

# AEI STUDIES IN PUBLIC OPINION

## **The 2000 Election: What the Polls Said** **(updated January 21, 2004)**

### **No Constitutional Crisis**

- Which of these statements best describes the situation that has occurred since Tuesday’s election for president—it is a constitutional crisis, it is a major problem for the country but it is not a crisis, it is a minor problem, or it is not a problem at all?

		Constitutional Crisis	Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not A Problem
Nov. 11-12, 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	15	49	25	9

- Which of these statements best describes the situation that has occurred since the election for president—it is a constitutional crisis, it is a major problem for the country but it is not a crisis, it is a minor problem, or it is not a problem at all?

		Constitutional Crisis	Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not A Problem
Nov. 19, 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	10	44	32	12
Nov. 26-27, 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	10	50	29	9
Dec. 10, 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	17	46	25	9
Nov. 2-4, 2001*	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	7	35	42	13

NOTE: \*Question wording began, “Which of these statements best describes the situation that occurred as a result of the 2000 presidential election – it was...?”

- How do you feel about the election situation overall - are you personally worried about it, or not worried? If worried: Are you very worried about it, or somewhat worried?

		Not Worried	Very Worried	Somewhat Worried
Nov. 12, 2000	ABC News/ Wash Post	47	19	28
Dec. 3, 2000	ABC News/Wash Post	38	18	20
Dec. 10, 2000	ABC News/Wash Post	48	22	26

● Which of the following best describes your point of view: (A) The situation we are in is a constitutional crisis, (B) the situation we are in is not a constitutional crisis yet, but it is likely to turn into one, or (C) the situation we are in will be resolved before it turns into a constitutional crisis?

		Crisis	Likely To Become Crisis	Will Be Resolved
Nov. 13, 2000	NBC/WSJ	8	32	56
Dec. 7-10, 2000	NBC/WSJ	15	36	46

● Do you see what's going on in Florida as: A) A crisis for our country, B) Something likely to develop into a crisis if it is not resolved soon, C) Something unlikely to develop into a crisis unless it drags on for many weeks, or D) Don't know?

		Crisis	Likely To Become Crisis	Unlikely To Become Crisis
Nov. 16-17, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	12	28	53

● Do you think what's going on in Florida is: A) Already a crisis for our country, B) Is becoming a crisis, C) Is unlikely to become a crisis, or D) Don't know?

		Crisis	Becoming A Crisis	Unlikely To Become Crisis
Nov. 29-Dec. 1, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	25	30	42
Dec. 7-8, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	25	29	42

● Do you think that the current situation with the election for president is a constitutional crisis, a serious problem but not a constitutional crisis, or do you think it is not a serious problem at all?

		Crisis	Serious Problem	Not Serious Problem
Nov. 10, 2000	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	15	55	28

● Do you think that the fact that we do not yet know who the next President will be is a big problem for this country, or do you think that the delay is not really a problem?

		Big Problem	Not Really A Problem
Dec. 9-10, 2000	CBS News/NYT	49	48

● How serious a problem do you think the controversy over the outcome of the presidential election was for the United States: Would you say it was a constitutional crisis, a major problem but not a crisis, a minor problem, or not a problem at all?

		Crisis	Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not A Problem
Dec. 14-16, 2000	LA Times	14	52	28	5

## Confidence in the Supreme Court

- Now I am going to read you a list of institutions in American society. Please tell me how much confidence you, yourself, have in each one – a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little? First, the U.S. Supreme Court?

		Great Deal/ Quite A Lot	Some	Very Little/ None (Vol.)
Jun. 5-7, 1998	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	50	34	13
Jun. 25-27, 1999	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	49	35	13
Jun. 22-25, 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	47	35	14
Dec. 15-17, 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	49	31	19
Jun. 8-10, 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	50	31	13
Jun. 21-23, 2002	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	50	35	13
Jun. 9-10, 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	47	38	13

- Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Supreme Court is handling its job?

		Approve	Disapprove
Aug. 29-Sep. 5, 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	62	29
Jan. 10-14, 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	59	34
Jun. 11-17, 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	62	25
Sep. 7-10, 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	58	28
Sep. 5-8, 2002	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	60	29
Jul. 7-9, 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	59	33

- How much confidence do you yourself have in the United States Supreme Court - a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little?

