



**CENTER for PUBLIC POLICY
and POLITICAL STUDIES**

REPORT #8

**Studies of Political Statistics:
STRAIGHT TICKET VOTING IN TEXAS 1998-2012**

**PRESENTED BY PROFESSOR OF HISTORY LARRY WILLOUGHBY,
WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE ACC CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY
AND POLITICAL STUDIES DIRECTOR PECK YOUNG,
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR MAXINE KAPLAN, AND,
ACC GOVERNMENT STUDENT INTERN, KUEI WANG
MAPS WERE PREPARED BY ACC STUDENT, BRANDON VALLEJO MCCOY,
GIS DEPARTMENT,
AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE.**

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ACC Center for Public Policy & Political Studies: Office of External Affairs
5930 Middle Fiskville Road, Suite 414 • Austin, TX 78752 • 512-223-7069 (O) • 512-223-7208 (F)

www.austincc.edu/cppps (Web site) cppps@austincc.edu (Email)

William "Peck" Young, Director

Report 8

Studies of Political Statistics: STRAIGHT TICKET VOTING IN TEXAS 1998-2012

FOCUS of STUDY -

This statistical political study is an analysis of straight ticket voting in the Texas elections of 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2012. Information gathered has enabled the ACC Center for Public Policy and Political Studies to observe voting patterns and possible political trends in Texas among straight ticket voters.

METHODOLOGY -

Data for these eight elections was compiled from Texas County voting statistics. County officials were contacted until sufficient responses usually represented over 80% of total votes cast statewide in elections. The inquiries started with a list of counties from largest to smallest turnout. For the elections from 1998 to 2004, data came from the archives of the director of this center.

For the 2006 election, four Austin Community College students (Brad Burnett, Elise Swaving, Anastassia Travina, and Josh Whitcomb) contacted county officials and compiled statistics that represented 73% of the total votes cast throughout Texas. The students asked for the number of total ballots cast in the county, the total straight ticket Republican votes, the total straight ticket Democratic votes, and the total straight ticket Libertarian (or other) votes. The data was obtained verbally over the phone or was taken from a website provided by county officials.

For the 2008 and 2010 elections, ACC staffer Maxine Kaplan obtained all the data. Most of the information was obtained from web sites, with some acquired through verbal surveys over the phone.

This year ACC student Kuei Wang and ACC Center Associate Director Maxine Kaplan obtained data from 50 counties representing 84% of the total vote in Nov of 2012. Again most of the information came from websites however some came from verbal surveys over the phone or was emailed to the Center.

In total, data for this report was compiled from these phone surveys, web site reports, and the archives of the director of this center.

Professor of History Larry Willoughby prepared this report, with the assistance of the ACC Center for Public Policy and Political Studies Director Peck Young and ACC CPPPS Associate Director Maxine Kaplan. Ballots cast data was researched by ACC Government student intern, Kuei Wang. The maps were prepared by ACC student, Brandon Vallejo McCoy, GIS Department, Austin Community College.

Findings and Analysis:

In the 49 counties out of 254 that account for 84% of all the votes cast in the race for President, straight ticket voting reached the record level this year of 64.16% of all ballots cast. This is greater than the level of straight ticket voting reached in 2008 when it represented 57.7% of the votes cast in the top 46 counties which had been the highest level noted in previous studies

- a. 2000 Straight Ticket votes as a % of TBC 49%
- b. 2004 Straight Ticket votes as a % of TBC 55.55%
- c. 2008 Straight Ticket votes as % of TBC 57.59%

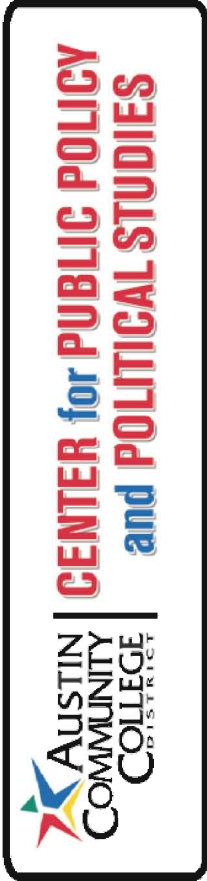
II. Among straight ticket voters in the counties representing 84% of the total ballots cast, the Republicans received 53.74% of the vote while the Democrats received 45.24%, and the Libertarians received .78% and the Green Party received .23%. This is the Republicans second strongest showing after 2004 and better than 2008. For the Democrats this was their second worst showing in a Presidential year behind 2004 and weaker than 2008.

III. Among swing voters for President of the United States the Democrats did worse than they did among straight ticket voters. Pres.Obama received 34.42% of the swing votes in his race, while 63.4% of the swing vote went for the Romney. The Democratic U.S Senate candidate Sadler received 31.88% of the swing vote in his race, while 61.81% of the swing vote went to Cruz.

