
ABC News Post-Election Poll #1,
November 2000

ABC News

ICPSR 3116

ABC NEWS POST-ELECTION POLL #1, NOVEMBER 2000

(ICPSR 3116)

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ABC News

First ICPSR Version

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BIBLIOGRAPHIC CITATION

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DATA DISCLAIMER

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DATA COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

ABC News

ABC NEWS POST-ELECTION POLL #1, NOVEMBER 2000 (ICPSR 3116)

SUMMARY: This special topic poll, fielded November 12, 2000, is part of a continuing series of monthly surveys that solicit public opinion on the presidency and on a range of other political and social issues. This data collection focused on the presidential election that took place on November 7, 2000. Respondents were asked about the extent of their personal interest in and concern about the situation in the country five days after the election. Questions examined opinions on the way various groups were handling the election, including Vice President Al Gore's and Texas governor George W. Bush's campaigns, local officials in Florida, and the news media. Respondents were also asked whom they wanted to see become the next president. Opinions were elicited on the need for a new presidential election in Palm Beach County, Florida, in the entire state of Florida, in other states where election results were very close, and across the entire country. Additional topics covered whether George W. Bush and Al Gore should accept the recount in Florida or should ask courts to look into whether the voting was unfair and if they should ask for a recount in other states where the results were very close. Those polled expressed their views about electing the president by direct popular vote versus by the Electoral College, their confidence about the accuracy of Florida's recount, and whether the ballot that was used in Palm Beach County was fair. The survey also investigated what impact the unclear post-election situation would have, especially on the country's system of presidential elections. Background information on respondents includes age, gender, education, race, party affiliation, political orientation, and voter registration.

NOTE: (1) The data are provided as an SPSS portable file. (2) This collection has not been processed by ICPSR staff. ICPSR is distributing the data and documentation for this collection in essentially the same form in which they were received. When appropriate, documentation has been converted to Portable Document Format (PDF), data files have been converted to non-platform-specific formats, and variables have been recoded to ensure respondents' anonymity. (3) The codebook is provided by ICPSR as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file. The PDF file format was developed by Adobe Systems Incorporated and can be accessed using PDF reader software, such as the Adobe Acrobat Reader. Information on how to obtain a copy of the Acrobat Reader is provided on the ICPSR Web site.

EXTENT OF COLLECTION: 1 data file + machine-readable documentation
(PDF)

EXTENT OF PROCESSING: REFORM.DATA/ REFORM.DOC

Cases: 762

Variables: 44

TNS INTERSEARCH
Horsham, PA

#DL-15765
November 12, 2000
FINAL

(POST ELECTION POLL #1)

INTRODUCTION: Hello, I'm calling on behalf of ABC News. We're conducting a public opinion survey today on some current events.

IF RELUCTANT RESPONDENT USE ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

We're not selling anything; we're just interested in your opinions.

It's for a news poll that will be reported on ABC.

We need opinions of average Americans and it will only take a few minutes of your time.

IF RESPONDENT ASKS "WHO ARE YOU," "WHERE ARE YOU CALLING FROM": My name's _____ and I work for TNS Intersearch, which conducts these polls for ABC.

Our research experts have randomly selected the person in your household that I should speak to, so that all types of people will be represented in our survey. Thinking of all the (male/female) adults age 18 or over who live in your household and are at home right now, may I please speak to the one who last had a birthday? **(IF NO MALE/FEMALE IN THE HOUSEHOLD, ASK: Then may I please speak to the (female/male) who last had a birthday?)**

1. How closely have you been following the situation involving last Tuesday's presidential election - very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely or not closely at all?

- 1 Very closely
- 2 Somewhat closely
- 3 Not too closely
- 4 Not closely at all
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

2. Please tell me whether you approve or disapprove of the way (INSERT ITEM) handling the election situation.

How about the way the(INSERT NEXT ITEM) handling the election situation?

PROGRAMMER NOTE: REPRESENT QUESTION ON SCREEN:

*****PROGRAMMER NOTE: SCRAMBLE ITEMS*****

- A. The Bush campaign is
- B. The Gore campaign is
- C. Local officials in Florida are
- D. The news media are

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

3. How do you feel about the election situation overall - are you personally worried about it, or not worried?

INTERVIEWER If "Worried" ASK: Are you very worried about it, or somewhat worried?

- 1 Worried, Very
- 2 Worried, Somewhat
- 3 Not worried
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

4. For each item I name, please tell me if it's something that you personally are worried about, or not worried about as a result of the election situation.

INTERVIEWER If "Worried" ASK: Are you very worried about it, or somewhat worried?

*****PROGRAMMER NOTE:SCRAMBLE ITEMS*****

- A. The candidate you support might not win.
- B. It may take weeks or months before the winner is declared.
- C. People might lose faith in this country's political system.
- D. Whoever becomes president will be in a weak position to lead the country.
- E. The United States looks weak and confused to other countries.
- F. The system of electing presidents may be unreliable.

- 1 Worried, Very
- 2 Worried, Somewhat
- 3 Not worried
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

5. Do you think this situation reveals serious problems in this country's system of electing the president, or do you think it's just the kind of thing that can happen in a very close election?