		Great Deal	Quite A Lot	Some	Very Little
Jun. 22-27, 1981	CBS News/NYT	21	26	35	14
Nov. 27-28, 2000	CBS News/NYT	29	28	29	10
Dec. 14-16, 2000	CBS News/NYT	24	22	33	18
May 10-12, 2001	CBS News/NYT	16	22	41	16

- I'm going to read you the names of some institutions in American society. Please tell me how much confidence you, yourself have in each one: a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little...The U.S. Supreme Court?

		Great Deal	Quite A Lot	Some	Very Little
Nov. 28-Dec. 4, 1995	Wash Post/Kaiser/ Harvard	13	26	41	16
May 26-Jun. 25, 2000	NPR/Kaiser/Harvard	20	25	37	15
Dec. 14-15, 2000	ABC News/Wash Post	31	25	28	12

- I'm going to read you the names of some institutions in American society. Please tell me how much confidence you, yourself have in each one: a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little...The U.S. Supreme Court?

		Great Deal	Quite A Lot	Some	Very Little
Feb. 20-24, 1997	Hart/CEG	15	27	38	18
May 21-Jun. 1, 1999	Hart/CEG	17	26	36	17
Aug. 14-16, 2000	Hart/CEG	17	28	36	16
Dec. 7-10, 2000	NBC/WSJ	27	25	32	8
Nov. 12-19, 2001	Hart/CEG	27	28	29	12

● Please tell me whether you approve or disapprove of the way the United States Supreme Court is handling the election situation?

Dec. 10, 2000	ABC News/Wash Post	Approve 51	Disapprove 40
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● As a result of its order stopping the recount, do you have a higher opinion of the U.S. Supreme Court, a lower opinion, or hasn't your opinion of the U.S. Supreme Court changed?

Dec. 10, 2000	ABC News/Wash Post	Higher 15	Lower 25	Hasn't Changed 58
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● Do you believe that the U.S. Supreme Court acted in a nonpartisan way when it ruled in a way that meant ballots would not be counted in Florida, or did the court show political favoritism?

Dec. 14-16, 2000	LA Times	Acted In A Nonpartisan Way 51	Showed Favoritism 42
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● Do you think that the five-to-four decision reached by the United States Supreme Court to stop the recount is based mostly on the law, or do you think that it is based mostly on politics?

Dec. 7-10, 2000	NBC/WSJ	Based On Law 34	Based On Politics 53
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● Do you think the Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court who voted to end the recount in Florida did so mostly based on the legal merits of the case or mostly based on their own desire to have Bush as their next president?

Dec. 13, 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	Justices Voted On Legal Merits 54	Justices Mostly Wanted Bush 35
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● Does this decision make you lose confidence in the U.S. Supreme Court, or does it not have an effect on your view of the Court?

Dec. 13, 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	Lose Confidence 30	No Effect 66
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● As far as people in charge of running the U.S. Supreme Court are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?

		Great Deal	Only Some	Hardly Any
Jan. 14-18, 1998	Harris Interactive	37	47	12
Jan. 7-12, 1999	Harris Interactive	42	45	11
Jan. 6-10, 2000	Harris Interactive	34	51	13
Jan. 11-15, 2001	Harris Interactive	35	45	16
Jan. 16-21, 2002	Harris Interactive	41	45	11
Dec. 12-16, 2002	Harris Interactive	34	48	13

- Generally speaking, what is your impression of the United States Supreme Court? As of today, is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about it to say?

		Very Favorable	Somewhat Favorable	Somewhat Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable
Jul. 3, 1989	LA Times	7	33	23	11
Jun. 28-30, 1991	LA Times	10	43	18	5
Sep. 21-25, 1991	LA Times	10	34	16	6
Dec. 14-16, 2000	LA Times	22	28	17	14

- Would you say your overall opinion of the United States Supreme Court is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable or very unfavorable?

		Very Favorable	Somewhat Favorable	Somewhat Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable
May 15-18, 1997	PSRA/Pew	16	56	17	5
Sep. 25- Oct. 31, 1997	PSRA/Pew	13	64	12	6
Jan. 3-7, 2001	PSRA/Pew	18	50	13	8
March 5-18, 2001	PSRA/Pew	15	57	15	7
Jul. 2-12, 2001	PSRA/Pew	15	55	14	6

- Do you feel that the Supreme Court has maintained an objective balance or has it become too political?