IV. In this election for the first time 8 counties made up 52% of all the ballots cast in this November election. In the last three Texas general elections, nine counties have made up between 51-54% of the total vote: Harris, Dallas, Tarrant, Bexar, Travis, Collin, Denton, Fort Bend and El Paso. In 2004, these counties represented 52.93% of the total vote. In 2008, these nine counties represented 54.32% of the total vote. In 2010 they made up 53.1%.

- a. In 2012 Harris, Dallas, Tarrant, Bexar, Travis, Collin, Denton, Ft. Bend make up ballots cast in this General Election. In these 8 counties Straight Ticket ballots made up 66.59% of total ballots cast. Of the Straight Ticket ballots the Republicans won 50.18% and four counties while the Democrats won 48.87% and 4 counties.

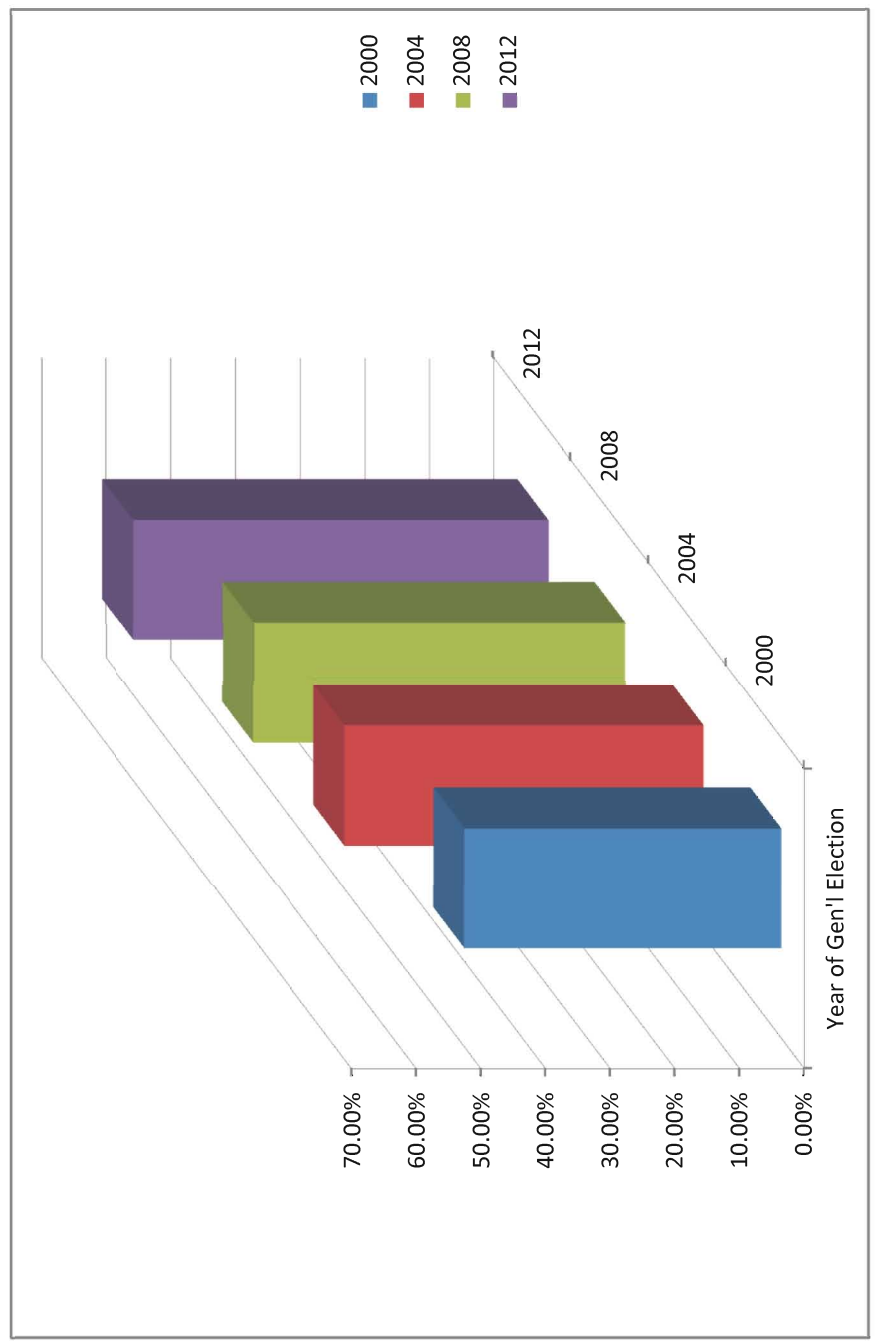
V. In this election, we have 21 counties that account for 71% of all the votes cast in the Presidential race. In these counties, 64.84%, or a little more than the statewide average, voted straight ticket. Of these, 50.85% voted Republican, 48.19% voted Democrat. Of these 12 counties voted Republican, the Democrats only won six.



