

The Connection

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The Unexplained Exit Poll Discrepancy

By: Professor Steven F. Freeman, PhD

Most Americans who had listened to radio or surfed the Internet leading up to Election Day this year, sat down to watch election night coverage expecting that John Kerry had been elected President. Exit polls showed him ahead in nearly every battleground state, in many cases by sizable margins. As usually happens in close elections, undecided voters broke heavily toward the challenger, and the Democratic Party, possibly better organized and more committed than ever, generated extraordinary turnout.

But then, in battleground state after battleground state, counts were showing very different numbers than the polls predicted; and the differentials were all in the same direction. In ten of the eleven battleground states, the tallied margin differs from the predicted margin, and in every one, the shift favors Bush. The table below illustrates this.

How could the exit polls in this year's presidential election have diverged so drastically from the results that election officials and the media announced? Looking at the exit polls and election results in the three key swing states: Ohio, Florida, and Pennsylvania, the odds against such

an accidental discrepancy in all three states together is **250 million to one**.

The media has largely ignored this discrepancy suggesting that the polls were flawed or that it was a statistical anomaly. Yet, no evidence at all has been presented of skewed survey data or any problems with the polls. The only assurance Americans have is a statement provided by the pollsters who assert they debunked the possibility that the exit polls are right and the vote count is wrong. Nothing, beyond that declaration, has been offered to explain how the possibility was "debunked".

As much as we can say in social science that something is impossible, it is impossible that the discrepancies between predicted and actual vote counts in the three critical battleground states could have been due to chance or random error. Systematic fraud or mistabulation is a premature conclusion, but the election's unexplained exit poll discrepancies make this statistical impossibility an unavoidable hypothesis, one that is the responsibility of the media, academia, polling agencies, and the public to investigate.

Professor Freeman is a statistician at the University of Pennsylvania. See his entire paper at www.tdw.org.

State	Differential Predicted	Differential Actual	Predicted vs. Actual
Colorado	Bush wins by 1.8%	Bush won by 5.2%	3.4% in Bush's favor
Florida	Bush wins by 0.1%	Bush won by 5.0%	4.9% in Bush's favor
Iowa	Kerry wins by 1.3%	Bush won by 0.9%	2.2% in Bush's favor
Michigan	Kerry wins by 5.0%	Kerry won by 3.4%	1.6% in Bush's favor
Minnesota	Kerry wins by 9.0%	Kerry won by 3.5%	5.5% in Bush's favor
Nevada	Kerry wins by 1.3%	Bush won by 2.6%	3.9% in Bush's favor
New Hampshire	Kerry wins by 10.8%	Kerry won by 1.3%	9.5% in Bush's favor
New Mexico	Kerry wins by 2.6%	Bush won by 1.1%	3.7% in Bush's favor
Ohio	Kerry wins by 4.2%	Bush won by 2.5%	6.7% in Bush's favor
Pennsylvania	Kerry wins by 8.7%	Kerry won by 2.2%	6.5% in Bush's favor
Wisconsin	Kerry wins by 0.4%	Kerry won by 0.4%	no difference

President's Message

I am so proud of the contributions TDW made this election cycle. At the leadership retreat this summer we mapped out a plan to further the TDW mission by contributing to Democratic women candidates. The political contributions committee spent hours analyzing each candidate and race to determine the best utilization of our financial resources. In the end, TDW made financial contributions to 12 Democratic women candidates all across Texas and in-kind contributions in the form of TDW sponsored mailers for 3 candidates in key house races: Harriet Miller; Robin Moore; and Katy Hubener. Our total financial contributions amounted to more than \$55,000. Our intangible contributions are incalculable.



Texas Democratic Women was everywhere. We sponsored rallies, picnics, fairs, parades, phone banks, block walks, and fundraisers. We were in the press. We were in the hands of some 21,000 women voters through the mailers. We worked the polls. We watched the polls. We secured endorsements. We volunteered. We incited fear in the republicans of Young County – the Texas Rangers were even called out! We ran campaigns. We ran for office.

The combined effect of all this activity places TDW squarely at the forefront of Texas Democratic politics. No other state-wide Democratic organization was this prolific. And this is no accident. Our success is, in large part, due to our past presidents and founders. They built the foundation for us to be where we are today. It is now up to us to capitalize on the momentum we all created.

So it is everyone that I say, thank you for all you have done and will do for Democratic women.

Proud to be your president,

Kellie Bailey

President, Texas Democratic Women

What Does It Take to Win?

A great many more votes than it used to! TDW compared the votes received by our 12 TDW endorsed candidates and the Democratic candidates who ran for the same seats in the prior election. Some of our candidates *were* the Democratic candidate in the prior election. The prior elections were not always the most recent election commensurate with the term of office as some republicans did not have challengers for several election cycles.

