



## POLIDATA ® DEMOGRAPHIC AND POLITICAL GUIDES

REFERENCE TOOLS FOR DEMOGRAPHIC AND POLITICAL RESEARCH

CLARK BENSEN

POLIDATA · 3112 CAVE COURT, SUITE C · LAKE RIDGE, VA 22192-1167

Tel: 703-690-4066 · Fax: 703-494-4061 (24hrs) · email: [clark@polidata.org](mailto:clark@polidata.org)

PUBLISHER OF THE POLIDATA ® DEMOGRAPHIC AND POLITICAL GUIDES AND ATLASES

### RE: Voter Turnout in the 2000 --PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES (13-Nov-2000)

While the number of votes counted to date is about 6% more than were counted in the 1996 Presidential election, the rate of turnout amongst eligible voters rose only slightly, from 48.9% of the Voting Age in 1996 to 49.7% for 2000<sup>1</sup>. The comparable turnout rate for the 1992 Presidential election was about 55% when 104.425 million votes were cast.

TABLE 1.	Voting Age Pop.	Votes Counted	Turnout Rate
2000	205,814,000	102,200,000	49.66
1996	196,789,000	96,274,564	48.92
<i>Change, Number</i>	<i>9,025,000</i>	<i>5,925,436</i>	<i>0.74</i>
<i>Change, Pct.</i>	<i>+4.59%</i>	<i>+6.15%</i>	<i>+1.50%</i>

A review of the preliminary state-by-state turnout data indicates that several states saw a large *increase in the actual turnout* for the 2000 election. **Nevada, South Carolina** and **Delaware** counted votes totals more than 20% above their 1996 numbers. On the opposite end of the scale, current vote totals indicate a decrease of 11% in actual turnout in **Washington**, 6% in **Alaska** and 4% in **Nebraska**.

Measured as a percentage of the Voting Age Population, **South Carolina** produced the largest *increase in the rate of turnout*, rising from 41.1% in 1996 to 47.3% in 2000, a 15% gain. **Wisconsin** also produced a 15% gain, rising from 57.2% to 65.6%. States that currently are showing a decrease in the rate of turnout, perhaps based upon incomplete returns, include **Washington** (-16.4%), **Arizona** (-10.6%), **Idaho** (-10.0%) and **California** (-9.9%).

**Minnesota, Maine** and **Wisconsin** had the highest turnout rates, each over 65% of VAP. The average rate of turnout for all states was 51.3% of the Voting Age in 1996 and 52.0% for 2000.

This note will be updated as more complete returns are compiled. Email [clark@polidata.org](mailto:clark@polidata.org) if you prefer to receive it via that medium.

[I:\polidata\notes\pan0k13a.doc~11/13/00 1:28 PM]

<sup>1</sup> This turnout rate is based upon the Voting Age Population as estimated by the Bureau of the Census and the votes counted for each year. This turnout rate will appear lower than that eventually reported by the Bureau as a result of the ongoing Current Population Survey which uses self-reported estimates for turnout.