		Objective	Too Political
Dec. 13, 2000	Zogby International	43	48

## **Bush's Legitimacy**

- If George W. Bush is declared the winner and inaugurated next January, would you accept him as a legitimate president, or not?

		Yes	No
Nov. 11-12, 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	79	19
Nov. 19, 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	86	13
Nov. 26-27, 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	84	15
Dec. 2-4, 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	85	14
Dec. 13, 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	80	18

- If Al Gore is declared the winner and inaugurated next January, would you accept him as a legitimate president, or not?

		Yes	No
Nov. 11-12, 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	82	16
Nov. 19, 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	80	19
Nov. 26-27, 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	74	25
Dec. 2-4, 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	71	28

● Now that George W. Bush has been declared the winner and will be inaugurated next January, will you accept him as the legitimate president?

		Yes	No
Dec. 15-17, 2000	Gallup CNN/USA Today	83	16

● Do you accept George W. Bush as the legitimate president or not?

Apr. 20-22, 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	76	23
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● Thinking about the circumstances surrounding last year's presidential election, which of the following describes your view of whether President Bush is a legitimate president -- I accept him as the legitimate president, I don't accept him as the legitimate president now, but might in the future, or I will never accept him as the legitimate president?

		Accept As Legitimate President	Don't Accept But Might In Future	Will Never Accept As President
Jul. 10-11, 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	73	15	11

● If this ends with Bush winning the presidency, will you consider him to have been legitimately elected as president, or not?

		Yes	No
Nov. 26, 2000	ABC News/Wash Post	76	19
Dec. 3, 2000	ABC News/Wash Post	73	23
Dec. 10, 2000	ABC News/Wash Post	71	27

● If this ends with Gore winning the presidency, will you consider him to have been legitimately elected as president, or not?

		Yes	No
Nov. 26, 2000	ABC News/Wash Post	60	36
Dec. 3, 2000	ABC News/Wash Post	59	38
Dec. 10, 2000	ABC News/Wash Post	58	41

● Do you consider Bush to have been legitimately elected as president or not?

		Yes	No
Dec. 14-15, 2000	ABC News/Wash Post	55	42
Jan. 11-15, 2001	ABC News/Wash Post	58	40

● If George W. Bush eventually becomes President in January, would you say he legitimately won the election, or not?

		Yes	No
Nov. 27-28, 2000	CBS News/NYT	65	27
Dec. 9-10, 2000	CBS News/NYT	64	27

● If Al Gore eventually becomes President in January, would you say he legitimately won the election, or not?

		Yes	No
Nov. 27-28, 2000	CBS News/NYT	50	39
Dec. 9-10, 2000	CBS News/NYT	49	39

- Would you say George W. Bush legitimately won the election, or not?

		Yes	No
Dec. 14-16, 2000	CBS News/NYT	53	40
Jan. 15-17, 2001	CBS News/NYT	51	43
Feb. 10-12, 2001	CBS News/NYT	52	41
Mar. 8-12, 2001	CBS News/NYT	56	37
May 9-12, 2003*	CBS News/NYT	54	38
Sep. 15-16, 2003*	CBS News/NYT	56	39
Jan. 12-15, 2004*+	CBS News/NYT	54	42

Note: \*Question wording was, "Regardless of what you think about George W. Bush now, looking back to 2000, would you say George W. Bush legitimately won the 2000 election, or not?" +Asked of registered voters.

- If George W. Bush wins the election, do you think he will or will not have won the presidency legitimately?

		Yes	No
Dec. 7-10, 2000	NBC/WSJ	60	32

- If Al Gore wins the election, do you think he will or will not have won the presidency legitimately?

		Yes	No
Dec. 7-10, 2000	NBC/WSJ	49	41

- Do you think that George W. Bush won the presidency legitimately?

		Yes	No
Jan. 2001	NBC/WSJ	55	39
Apr. 2001	NBC/WSJ	57	37

- Thinking back to the 2000 presidential election, do you think that George W. Bush won the presidency legitimately?

		Yes	No
Nov. 2001	NBC/WSJ	58	35

- Which comes closest to your view of the way George W. Bush won the election - he won fair and square, he won but only on a technicality, or he stole the election?