This chart illustrates four significant points. First, **every** TDW endorsed candidate received more votes this November than the Democratic candidate in the prior election. Second, it may take nearly 100% more votes to win a race by nearly the same margin (Jan Patterson). Third, despite as much as a 35% increase in votes, our candidates can still decrease their margin of victory (Leticia Van de Putte and Yvonne Touriellles). Fourth, despite as much as a 57% increase in votes, our candidates can still lose the race (Kelly White).

Candidates	2004 Election Results	Prior Election Results
Jan Patterson (I), Court of Appeals	388,370 51.77%	195,057 50.80% (1998)
Diane Henson, Court of Appeals	362,312 48.44%	291,900 48.34% (2000)
Leticia Van de Putte (I), SD26	105,487 57.11%	85,922 67.50% (1998)
Elaine King Miller, PhD, SD31	46,666 21.43%	no data available
Robin Moore, HD9	21,553 43.12%	14,645 45.12% (2002)
Yvonne Gonzalez Touriellles, HD35	23,138 50.94%	17,079 52.39% (2002)
Kelly White, HD48	34,204 49.88%	21,768 45.38% (2002)
Freda McVay, HD84	14,483 31.90%	8,544 31.30% (2002)
Nancy Stevens, HD97	23,417 36.75%	14,284 32.58% (2002)
Harriet Miller, HD102	18,836 46.80%	14,356 35.22% (2000)
Katy Hubener, HD106	16,945 47.41%	14,630 41.83% (2000)
Charlotte Coffelt, HD127	18,155 29.56%	7,637 21.20% (1994)

What does this mean? TDW turned out the vote like never before. We have a motivated base on which to build. We will have to double our outreach to win in the next election. We must match every effort of the opposition with foresight, intelligence and integrity. We have our work cut out for us.

“Planting the Seed”



Dear TDW members:

Convention time in Austin is rapidly approaching, and we are working very hard to make this one the best yet! *You can all help by meeting the following deadlines:*

December 25
February 1
February 3
February 15
February 15

Declaration of intention for running for TDW office/board
 “Star” nominations (see insert)
 Hotel reservations at the Radisson Hotel
 Convention registration forms and fees (see insert)
 Newsletters submitted for Best Newsletter award (see insert)

Here is the tentative *schedule for the 2005 Convention*:

Friday, February 25

7:30 p.m.

Registration / Meet & Greet

Esters Follies

Saturday, February 26

9:00 a.m.

Convention Convenes / Business Meeting

11:30 a.m.

“Stars” Luncheon

1:00 p.m.

Breakout / Panel Discussion

6:00 p.m.

Reception / Awards Dinner

Sunday, February 27

8:30 a.m.

Board Meeting

Also, please bring your club scrapbooks and silent auction items with you. There will be someone at the TDW reception desk to help you. I look forward to seeing YOU in Austin!

Very proud to be a Democrat,

Alieca Hux

President Elect, Texas Democratic Women

2004-2005 Membership Dues

TDW annual membership dues are to be paid by November 1st of each year. If you or your chapter have not sent in your due, please do so! Note that memberships paid after May 1st are good through October 31st of the following year.

Include with all new and renewing memberships a NEW membership form for each member. They are available on our website and through the TDW treasurer. Patrons and Finance Council members will receive a letter of recognition and a TDW lapel pin if they are new in this category.

Send all dues and dues inquiries to the TDW Treasurer, Donna Beth McCormick at:

PO Box 684906 ★ Austin TX ★ 78768 ★ 512.453.2629

Welcome New TDW Chapters

HILL COUNTY TDW

WALLER COUNTY TDW

Thank You

To TDW Members,

Well, the Texas Democratic Women really came through — not just statewide — in so many of the counties. They were always willing to volunteer to help this campaign. I cannot tell you how much it meant to me to have so much support from these great women!

Thank you for everything!

Diane

Diane Henson

Candidate, 3rd Court of Appeals

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Newsletter Ideas

The Connection is published quarterly. The next issue will be mailed March 17, 2005. Send your ideas for stories, columns, or news **by March 3, 2005** to:

Linda B. Conger at
lbconger@earthlink.net, or
P. O. Box 4411, Horseshoe Bay, TX 78657 or
Fax to 830.596.2972 (call before sending fax)

Change of Contact Information

Send any changes of your contact information to our treasurer and our webmaster:

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and
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TDW 5 Minute Activist

Short on time and yet want to make a difference?
Sign up for the ***TDW 5 Minute Activist*** through our website
(www.tdw.org)

We make making a difference easy.