- 1 Serious problem in system
- 2 Kind of thing that happens in close election
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

6. For future presidential elections, would you support or oppose changing to a system in which the president is elected by direct popular vote, instead of by the electoral college?

- 1 Support
- 2 Oppose
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

*****PROGRAMMER NOTE:ROTATE ITEMS IN PARENTHESES*****

7. The candidate who wins Florida probably will win the electoral college and become the next president. Florida is recounting its votes because the election there was so close. Some people say the candidates should accept the recount in Florida when it's completed, even if they think the voting there was unfair. Others say they should ask the courts to consider whether the voting was fair, even after the recount is completed. What do you think - should the candidates (accept the recount), or (ask the courts to look into these other issues)?

INTERVIEWER, GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Do you feel that way strongly or only somewhat?

- 1 Accept the recount, strongly
- 2 Accept the recount, only somewhat

- 3 Ask courts to look into other issues, strongly
- 4 Ask courts to look into other issues, only somewhat
- 5 Depends who wins (Vol.)
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

8. How confident are you that the Florida results will be counted accurately - very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident or not confident at all?

- 1 Very confident
- 2 Somewhat confident
- 3 Not too confident
- 4 Not confident at all
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

9. As you may have heard, there have been complaints about the design of the ballot that was used in Palm Beach County, Florida. Have you seen that ballot in the newspaper or on television, or not?

INTERVIEWER IF "YES: (SEEN BALLOT) ASK: *In your own opinion was that a fair or an unfair ballot?*

- 1 Yes, fair
- 2 Yes, unfair
- 3 No, have not seen ballot
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

10. Do you think there should or should not be a new presidential election in Palm Beach County, Florida?

- 1 Yes, Should be a NEW presidential election
- 2 No, Should **NOT**
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

11. Do you think there should or should not be a new presidential election in the entire state of Florida?

- 1 Yes, Should be a NEW presidential election
- 2 No, Should **NOT**
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

*****PROGRAMMER NOTE: ROTATE ORDER OF QUESTIONS 12 and 13*****

12. Do you think the Bush campaign should or should not ask for a recount in other states where Bush lost by only a narrow margin?

- 1 Yes, should ask for recount
- 2 No, should not
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

13. Do you think the Gore campaign should or should not ask for a recount in other states where Gore lost by only a narrow margin?

- 1 Yes, should ask for recount
- 2 No, should not
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

14. Do you think there should or should not be a new presidential election in other states where the election was very close?

- 1 Yes, should be new presidential election
- 2 No, should not
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

15. Do you think there should or should not be a new presidential election across the entire country?

- 1 Yes, should be new presidential election
- 2 No, should not
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

*****PROGRAMMER NOTE: ROTATE NAMES IN PARENTHESES*****

16. As you probably know, the results of Tuesday's presidential election are still unclear. Who do you personally want to see become the next president - (Al Gore) or (George W. Bush)?

- 1 Gore
- 2 Bush
- 3 Neither (vol.)
- 4 Other (vol.)
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

Now just a few more questions to help classify your answers:

****AUTHOR NOTE: ROTATE ORDER OF CODES 1 and 2****

901. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as: (READ LIST)

- 1 A Democrat
- 2 A Republican
- 3 An Independent (ASK Q.904)
- 4 Or what? (ASK Q.904)
- (DO NOT READ BELOW)
- 8 DK/No opinion (ASK Q.904)
- 9 NA/Refused (ASK Q.904)

****AUTHOR NOTE: ROTATE ORDER OF CODES 1 and 2 IN SAME ORDER AS Q.901****

904. Do you lean more towards the: (READ LIST)

- 1 Democratic Party
- 2 Or, Republican Party
- (DO NOT READ BELOW)
- 3 (VOL)Neither
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

905. Are you registered to vote at your present address, or not?

Yes	1
No	2
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

908a. Would you say your views in most political matters are liberal, moderate, or conservative?

Liberal	1
Moderate	2
Conservative	3
(VOL)Don't think in those terms	4
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

909. What was the last grade of school you completed?

8th grade or less	1
Some high school	2
Graduated high school	3
Some college	4(ASK IF SCHOOL WAS A TECHNICAL SCHOOL; IF IT WAS, CIRCLE CODE 3, FOR HIGH SCHOOL)
Graduated College	5
Post-graduate	6
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

910. What is your age?

DK/No opinion 8888
NA/Refused 9999

918. Are you of Hispanic origin or background?
 (IF "YES," ASK:) Are you White Hispanic or Black Hispanic?

 (IF "NO," ASK:) are you white, black, or some other race?

White	1
Black	2
White Hispanic	3

Black Hispanic	4
Hispanic(no race given)	5
Other Race	6
NA/Refused	9

*****PROGRAMMER NOTE: ASK ONE OUT OF EVERY THREE RESPONDENTS*****

920.1 May a reporter call you to talk about some of the things we've been discussing?

Yes	1
No	2(SKIP TO Q.921)
DK/No opinion	8(SKIP TO Q.921)
NA/Refused	9(SKIP TO Q.921)

920.2 May I please have your first name, so the reporter will know who to ask for:

SAMPLE BALANCING DEMOGRAPHIC

921. RECORD GENDER

1	Male
2	Female

*****END*****