		Won Fair And Square	Won On Technicality	Stole Election
Dec. 15-17, 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	48	32	18
Jan. 15-16, 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	45	31	24
Apr. 20-22, 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	50	29	19
Jul. 10-11, 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	48	33	17
Nov. 2-4, 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	50	32	15
Apr. 5-7, 2002	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	49	34	16
Jan. 2-5, 2004	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	49	31	18

● As you may know, the Florida vote for president is still being counted awaiting absentee ballots. If the recount shows that George W. Bush won the state of Florida by a narrow margin giving him a majority in the Electoral College, do you think he will have legitimately won the election, or not?

		Yes	No
Nov. 10-12, 2000	PSRA/Pew	68	27

● Suppose it turns out that Bush is the next president. Do you think he will have legitimately won the election or do you think it is because the voting was conducted and counted improperly in Florida?

		Legitimately Won	Way Conducted/Counted
Nov. 20-26, 2000	PSRA/Pew	54	28
Nov. 27-30, 2000	PSRA/Pew	48	33

● Suppose it turns out that Gore is the next president. Do you think he will have legitimately won the election or do you think it is because the voting was conducted and counted improperly in Florida?

		Legitimately Won	Way Conducted/Counted
Nov. 20-26, 2000	PSRA/Pew	35	44
Nov. 27-30, 2000	PSRA/Pew	36	44

● Suppose that after all the recounting is done, George W. Bush becomes president because he won the most votes in the Electoral College, even though more people across the country voted for Al Gore. Would you consider that to be a legitimate outcome or not?

		Yes	No
Nov. 10, 2000	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	59	36

● If George W. Bush is elected president, do you think he will have been elected by accident, or don't you feel that way?

		Not Elected By Accident	Elected By Accident
Nov. 10, 2000	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	65	29

● Will you consider Bush to be a legitimate president, or not?

		Yes	No
Dec. 14-15, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	68	29

● Do you personally feel George W. Bush won the election legitimately or not?

		Yes	No
Dec. 14-16, 2000	LA Times	52	38

● Who do you, personally, consider to be the real winner of the presidential election – George W. Bush or Al Gore?

		Bush	Gore
Jan.15-16, 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today/	57	38

● If George W. Bush wins the presidency in Florida, do you think that he will have won because he received more votes than Al Gore, or do you think that he will have won because of a flawed system that did not count all of Al Gore's votes?

		More Votes	Flawed System
Dec. 7-10, 2000	NBC/WSJ	46	42

● If George W. Bush is elected, he will have won the electoral vote but not the popular vote. Do you think that this would or would not lessen his legitimacy as president?

		Would Not Lessen Legitimacy	Would Lessen Legitimacy
Dec. 7-10, 2000	NBC/WSJ	59	34

● If you define legitimacy as the will of the people, do you consider a George W. Bush presidency legitimate?

		Yes	No
Dec. 13, 2000	Zogby International	59	37

● Now, I am going to read you a list of words and phrases which describe political figures. For each word or phrase, please tell me whether it describes George W. Bush very well, well, not too well, or not well at all...Not really elected President?

		Very Well/Well	Not Too/Not At All Well
Sep. 9-14, 2003	Democracy Corps (Dem.)	37	57

● Considering the recount of votes in Florida during the presidential election three years ago, do you regard the Bush presidency as legitimate, or do you think the election was stolen?

		Presidency Legitimate	Election Stolen
Dec. 12-19, 2003	Zogby/O'Leary Report	56	38

NOTE: Sixty-two percent of respondents in states Bush won in 2000 consider his Presidency legitimate and 50 percent of respondents in states Bush lost consider hi Presidency legitimate. Eighty-nine percent of Republicans consider Bush's Presidency legitimate while two-thirds of Democrats say the election was stolen.

## **Bush's Mandate/Effectiveness**

- Whoever ends up winning, do you think the new president should scale back his political agenda because of the closeness of the election or that he should go ahead and pursue his plans for the country regardless of his small margin of victory?

		Should Scale Back	Go Ahead And Pursue
Nov. 9-10, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	15	80
Dec. 7-8, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	14	82

- Do you think that President-elect Bush should scale back his political agenda because he lost the popular vote nationwide and has such a narrow margin in the Electoral College, or that Bush should go ahead and pursue his plans for the country regardless of these factors?

