

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOOK

VOTE LISTING SECTION: summarizes the race and lists county-level detail for selected units for Statewide and Presidential elections:

- 1. County Map.** A county-level thematic map summarizes the geographic distribution of the political behavior.
- 2. Vote Ranking.** A county-by-county listing for the most populous counties ranked by total votes; (complete listings for all counties may be located at www.polidata.us).
- 3. Unit Summary.** A sub-table following the county listing summarizes some basic political factors for the units listed.
- 4. Vote Listing for Markets.** Summary data for selected areas or markets may be included.

VOTE HISTORY SECTION: provides a convenient summary of all selected races for any one county unit in one place. This eliminates the necessity of reference to multiple volumes or reports and provides information not easily obtained. Coverage for each state will depend upon state-specific factors but, in general, statewide races will be provided in this volume from the 1980s onward. Graphic charts are provided for three factors for each county.

- 1. Total Votes.** A column chart illustrating the difference in total turnout a) between on-year (Presidential) and off-year (mid-term) election cycles; b) between top-ticket races (e.g., President, U.S. Senate and Governor) and lower-ticket races; and c) over time.
- 2. Republican %.** Summarizes the percentage of the total vote received by the Republican nominee. A 50% reference line is included for comparison.
- 3. R-Dex.** A Republican Index which compares the Republican percentage for the County with that of the State. This is an index created by dividing the County GOP% by the State GOP% and subtracting 1.00. Thus, a positive R-Dex indicates a County with a GOP% above the state % and a negative R-Dex indicates a County with a GOP% below the state %. This provides a relative perspective to every Republican percentage, allowing an assessment as to whether, e.g., a GOP% of 65.0 is a reflection of the county's behavior or the strength of the candidate statewide.

Each VOTE LISTING and VOTE HISTORY is designed as a standalone Mini-Report which can be easily copied and placed in the researcher's own analysis. Note that only some races will appear in the Vote History Section. However, for most states, all counties are included in the Vote History Section.

THE FORMAT OF THE BOOK PROVIDES THE POLITICAL RESEARCHER:

- ⇒ COUNTY THEMATIC MAPS FOR A QUICK OVERVIEW OF ALL COUNTIES
- ⇒ CALCULATION OF THE MARGIN AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL VOTE
- ⇒ CONTRIBUTION FACTORS FOR THE COUNTY AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE STATE TOTAL
- ⇒ CALCULATION OF A REPUBLICAN INDEX TO ASSESS THE STRENGTH OF THE PARTIES LOCALLY IN COMPARISON TO THE STATE PERFORMANCE.
- ⇒ ONE-PAGE SUMMARY AND COMPILATION OF DOZENS OF RACES FOR TWO TIMEFRAMES: A) SELECTED STATEWIDE RACES SINCE THE 1980S AND B) PRESIDENTIAL RACES SINCE 1920
- ⇒ GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF THE DATA FOR A QUICK OVERVIEW OVER TIME FOR ANY COUNTY, FOR THREE POLITICAL FACTORS