Straight Ticket Voting Percentages in Texas since 1998			
YEAR	S.T.% OF TBC	GOP% OF S.T.	DEM% OF S.T.
1998	47.60%	52.68%	46.61%
2000	49%	51%	49%
2002	49.60%	52%	48%
2004	55.55%	57%	43%
2006	45.04%	51.33%	47.44%
2008	57.59%	50.28%	48.99%
2010	59.17%	58.12%	41.16%
2012	64.16%	53.74%	45.24%
Legend			
S.T.% of TBC	Percentage of Straight Ticket Votes of Total Ballots Cast		
GOP% of S.T.	Republican Percentage of the Straight Ticket Vote		
DEM% of S.T.	Democratic Percentage of the Straight Ticket Vote		
Presidential Elections Only			
Year	S.T.% OF TBC	GOP% OF S.T.	DEM% OF S.T.
2000	49.0%	51.0%	49%
2004	49.60%	5700.0%	43%
2008	57.59%	50.28%	47.44%
2012	60.16%	53.74%	45.24%

Growth in Straight Ticket Voting as a Percent of Total Ballots

Year of Gen'l Election	ST % of TBC
2000	49.00%
2004	55.55%
2008	57.59%
2012	64.16%



49 TOP COUNTIES

County	Total Votes				Tot S.T.	% of Tot V	% of ST	DEMO ST	% of ST	LIB ST	% of ST	GRN ST	% of ST	
	0	0.00%												
Harris	1,185,722	14.89%	14.89%	1	817,692	68.81%	49.43%	406,991	49.77%	4,777	0.58%	1,759	0.22%	
Dallas	705,941	8.86%	23.75%	2	490,029	69.42%	40.16%	289,243	59.03%	3,184	0.65%	816	0.17%	
Tarrant	610,321	7.66%	31.42%	3	404,369	66.26%	57.77%	166,916	41.28%	3,012	0.74%	843	0.21%	
Bexar	511,411	6.42%	37.84%	4	329,577	64.44%	45.69%	175,282	53.18%	2,898	0.88%	826	0.25%	
Travis	385,081	4.83%	42.67%	5	211,241	54.86%	36.13%	129,801	61.45%	4,075	1.93%	1,017	0.48%	
Collin	301,101	3.78%	46.45%	6	196,151	65.14%	69.89%	61,151	31.18%	1,550	0.79%	292	0.15%	
Denton	240,125	3.01%	49.47%	7	155,300	64.67%	106.411	47,063	30.30%	1,496	0.96%	330	0.21%	
Ft Bend	219,299	2.75%	52.22%	8	164,974	75.23%	87,748	53.19%	75,997	46.07%	921	0.56%	308	0.19%
Montgomery	172,894	2.17%	54.39%	9	126,776	73.33%	104,704	82.59%	21,006	16.57%	833	0.66%	233	0.18%
El Paso	171,070	2.15%	56.54%	10	89,282	52.19%	11,839	23.14%	76,642	75.30%	530	1.04%	271	0.53%
Williamson	162,969	2.05%	58.59%	11	82,741	50.77%	52,341	63.26%	29,115	35.19%	1,116	1.35%	169	0.20%
Hidalgo	138,988	1.75%	60.33%	12	95,669	68.83%	21,455	22.42%	73,099	76.38%	767	0.80%	348	0.36%
Galveston	109,252	1.37%	61.70%	13	71,994	65.90%	44,417	61.70%	26,818	37.25%	537	0.75%	222	0.31%
Brazoria	106,423	1.34%	63.04%	14	63,897	60.04%	43,278	67.73%	20,058	31.39%	382	0.60%	179	0.28%
Lubbock	99,652	1.25%	64.29%	15	51,415	51.59%	36,545	71.08%	14,324	27.86%	406	0.79%	140	0.27%
Nueces	95,806	1.20%	65.49%	16	45,125	47.10%	20,639	45.74%	23,978	53.14%	345	0.76%	163	0.36%
Jefferson	88,557	1.11%	66.60%	17	58,255	65.78%	23,180	39.79%	34,826	59.78%	196	0.34%	53	0.90%
Bell	85,797	1.08%	67.68%	18	53,529	62.39%	30,247	56.51%	22,695	42.40%	478	0.89%	109	0.20%
Smith	84,794	1.06%	68.75%	19	53,510	63.11%	37,961	70.94%	15,262	28.52%	226	0.42%	61	0.11%
Cameron	74,802	0.94%	69.69%	20	44,275	59.19%	12,570	28.39%	30,999	70.01%	563	1.27%	143	0.32%
