could lead to invalid conclusions about voting behavior.

Please note the following changes that may or may not affect your comparisons:

- Hispanic Vote: See the separate warning in this packet
- Union Vote

VNS has changed the response categories to this question. This year, the question and responses are as follows: Do you or does someone in your household belong to a labor union? Yes, I do; Yes, someone else does; Yes, I do and someone else does and No one does.

In 1996 and 1998, VNS asked the question Do you or does someone in your household belong to a labor union? There were two response categories: Yes, No.

Prior to 1996, the Union question was asked as part of a “grab bag”. VNS recommends that you do not make comparisons back to 1992.

- VNS has changed one of the response categories in the education question, adding an associate degree to the some college option.
- VNS has added an age category on the questionnaire, 75 or over

This list is not meant to be all-inclusive. Please check the questionnaire before automatically making comparative statements. You will also find attached a comprehensive list of all questions that have been changed for the 2000 elections.

It is your responsibility to use these data wisely. If you are in doubt about making a comparative statement, please call us for assistance.

Sampling Error

The error due to sampling depends on, among other things, the number of respondents in each group. The sampling errors below are for most voter groups. There are 95 chances in 100 that a sample result is within this many percentage points of the result that would have been obtained by trying to interview every voter.

The sampling error also depends on how many precincts have voters with the characteristic of interest. For example, black or high income voters may be found clustered in only a few sample precincts. A characteristic that is clustered in a few precincts has a larger sampling error than characteristics that are not clustered, such as sex. Sampling error may be up to three times larger for clustered characteristics.

Example: If there are a total of 1,000 respondents in the sample, the sampling error on the percentage of men voting for a candidate depends on the number of men in the poll. In this example, if there are 500 men, the table below shows that the sampling error is plus or minus 6.0 percentage points.

<u>Respondents In Base of Percentage</u>	<u>Error Due To Sampling (+/-)</u>
100	13.0%
250	8.0
500	6.0
750	5.0
1000	4.0
1500	3.5
2000	3.0
2500	2.5
5,000	2.0
7,500	1.5
10,000	1.3
12,500	1.1
15,000	1.1

SINGLE COL FREQUENCIES FOR USVNS2000-STELEC-FL (COLS. 1-104) / NCARDS 1829																	
COL	&	-	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	BLANK	OTHER	NONBLNK	COL	
82	0	1829	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1829	82
83	0	1829	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1829	83
84	0	1829	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1829	84
85	0	554	0	537	268	308	52	0	0	0	0	0	110	0	0	1719	85
86	0	736	0	525	489	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	79	0	0	1750	86
87	0	1829	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1829	87
88	0	554	0	411	253	422	82	0	0	0	0	0	107	0	0	1722	88
89	0	1829	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1829	89
90	0	363	0	797	530	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	139	0	0	1690	90
91	0	1829	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1829	91
92	0	1829	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1829	92
93	0	1829	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1829	93
94	0	1829	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1829	94
95	0	1829	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1829	95
96	0	1829	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1829	96
97	0	1829	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1829	97
98	0	1829	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1829	98
99	0	1829	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1829	99
100	0	1829	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1829	100
101	0	1829	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1829	101
102	0	1829	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1829	102
103	0	1647	0	33	32	28	29	10	8	15	0	0	27	0	0	1802	103
104	0	1647	0	33	40	4	28	17	37	10	0	0	13	0	0	1816	104