

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOOK

The main focus of this volume is to present the results from the 2004 election for President as they are estimated for each of the nation's 435 congressional districts. These results are compiled by Polidata (with assistance from the National Journal for the Almanac of American Politics; the Cook Political Report; and the National Republican Congressional Committee).

Important considerations in the use of these numbers are: a) only a handful of states collect or report this information as part of their normal election reporting; b) there are about 400 county equivalents that contain a portion of more than one district; c) the increase of centrally counted absentee or early votes adds to the complexity of the project; d) the inclusion of estimates for minor-party candidates varies from state to state and district to district. Therefore, these numbers represent an estimation based upon the best available information.

Part 1 includes several analytical maps, tables and listings that summarize the results for the nation, and by census region and division. Parts 1a, 1b, and 1c compare the 2004 results with the results for the 2000 election as reaggregated for use throughout the 2001-2002 redistricting phase of the 2000 apportionment process. These parts first appeared in the Polidata ® Preliminary Summary report, which was released in the spring of 2005. Parts 1d, 1e, and 1f provide a national perspective on the 2004 results from a numerical viewpoint.

Part 2 includes several national maps illustrating the general distribution (see Part 3 for the metropolitan areas) and rankings of the top and bottom districts on a variety of factors relating to both the congressional and presidential results for the 2004 elections.

Part 3 provides Polidata ® State Mini Reports which are self-contained reports of from 5 to 10 pages each and summarize the results for the 2004 congressional and presidential elections with several maps and a detailed table listing the results for each district.

Part 4 and the Appendix provide several reference tools for the geographic aspects of the districts, including inset maps for selected metropolitan areas; plain base maps for all states; and a cross reference of counties to districts.

⇒ VOTES AND PERCENTAGES FOR BOTH THE CONGRESSIONAL AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

⇒ VOTE MARGINS EXPRESSED AS A NUMBER AND AS PERCENTAGE TO PROVIDE BOTH A REAL ABSOLUTE AND A RELATIVE PERSPECTIVE

⇒ THEMATIC (SHADED) MAPS THAT HELP TO PINPOINT AREAS OF INTEREST

⇒ GENERIC PARTISAN VOTING PREFERENCES BASED UPON A UNIFORM ELECTORAL CHOICE