McLennan	74,513	0.94%	70.62%	21	42,775	57.41%	26,325	61.54%	16,015	37.44%	277	0.65%	158	0.37%
Hays	58,831	0.74%	71.36%	22	28,818	48.98%	15,859	55.03%	12,372	42.93%	468	1.62%	119	0.41%
Brazos	55,866	0.70%	72.06%	23	63,897	114.38%	43,278	67.73%	20,058	31.39%	382	0.60%	179	0.28%
Ellis	53,773	0.68%	72.74%	24	33,231	61.80%	24,620	74.09%	8,320	25.04%	243	0.73%	48	0.14%
Comal	51,476	0.65%	73.38%	25	29,703	57.70%	24,047	80.96%	5,453	18.36%	157	0.53%	46	0.15%
Randall	49,592	0.62%	74.01%	26	27,507	55.47%	23,711	85.20%	3,548	12.90%	179	0.65%	69	0.25%
Guadalupe	49,299	0.62%	74.62%	27	28,480	57.77%	19,170	61.39%	9,009	36.95%	238	1.32%	63	0.34%
Webb	49,101	0.62%	75.24%	28	28,879	58.82%	3,973	13.76%	24,377	84.41%	380	1.32%	149	0.52%
Johnson	48,767	0.61%	75.85%	29	30,087	61.70%	23,921	48.78%	5,808	11.84%	274	0.56%	42	0.08%
Parker	47,373	0.59%	76.45%	30	32,788	69.21%	27,785	84.74%	4,712	14.37%	240	0.73%	51	0.16%
Midland	44,277	0.56%	77.00%	32	26,498	59.85%	21,301	80.39%	4,979	18.79%	185	0.70%	33	0.12%
Taylor	43,185	0.54%	77.55%	33	27,124	62.81%	20,954	77.25%	5,832	21.50%	231	0.85%	107	0.39%
Grayson	42,207	0.53%	78.08%	34	24,928	59.06%	18,174	72.90%	6,505	26.09%	198	0.79%	51	0.20%
Wichita	40,923	0.51%	78.59%	35	22,164	54.16%	15,561	70.21%	6,302	28.43%	214	0.97%	87	0.39%
Tom Green	36,530	0.46%	79.05%	36	21,471	58.78%	15,991	74.48%	5,139	23.93%	281	1.31%	60	0.28%
Rockwall	35,655	0.45%	79.50%	37	22,324	62.61%	17,806	79.76%	4,335	19.42%	153	0.69%	30	0.13%
Bowie	35,351	0.44%	79.94%	38	15,966	45.16%	9,210	57.68%	6,568	41.14%	151	0.95%	37	0.23%
Kaufman	34,604	0.43%	80.37%	39	13,514	39.05%	9,537	70.57%	3,909	28.92%	48	0.35%	22	0.16%
Ector	32,414	0.41%	80.78%	40	19,887	61.35%	14,384	72.33%	5,328	26.79%	137	0.69%	38	0.19%
Gregg	31,276	0.39%	81.17%	41	27,455	87.78%	18,404	48.28%	8,906	49.60%	111	2.12%	34	0.12%
Orange	30,510	0.38%	81.56%	42	16,801	55.07%	12,198	72.60%	4,438	26.42%	136	0.81%	29	0.17%
Victoria	28,886	0.36%	81.92%	43	14,331	49.61%	9,067	31.15%	5,068	17.41%	138	0.47%	38	0.17%
Angelina	28,460	0.36%	82.28%	44	17,283	60.73%	11,703	67.71%	5,479	31.70%	78	0.45%	23	0.13%
Hunt	27,993	0.35%	82.63%	45	15,478	55.29%	11,823	76.39%	3,521	22.75%	103	0.67%	31	0.20%
Henderson	27,584	0.35%	82.97%	46	16,194	58.71%	12,572	77.63%	3,507	21.66%	91	0.56%	24	0.15%
Potter	26,925	0.34%	83.31%	47	15,681	58.24%	11,231	71.62%	4,269	27.22%	142	0.91%	39	0.25%
Harrison	26,104	0.33%	83.64%	48	13,602	52.11%	8,764	64.43%	4,750	34.92%	65	0.48%	23	0.17%
Bastrop	24,458	0.31%	83.95%	49	10,914	44.62%	5,722	52.43%	5,006	45.87%	139	1.27%	47	0.43%
Liberty	22,711	0.29%	84.23%	50	10,956	48.24%	8,129	74.20%	2,759	25.18%	47	0.43%	21	0.19%
	6,708,649	84.23%			4,304,537	64.16%	2,313,154	53.74%	1,947,538	45.24%	33,778	0.78%	9,980	0.23%
	7,964,668				34.48%			29.03%		0.50%		0.15%		