		Should Scale Back	Go Ahead And Pursue
Dec. 14-15, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	21	73

- Whomever becomes president, do you think he will have the mandate to effectively lead the country?

		Yes	No
Nov. 22, 2000	Zogby International	50	37

- Do you think Bush has a mandate to work for major new social and economic programs or for only small policy changes?

		Major New Programs	Small Policy Changes
Jan. 11-15, 2001	CBS News/NYT	47	38

- Do you think Bush has a mandate to carry out the agenda he presented during the presidential campaign, or should he compromise on the things the Democrats strongly oppose?

		Has Mandate	Should Compromise
Jan. 11-15, 2001	ABC News/Wash Post	41	52

- Suppose that George W. Bush is eventually awarded Florida's electoral votes and wins the presidency despite losing the popular vote by a small margin to Al Gore. If Bush were to be elected in this way, do you think it would seriously hurt his ability to be an effective national leader, or not?

		Yes, Hurt	No, Not Hurt
Nov. 9-10, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	25	69

- If George W. Bush is awarded Florida's electoral votes and the presidency because hand-counts in several Florida counties showing Gore ahead are excluded, do you think this would seriously hurt Bush's ability to be an effective national leader, or not?

		Yes	No
Nov. 16-17, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	34	61

● If the situation ends with George W. Bush winning the presidency because hand counts in several Florida counties that would have put Gore ahead were excluded, do you think this would seriously hurt Bush's ability to be an effective national leader, or not?

		Yes	No
Nov. 29-Dec. 1, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	33	60
Dec. 7-8, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	36	58

● If the situation in Florida ends with Al Gore winning the presidency only after a lengthy court battle to include hand recounts in heavily Democratic counties, do you think this would seriously hurt Gore's ability to be an effective national leader, or not?

		Yes	No
Nov. 16-17, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	40	56
Nov. 29-Dec. 1, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	47	49
Dec. 7-8, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	46	49

● If George W. Bush eventually becomes president in January, given all that has happened, do you think he could lead the country effectively, or not?

		Yes	No
Nov. 27-28, 2000	CBS News/NYT	26	65
Dec. 9-10, 2000	CBS News/NYT	27	66

● If Al Gore eventually becomes president in January, given all that has happened, do you think he could lead the country effectively, or not?

		Yes	No
Nov. 27-28, 2000	CBS News/NYT	33	60
Dec. 9-10, 2000	CBS News/NYT	36	56

● How would you feel if George W. Bush were declared the winner of the presidential election—would you say that you feel comfortable with him and prepared to support him as our new president, or not?

		Comfortable	Not Comfortable
Nov. 13, 2000	NBC/WSJ	69	28
Nov. 27, 2000	NBC/WSJ	65	31
Dec. 7-10, 2000	NBC/WSJ	66	31

● How would you feel if Al Gore were declared the winner of the presidential election—would you say that you feel comfortable with him and prepared to support him as our new president, or not?

		Comfortable	Not Comfortable
Nov. 13, 2000	NBC/WSJ	66	31
Nov. 27, 2000	NBC/WSJ	62	34
Dec. 7-10, 2000	NBC/WSJ	60	37

## Confidence in the Vote

- Do you feel that your vote was counted properly on November 7?

		Yes	No
Dec. 12-13, 2000	Zogby International	92	1

- Do you personally have a lot of confidence that your vote for president was counted, or some confidence or no confidence at all that your vote for president was counted?

		A Lot	Some	None	Did Not Vote
Dec. 14-16, 2001	LA Times	50	19	10	17

- How much confidence do you have that your vote for president was counted?

		A Lot	Some	None
Dec. 14-16, 2000	LA Times	61	24	12

NOTE: Asked of those who said they voted.

- Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that all the votes cast in Florida were fairly counted?

		Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Dec. 13, 2000	Zogby International	27	14	14	44

- Does the situation in this election make you feel more like every vote counts, including your own, or does it make you feel more like your vote doesn't count?

		Vote Counts	Vote Doesn't Count
Nov. 10, 2000	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	74	23

- Has the outcome of this election increased your belief that every vote counts, or has it raised doubts in your mind about the importance of your vote?

		Increased Belief	Raised Doubts
Nov. 10-12, 2000	PSRA/Pew	74	23

- How much confidence do you have in the system in which votes are cast and counted in this country - a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little?

