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**Early Voting Reaches Record Levels in 2004,  
National Annenberg Election Survey show**

One in five general election voters in 2004 reported that they cast their ballots before Election Day, the University of Pennsylvania's National Annenberg Election Survey shows. That was substantially more than in 2000.

Voters were asked whether they cast their ballots on Election Day, or if they had voted before then. Twenty percent of voters said that they cast their ballots early, while 80 percent said that they voted on Election Day. During the comparable fourteen-day period in 2000, 14 percent of voters reported that they cast their ballots early, while 86 percent said that they voted on Election Day.

"Early voting was at a national all time high in 2004," said Kate Kenski, a senior research analyst at the Annenberg Public Policy, who studied the data. "The 2004 early voting levels were significantly higher than those in 2000."

"Although voting at the polls on Election Day is still the most prevalent way that people cast ballots, more and more voters are making use of early voting options," said Kenski.

The findings were based on interviews with 1,334 voting citizens conducted between November 3 and November 16, 2004. The comparable fourteen-day period in 2000 was November 8 through November 21, when 1,649 voting citizens were interviewed. For 2004, the margin of sampling error was plus or minus three percentage points, and for 2000 it was plus or minus two percentage points.

"The term 'Election Day' is becoming something of a misnomer," said Kenski. "The notion that American voters cast their ballots on the first Tuesday in November is becoming an anachronism. In fact, Election Day is more accurately described as the last day when Americans can vote."

Kate Kenski, a senior research analyst at The Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania, developed the research for this report. The National Annenberg Election Survey, the largest academic election poll, is a project of the

Annenberg Public Policy Center ([www.AnnenbergPublicPolicyCenter.org](http://www.AnnenbergPublicPolicyCenter.org)). Kathleen Hall Jamieson is the director of the survey. Ken Winneg is the managing director of the survey. Adam Clymer is the political director of the survey.