52%

County	Total Votes			Tot S.T.	% of Tot	GOP ST	% of ST	DEMO ST	% of ST	LIB ST	% of ST	GRN ST	% of ST
	0	0.00%											
Harris	1,185,722	14.89%	1	817,692	68.81%	404,165	49.43%	406,991	49.77%	4,777	0.58%	1,759	0.22%
Dallas	705,941	8.86%	2	490,029	69.42%	196,786	40.16%	289,243	59.03%	3,184	0.65%	816	0.17%
Tarrant	610,321	7.66%	3	404,369	66.26%	233,598	57.77%	166,916	41.28%	3,012	0.74%	843	0.21%
Bexar	511,411	6.42%	4	329,577	64.44%	150,571	45.69%	175,282	53.18%	2,898	0.88%	826	0.25%
Travis	385,081	4.83%	5	211,241	54.86%	76,321	36.13%	129,801	61.45%	4,075	1.93%	1,017	0.48%
Collin	301,101	3.78%	6	196,151	65.14%	133,158	69.89%	61,151	31.18%	1,550	0.79%	292	0.15%
Denton	240,125	3.01%	7	155,300	64.67%	106,411	68.52%	47,063	30.30%	1,496	0.96%	330	0.21%
Ft Bend	219,299	2.75%	8	164,974	75.23%	87,748	53.19%	75,997	46.07%	921	0.56%	308	0.19%
	4,159,001			2,769,333	66.59%	1,388,758	50.18%	1,352,444	48.87%	21,913	0.79%	6,191	0.22%

County	Total Votes			Tot S.T.	% of Tot VT	GOP ST	% of ST	DEMO ST	%of ST	LIB ST	%of ST	GRN ST	%of ST
	0	0.00%											
Harris	1,185,722	14.89%	14.89%	815,933	68.81%	404,165	49.43%	406,991	49.77%	4,777	0.58%	1,759	0.22%
Dallas	705,941	8.86%	23.75%	490,029	69.42%	196,786	40.16%	289,243	59.03%	3,184	0.65%	816	0.17%
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Montgomery	172,894	2.17%	54.39%	126,776	73.33%	104,704	82.59%	21,006	16.57%	833	0.66%	233	0.18%
El Paso	171,070	2.15%	56.54%	89,282	29.91%	11,839	23.14%	76,642	75.30%	530	1.04%	271	0.53%
Williamson	162,969	2.05%	58.59%	82,741	50.77%	52,341	63.26%	29,115	35.19%	1,116	1.35%	169	0.20%
Hidalgo	138,988	1.75%	60.33%	95,669	68.83%	21,455	22.42%	73,099	76.38%	767	0.80%	348	0.36%
Galveston	109,252	1.37%	61.70%	71,994	65.90%	44,417	61.70%	26,818	37.25%	537	0.75%	222	0.31%
Brazoria	106,423	1.34%	63.04%	63,897	60.04%	43,278	67.73%	20,058	31.39%	382	0.60%	179	0.28%
Lubbock	99,652	1.25%	64.29%	51,415	51.59%	36,545	71.08%	14,324	27.86%	406	0.79%	140	0.27%
Nueces	95,806	1.20%	65.49%	45,125	47.10%	20,639	45.74%	23,978	53.14%	345	0.76%	163	0.36%
Jefferson	88,557	1.11%	66.60%	58,255	65.78%	23,180	39.79%	34,826	59.78%	196	0.34%	53	0.90%
Bell	85,797	1.08%	67.68%	53,529	62.39%	30,247	56.51%	22,695	42.40%	478	0.89%	109	0.20%
Smith	84,794	1.06%	68.75%	53,510	63.11%	37,961	70.94%	15,262	28.52%	226	0.42%	61	0.11%
Cameron	74,802	0.94%	69.69%	44,275	59.19%	12,570	28.39%	30,999	70.01%	563	1.27%	143	0.32%
McLennan	74,513	0.94%	70.62%	42,775	57.41%	26,325	61.54%	16,015	37.44%	277	0.65%	158	0.37%
	5,624,518			3,646,817	64.84%	1,854,259	50.85%	1,757,281	48.19%	28,569	0.78%	8,440	0.23%

8 HISPANIC COUNTIES REV

	TBC	CI	TOT ST	%ST	GOP ST	GOT % ST	DEM ST	DEM % ST	LIB ST	LID % ST	GRN ST	GRN % ST
Bexar	511,411	6.42%	1	329,577	64.44%	150,571	175,282	53.18%	2,898	0.88%	826	0.25%
Hidalgo	138,988	1.75%	2	95,669	68.83%	21,455	73,099	76.38%	767	0.80%	348	0.36%
El Paso	171,070	2.15%	3	89,282	52.19%	11,839	76,642	75.30%	530	1.04%	271	0.53%
Nueces	95,806	1.20%	4	45,125	47.10%	20,639	23,978	53.14%	345	0.76%	163	0.36%
Cameron	74,802	0.94%	5	44,275	59.19%	12,570	30,999	70.01%	563	1.27%	143	0.32%
Webb	49,101	0.62%	6	28,879	58.82%	3,973	24,377	84.41%	380	1.32%	149	0.52%
	1,041,178	13.07%		632,807	60.78%	221,047	404,377	63.90%	5,483	0.87%	1,900	0.30%

