

Appendix B Election Glossary

Here are definitions or descriptions of election terms, abbreviations, and acronyms in the 2004 Election Day Survey Report:

Absentee Ballot	Ballot requested by application of a registered voter who expects to be absent from the polls on Election Day
Active Voter	Not inactive (see Inactive Voter)
Ballots Cast	Number of ballots cast and processed at a precinct, including an absentee precinct, and not necessarily equal to the number of ballots counted.
Ballots Counted	Number of ballots counted for a precinct at the close of the polls.
Central Count	Processing or counting of ballots on automatic tabulating equipment at a single location, and usually in reference to punch card and optically scanned (marksense) ballots.
CVAP	Citizen Voting Age Population. Persons in an election jurisdiction who are age 18 or older and who are U.S. citizens.
Datavote	Datavote ballot card. A punch card ballot that is printed with a candidate name or answer to a ballot question at each voting position. A Datavote ballot card is inserted into a frame with a movable device for punching out chads at voting positions. (See Votomatic.)
Deadwood	Duplicate names, erroneous or obsolete address information, and names of deceased and ineligible persons listed as active voters on voter registration rolls.
DRE	Direct Recording Electronic. A voting system that records votes by means of a ballot display provided with mechanical or electro-optical components actuated by the voter and where voting data is stored in a removable memory component. In this report, DRE is referred to as an “electronic” voting system.
Drop-Off	The difference between the number of ballots counted and the total number of votes for all candidates in a specified contest. Drop-off is a combination of undervotes and overvotes, and is also referred to as the “residual vote.”
Early Voting	Ballot cast by a voter at a designated polling site prior to Election Day. Also referred to as “early in-person voting” or “on-site absentee voting.”
EAC	U.S. Election Assistance Commission
EDR	Election Day Registration
FVAP	Federal Voting Assistance Program, Office of the U.S. Secretary of Defense
General Election	An election in which voters, regardless of party affiliation, select candidates for public office or vote on ballot issues.

HAVA	Help America Vote Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-252)
Highest Office Turnout	An alternate measure of voter turnout consisting of the total number of votes cast for all the candidates for the office on the ballot that received the highest number of votes. (See Voter Turnout and Maximum Vote Turnout.)
Inactive Voter	A voter whose name or residence address is no longer current and who has not attempted to reregister, has not voted, or appeared to vote at the address of record.
Lever Machine	Mechanical Lever Voting Machine. A voting system that records votes by mechanical lever-actuated controls into a counting mechanism that tallies the votes without a physical ballot.
Marksense	See Optical Scan
Maximum Vote Turnout	An alternate measure for comparing voter turnout statistics among jurisdictions when not all jurisdictions report actual voter turnout. Maximum vote turnout is the greater of: (a) actual voter turnout or (b) highest office turnout—the total number of votes cast for all the candidates for the office on the ballot that received the highest number of votes. (See Voter Turnout and Highest Office Turnout.)
NVRA	National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-31)
Optical Scan	A system of recording votes by marks in voting response fields on ballot cards that are read by an optical scanner or similar sensor. Also referred to as “marksense” voting systems.
Overvotes	Votes for more choices than are permitted in a contest
Paper Ballot	Paper ballot voting system. A system of recording votes on paper ballot cards that are counted and tabulated manually.
Polling Place	A facility staffed by poll workers and equipped with voting equipment at which persons residing in a precinct cast ballots in person on Election Day.
Precinct	An administrative division of a county or municipality consisting of a contiguous geographic area defined by a map to which voters have been assigned by their residence addresses for voting at an election.
Precinct Count	Processing or counting of ballots on automatic tabulating equipment at the same location at which the ballots were cast (precinct).
Provisional Ballot	A ballot issued when a voter’s eligibility has not yet been determined.
Punch Card	Punch card voting system. A system where votes are recorded by punches in voting response fields on a ballot card.
Residual Vote	See Drop-Off
Undervotes	Votes for fewer choices than are permitted in a contest, including the choice to not vote for any candidate in a contest or any response to a ballot question.
UOCAVA	Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (Public Law ___)
VAP	Voting Age Population. Persons in an election jurisdiction who are age 18 or older.

- Voter Turnout** Number of persons who participated in an election, including persons who appeared to vote as well as persons who actually voted. Voter turnout is not necessarily the same as ballots cast. (See also Maximum Vote Turnout and Highest Office Turnout.)
- Voting Machine** A device that records every vote cast on a candidate or ballot measure and that internally or externally totals all votes cast on that device, including a device into which a ballot may be inserted so that votes may be indicated by punching the ballot.
- Votomatic** Votomatic ballot card. A punch card ballot that is prescored and printed only with numbered voting positions. A Votomatic ballot card is inserted into a frame to which a booklet identifying candidates or answers to ballot questions has been attached. Chads are punched out at voting positions with a stylus.
- VTD** Voting Tabulation District. A term used by the U.S. Census Bureau to refer to a voting precinct. (See Precinct.)