		Great Deal	Quite A Lot	Some	Very Little
Dec. 15-17, 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	15	15	32	35
Nov. 2-4, 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	21	20	32	25

- After the last presidential election some people's votes were not counted because of problems with the ballots or voting machines. In general, do you think this type of voting problem is more likely to affect racial minorities, less likely, or does it affect all Americans equally?

		More Likely	All Equally	Less Likely
Mar. 8-Apr. 22, 2001	Wash Post/Kaiser/Harvard	19	76	3

NOTE: For African-Americans the figures were 45, 50, and 3, respectively.

- Do you think this is mainly by accident, or mainly a deliberate attempt to reduce the political power of minorities? (Asked of the 19 percent who believe problems with ballots or voting machines are more likely to affect racial minorities)

		An Attempt To Reduce Power	Mainly An Accident
Mar. 8-Apr. 22, 2001	Wash Post/Harvard/Kaiser	63	32

NOTE: For African-Americans the figures were 84 and 9, respectively.

- Now I'm going to read you some statements that may or may not describe your own feelings about politics and government. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each one. "Voting is a waste of time?"

		Agree	Disagree
Jun. 30-Aug. 30, 1999	Wash Post/Kaiser/Harvard	16	83
Dec. 14-15, 2000	ABC News/Wash Post	11	88

## Rerunning the 2000 Election

- Who would you most prefer to be the next president—Al Gore or George W. Bush, or don't you have a preference?

		Gore	Bush
Nov. 19, 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	45	42
Nov. 26-27, 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	40	42
Dec. 2-4, 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	40	46
Dec. 10, 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	40	45

- If the election were held today, who would you vote for—Al Gore or George W. Bush?

		Gore	Bush
Dec. 13, 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	47	44

- Regardless of how you might have voted last week, as of today, who would you like to see become our next president: George W. Bush or Al Gore?

		Gore	Bush
Nov. 16-17, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	43	44

- Regardless of how you might have voted in the presidential election, as of today, who would you like to see become our next president: George W. Bush or Al Gore?

		Gore	Bush
Nov. 29-Dec. 1, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	44	42
Dec. 7-8, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	47	41

- If you had the chance to vote again, based on what you know now, would you vote the same way or switch your vote to a different candidate?

		Same	Would Switch
Nov. 9-10, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	98	1

NOTE: Asked of those who said they voted in the 2000 election.

- If you could vote now, would you vote for...?

		Gore	Bush	Nader	Would Not Vote
Nov. 9-10, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	29	18	1	42

NOTE: Asked of those who said they voted in the 2000 election.

- If last November's election for president were held over again tomorrow, for whom would you vote: Republican George W. Bush, Democrat Al Gore, Green Party candidate Ralph Nader, or Reform Party candidate Patrick Buchanan?

		Gore	Bush	Buchanan	Nader
Nov. 29-30, 2000	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	36	49	1	3
Jan. 10-11, 2001	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	40	44	1	5
Mar. 13-14, 2001	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	36	50	1	3

NOTE: Asked of registered voters.

- Who do you personally want to become the next president - Al Gore or George W. Bush?

		Gore	Bush
Nov. 12, 2000	ABC News/Wash Post	44	45
Nov. 16, 2000	ABC News/Wash Post	44	43
Nov. 26, 2000	ABC News/Wash Post	42	43
Dec. 3, 2000	ABC News/Wash Post	43	46
Dec. 10, 2000	ABC News/Wash Post	39	47
Dec. 14-15, 2000	ABC News/Wash Post	47	39

- If the election were held today among the same candidates, who would you vote for?

		Gore	Bush
Jul. 26-30, 2001	ABC News/Wash Post	46	48

NOTE: Asked of those who said they voted in the 2000 election.

- Regardless of how you might have voted in the last presidential election, as of today, who would you like to see become our next president?

		Gore	Bush
Dec. 9-10, 2000	CBS News/NYT	41	51
Dec. 14-16, 2000	CBS News/NYT	41	46

- If you had a chance to vote again, based on what you know now, would you vote the same way or switch your vote to a different presidential candidate?

		Vote Same	Different
Dec. 14-16, 2000	CBS News/NYT	98	1

NOTE: Asked of those who said they voted in the 2000 election.