9 Presidential ST- Swing Vote AnalysisREV

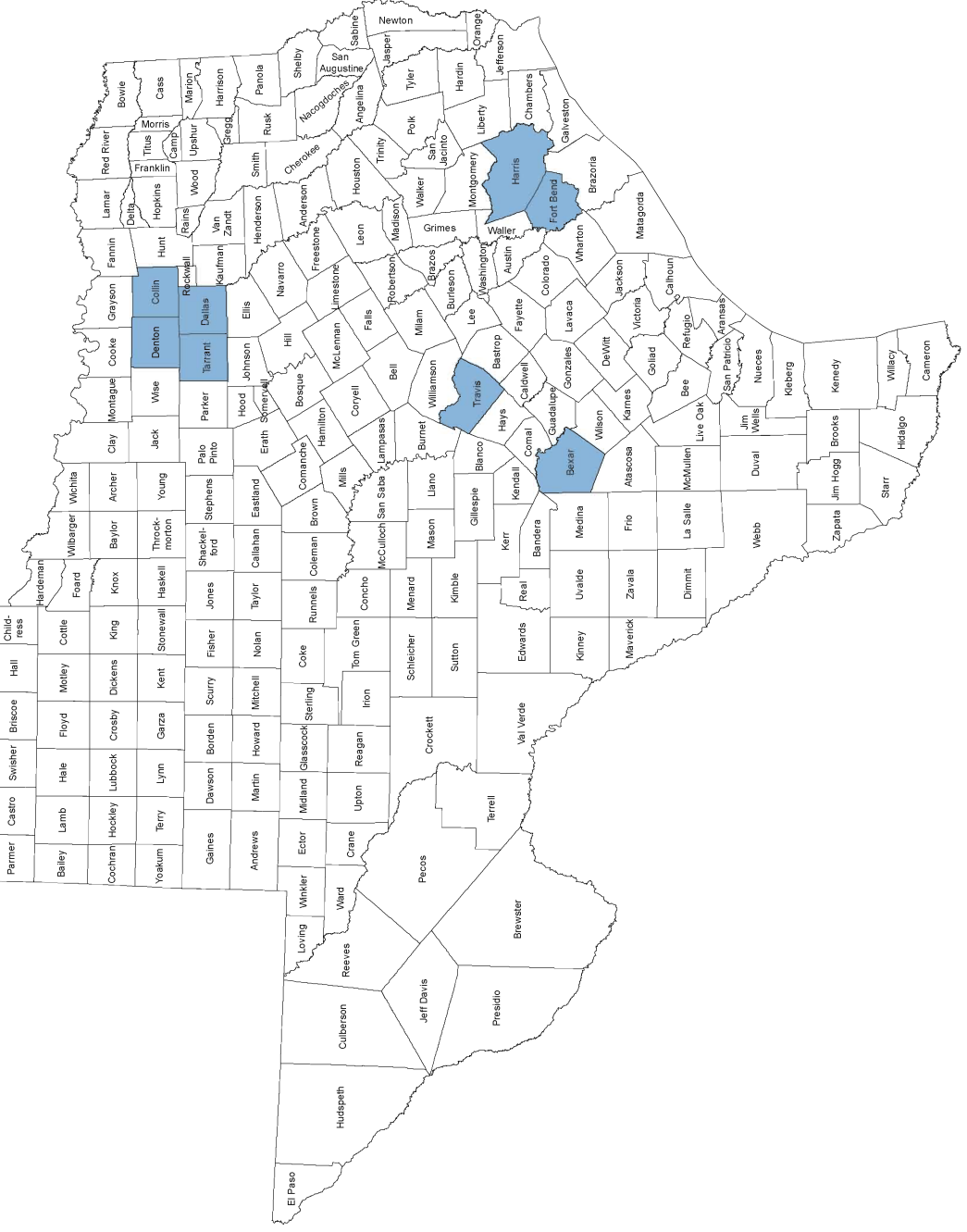
RACE	Tot ST %	GOP ST%	DEM ST%	LIB ST%	GR ST%
Presidential Tot VT	7,964,668	0.6416	0.5374	0.4524	0.0078
	5,110,131	2,746,184	2,311,823	39,859	18,319
ST as % of TOT VT		60.3%	70.17%	45.24%	74.92%
SWING % OF VOTE		GOP VT	DEMO VT	LIB VT	GR VT
TOTAL Candidate VTS	7,964,668	4,555,857	3,294,482	88,111	24,450
SW/Tot VTs		39.72%	29.83%	54.76%	25.08%
Swing Votes	2,854,537	1,809,673	982,659	48,252	6,131
% of swing VT		63.40%	34.42%	1.69%	0.21%

