



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: November 1, 2004**

**CONTACT:** Adam Clymer at 202-879-6757 or 202 549-7161 (cell)

**VISIT:** [www.naes04.org](http://www.naes04.org)

**ONLY 62 PERCENT OF REGISTERED VOTERS EXPECT THEIR VOTES  
TO BE ACCURATELY COUNTED, ANNENBERG DATA SHOW**

As of Election Eve, only 62 percent of registered voters are "very confident" that their votes will be accurately counted, the University of Pennsylvania's National Annenberg Election Survey shows. Another 22 percent said they were "somewhat confident."

Voters committed to George W. Bush were much more optimistic than those committed to John Kerry. Seventy-nine percent of Bush voters said they were "very confident" their votes would be accurately counted, compared to just 48 percent of Kerry voters. The polling was conducted among 2,757 registered voters from October 25 through 31.

Other relatively high levels of confidence were found among rural voters, with 70 percent saying they were "very confident," and people from the Midwest, those who attend religious services more than once a week, and those with household incomes of \$75,000 a year or more, all at 68 percent.

The lowest levels were recorded by blacks (40 percent), people 18 to 29 years old (53 percent), and urban residents and the small group of remaining persuadable voters, both at 56 percent.

The low confidence levels among blacks, who made up 21 percent of Kerry's committed voters, explain some but not all of the pessimism the Kerry camp has about their votes being accurately counted. But even among whites committed to Kerry, just 53 percent said they were "very confident" their votes would be counted accurately.

"These findings are appalling," said Adam Clymer, political director of the survey. "If there is one thing government in a democracy should be able to assure, it is an accurate vote count, and assure it so firmly that people will expect it. The government at the federal, state and local levels has failed to provide that assurance."

At the same time, Clymer said, the doubts "may be understandable even if the flaws in vote counting do not reach the miserable levels votes seemed to expect. From the debacle that was Florida in 2000 to the continual reports about computer malfunctions, plans to challenge voters on a large scale and each side enlisting thousands of lawyers to prepare for challenges and lawsuits, the average voter is given a daily dose of reasons to doubt the process.

"The partisan disparity probably results from lingering Democratic unhappiness about how the election was decided in 2000," he said. "An Annenberg survey in March showed that 69 percent

of Democrats believed that Al Gore was "somehow cheated" out of the presidency in 2000, and the intense partisanship of the campaign has done nothing to calm those bitter thoughts."

Persuadable voters are those who said they are undecided or said they have a preference between George W. Bush, John Kerry or Ralph Nader but there was a "good chance" they could change their minds. Committed voters were those who said there was either "no chance" they would change their minds or that it was "pretty unlikely."

Another major election project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center is FactCheck.org, a project that tries to hold politicians accountable by exposing false or misleading campaign statements. It is available online at [www.FactCheck.Org](http://www.FactCheck.Org).

-More-

## Tables

Are you confident that your vote will be counted accurately or are you doubtful that it will be counted accurately?

(If confident) Are you very confident or only somewhat confident?

(If doubtful) Are you very doubtful or only somewhat doubtful?

	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Somewhat Doubtful	Very Doubtful
Total	62%	22%	9%	4%
Republicans	77%	16%	4%	1%
Democrats	52%	26%	12%	5%
Independents	59%	22%	12%	6%
Committed to Bush	79%	15%	4%	1%
Committed to Kerry	48%	28%	14%	6%
Persuadable	56%	22%	13%	6%
Men	65%	18%	8%	4%
Women	59%	25%	10%	4%
White	66%	20%	8%	3%
Black	40%	27%	16%	10%
Latino	60%	25%	10%	2%
18-29	53%	27%	11%	5%
30-44	62%	23%	11%	3%
45-64	64%	19%	9%	4%
65 and older	66%	19%	6%	4%
High school or less	60%	22%	9%	5%
Some college or post-high school education	62%	22%	10%	4%
College degree or more	65%	21%	9%	3%
Household income below \$35,000	59%	23%	9%	6%
\$35,000-\$74,999	61%	22%	11%	3%
\$75,000 or more	68%	20%	8%	2%
Union household	63%	21%	11%	2%
Married or living as married	65%	20%	9%	4%
All other marital circumstances	57%	25%	10%	4%

	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Somewhat Doubtful	Very Doubtful
Attend religious services: More than once a week	68%	19%	6%	5%
Once a week	66%	21%	6%	3%
Once or twice a month	61%	21%	9%	5%
A few times a year	57%	24%	13%	3%
never	59%	22%	12%	5%
Northeast	63%	24%	8%	3%
Midwest	68%	20%	7%	3%
South	60%	21%	10%	5%
West	58%	22%	13%	4%
Urban	56%	23%	12%	5%
Suburban	62%	23%	9%	3%
Rural	70%	17%	8%	4%

## Survey Methodology

The National Annenberg Election Survey (NAES) is a survey conducted each presidential election by the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania.

The 2004 National Annenberg Election Survey is based on telephone interviews which began October 7, 2003 and will continue past Election Day.

The sample of telephone exchanges called was randomly selected by a computer from a complete list of thousands of active residential exchanges across the country. Within each exchange, random digits were added to form a complete telephone number, thus permitting access to both listed and unlisted numbers. Within each household, one adult was designated by a random procedure to be the respondent for the survey. The interviewing is conducted by Schulman, Ronca, Bucuvalas, Inc.

The results have been weighted to take account of household size and number of telephone lines into the residence and to adjust for variation in the sample relating to geographic region, sex, race, age and education.

This report deals with interviewing conducted from October 25 through 31, when 3,123 adults were interviewed of whom 2,757 said they were registered voters. In theory, in 19 out of 20 cases, results for all registered voters will differ by no more than two percentage points, up or down, from what would have been obtained by interviewing all American adults over the same time periods. For smaller subgroups, such as committed Bush voters or committed Kerry voters, the margin of sampling error would be plus or minus three percentage points, and for persuadable voters it would be plus or minus six percentage points.

In addition to sampling error, the practical difficulties of conducting any survey of public opinion may introduce other sources of error into the poll. Variations in the wording and order of questions, for example, may lead to somewhat different results.