- If the election were held today, who would you vote for—George W. Bush or Al Gore?

		Gore	Bush
Dec. 8-10, 2000	NBC/WSJ	48	47

- Taking into account everything that has happened over the past few weeks, who do you think ought to be president – George W. Bush or Al Gore?

		Gore	Bush
Dec. 8-10, 2000	NBC/WSJ	40	51

- Regardless of how or whether you actually voted on November 7<sup>th</sup>, if the election for President were being held today, which candidate would you vote for? Would it be George W. Bush, the Republican, Al Gore, the Democrat, Pat Buchanan, the Reform Party candidate, or Ralph Nader, the Green Party candidate?

		Gore	Bush	Buchanan	Nader
Dec 14-16, 2000	LA Times	46	45	1	4

NOTE: Asked of registered voters.

- Which of the candidates would you prefer to be president - Democrat Al Gore, Republican George W. Bush, Reform Party's Pat Buchanan, Green Party's Ralph Nader?

		Gore	Bush	Buchanan	Nader
Nov. 22, 2000	Zogby International	46	45	1	5

NOTE: Asked of likely voters.

- If the presidential election were held today, for who would you vote, Democrat Al Gore, Republican George W. Bush, Reform Party's Pat Buchanan or Green party's Ralph Nader?

		Gore	Bush	Buchanan	Nader
Dec 13, 2000	Zogby International	50	45	1	4

NOTE: Asked of those who said they voted in the 2000 election.

- Regardless of how you voted in the 2000 presidential election, are you happy that George W. Bush became president or do you think the country would be better off today if Al Gore were president?

		Better With Gore	Happy With Bush
Jun. 25-28, 2001	Zogby International	37	52

NOTE: Asked of likely voters.

- Regardless of the outcome of the vote, who do you think would make a better president, Al Gore or George W. Bush?

		Gore	Bush
Nov. 10, 2000	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	44	44

- Thinking about the way George W. Bush and Al Gore each handled the events since election day, who would you say has shown himself to be the best man for the job of president, George W. Bush or Al Gore?

		Gore	Bush
Dec. 14-16, 2000	LA Times	42	44

NOTE: Asked of registered voters.

- If you had voted, would you have voted for Al Gore, George W. Bush, Ralph Nader, or Patrick Buchanan?

		Gore	Bush	Buchanan	Nader
Nov. 8-Dec. 5, 2000	The National Campaign Study Group	37	37	2	5

NOTE: Asked of people who said they did not vote in the 2000 election.

- Thinking back to the 2000 presidential election...Did you happen to vote for Al Gore, for George W. Bush, for Ralph Nader or for Pat Buchanan for president?

		Gore	Bush	Nader	Buchanan
Jan. 2001	PSRA/Bloomberg	43	42	4	*
Mar. 2001	PSRA/Bloomberg	41	46	3	1
Apr. 2001	PSRA/Bloomberg	41	47	3	*
Jun. 2001	PSRA/Bloomberg	41	47	3	*
Aug. 2001	PSRA/Bloomberg	43	46	2	1
Sep. 2001	PSRA/Bloomberg	36	51	3	1
Nov. 2001	PSRA/Bloomberg	43	45	3	*
Dec. 2001	PSRA/Bloomberg	41	50	3	*
Jan. 2002	PSRA/Bloomberg	37	52	3	*
May 2002	PSRA/Bloomberg	39	52	4	*
Jun. 2002	PSRA/Bloomberg	38	52	3	1

## Looking Ahead to the 2004 Election

- Now suppose the presidential election of 2004 were being held today, and it included Al Gore as the Democratic candidate and George W. Bush as the Republican candidate. Would you vote for Al Gore, the Democrat or George W. Bush, the Republican?

		Gore	Bush
Dec. 15-17, 2000*	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	50	41
Jun. 8-10, 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	43	49
Aug. 3-5, 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	48	48
Nov. 2-4, 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	35	60

NOTE: \*Asked of registered voters.

- Let us suppose that the next presidential election, which will take place in November 2004, were held today. For whom would you vote—George W. Bush, the Republican, or Al Gore, the Democrat?