10 US SENATE ST- Swing Vote Anl rev 2 (1)

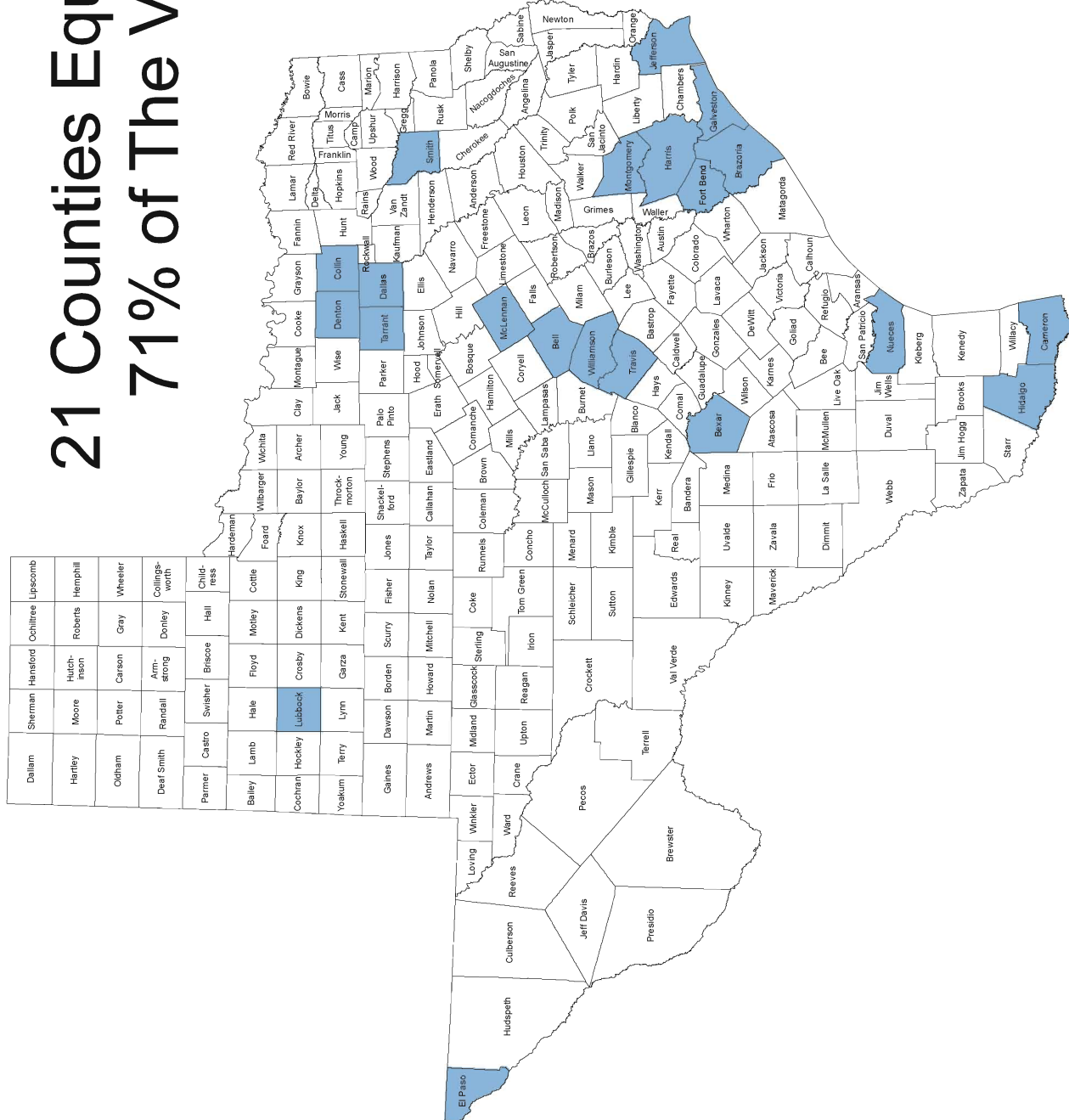
RACE	Tot ST %	GOP ST%	DEM ST%	LIB ST%	GRN ST%
US Senate Tot VT	7,869,267	0.6416	0.5374	0.4524	0.0078
	5,048,922	2,713,291	2,284,132	39,382	11,613
% OF VT TOT VT		60.88%	71.75%	24.39%	17.14%
TOTAL Candidate VTS	7,869,267	4,456,654	3,183,359	161,463	67,743
SW/Tot Vote	35.84%	39.12%	28.25%	75.61%	82.86%
Swing Votes	2,820,345	1,743,363	899,227	122,081	56,130
% of Swing VT		61.81%	31.88%	4.33%	0.20%
					98.22%