		Gore	Bush
Jan. 13-15, 2001	NBC/WSJ	43	43
Jan. 18-21, 2002*	NBC/WSJ	28	63

NOTE: \*Question wording was, “If the next election for president were held today, and George W. Bush were running as the Republican candidate and Al Gore were running as the Democratic candidate, for whom would you vote?”

- Thinking ahead to the 2004 presidential election, if the candidates for president were Democrat Al Gore and Republican George W. Bush, for whom would you vote?

		Gore	Bush
Jan. 10-11, 2001	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	36	39
Jun. 6-7, 2001	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	38	50
Dec. 12-13, 2001	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	23	61
Aug. 6-7, 2002	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	37	50
Nov. 19-20, 2002	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	28	54

NOTE: Asked of registered voters.

- Thinking ahead, suppose the 2004 presidential election were being held today. If you had to choose between George W. Bush, the Republican or Al Gore the Democrat; who would you vote for?

		Gore	Bush
Jul. 31-Aug. 5, 2001	PSRA/Newsweek	43	46
Sep. 26-27, 2002*	PSRA/Newsweek	36	58
Oct. 10-11, 2002*	PSRA/Newsweek	36	58
Nov. 7-8, 2002*	PSRA/Newsweek	39	54

NOTE: \*Asked of registered voters and includes leaners. Question wording began, “Suppose the next election for president were being held today and you had to choose between...?”

## Opinions in Florida

- Thinking back to the 2000 presidential election, do you feel the election process in Florida was fair, or unfair?

		Fair	Unfair
November 11-12, 2000	Mason-Dixon	65	28
November 27-28, 2000	Mason-Dixon	56	38
February 23-26, 2001	Mason-Dixon	57	36

- Do you believe the certified election results in Florida are accurate, or inaccurate?

		Accurate	Inaccurate
November 11-12, 2000	Mason-Dixon	61	24
November 27-28, 2000	Mason-Dixon	55	38
February 23-26, 2001	Mason-Dixon	46	46

- How would you rate the performance of the Florida Supreme Court: excellent, pretty good, only fair, or poor?

		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
November 27-28, 2000	Mason-Dixon	17	27	24	26
February 23-26, 2001	Mason-Dixon	11	30	26	26

- Who do you believe really won the presidential election in Florida, Al Gore or George Bush?

		Gore	Bush	Don't Know
November 11-12, 2000	Mason-Dixon	28	49	23
November 27-28, 2000	Mason-Dixon	31	55	14
February 23-26, 2001	Mason-Dixon	36	56	8

- Do you think that the problems Florida encountered were limited to Florida or that they existed in other states but just weren't uncovered?

		Limited To Florida	In Other States Too
Apr. 3-8, 2001	Collins/James Madison	12	79

- Has the outcome of last November's presidential election increased your belief that your vote really counts or has it raised doubts in your mind about the importance of your vote?

		Think My Vote Counts	Doubt My Vote Counts
Apr. 3-8, 2001	Collins/James Madison	63	30

- How much responsibility do you think voters have in making sure that their ballot is properly cast: Complete responsibility, most responsibility, some responsibility, or no responsibility?

		Complete Responsibility	Most Responsibility	Some Responsibility	No Responsibility
Apr. 3-8, 2001	Collins/James Madison	61	20	14	3

## Key:

**PSRA** = Princeton Survey Research Associates

**Yankelovich** = Yankelovich Partners

**Wash Post/Kaiser/Harvard** = Washington Post, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard University

**Collins/James Madison** = The Collins Center for Public Policy, Inc. and the James Madison Institute

## Key Dates

**November 7, 2000:** Election Day yields no clear winner.

**November 12, 2000:** Officials begin Florida hand recount. Bush goes to court to halt recount.

**November 26, 2000:** Bush is certified winner in Florida. Recount is halted.

**December 8, 2000:** Florida Supreme Court orders partial recount. Bush appeals to U.S. Supreme Court.

**December 12, 2000:** U.S. Supreme Court overturns Florida Supreme Court and ends recount. Gore concedes the next day.

Many pollsters in the United States regularly supply us with their data. This report could not have been done without their assistance, and we thank them for it. The data in this report come from the archive of public opinion polls at the American Enterprise Institute and from The Roper Center's archive at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, Connecticut. The Roper Center is the oldest and largest archive of public opinion data in the world. To learn more about the Roper Center, visit <http://www.ropercenter.uconn.edu/>.

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