8 Counties Equaling 52% of the Vote

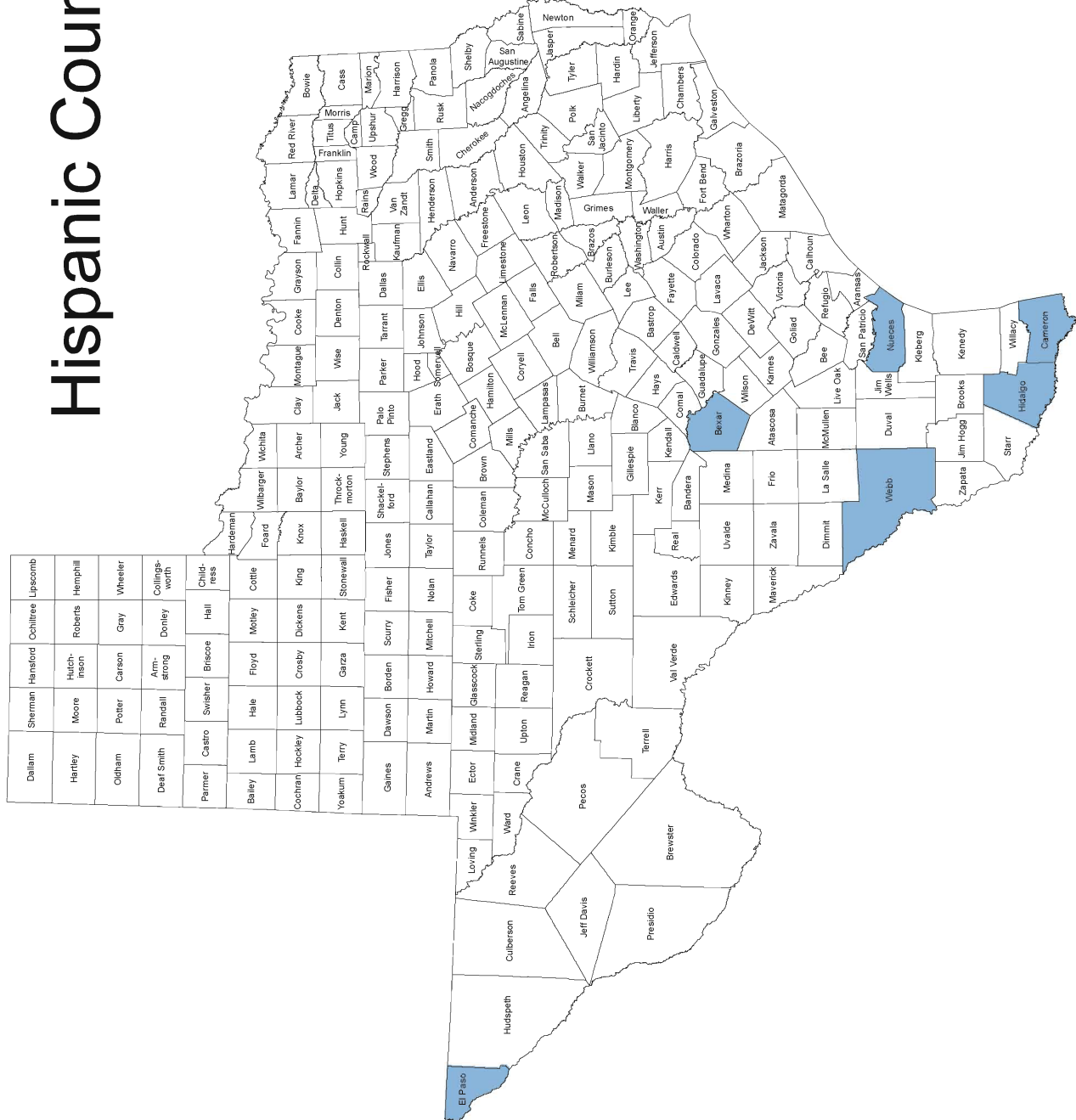
Dallam	Sherman	Hansford	Cottrell	Lipscomb
Hartley	Moore	Hutchinson	Roberts	Hempill
Oldham	Potter	Carson	Gray	Wheeler
Deaf Smith	Randall	Armstrong	Donley	Collingsworth
Parmer	Castro	Swisher	Biscoe	Hall
Bailey	Lamb	Hale	Floyd	Molley
Cochran	Hockley	Lubbock	Crosby	Dickens
Yoakum	Terry	Lynn	Garza	Kent
Gaines	Dawson	Borden	Scurry	Fisher
Andrews	Martin	Howard	Mitchell	Nolan
Loving	Winkler	Ector	Midland	Glasscock
Reeves	Ward	Crane	Upton	Reagan
Culberson	Reeves	Ward	Crane	Upton
Jeff Davis	Pecos	Terrell	Crockett	Schleicher
Presidio	Brewster	Terrell	Crockett	Sutton
Hudspeth	Presidio	Brewster	Terrell	Crockett



21 Counties Equaling 71% of The Vote



Hispanic Counties



Dallam	Sherman	Hansford	Cochitree	Lipscomb
Hartley	Moore	Hutchinson	Roberts	Hemphill
Oldham	Potter	Carson	Gay	Wheeler
Deaf Smith	Randall	Armstrong	Donley	Collingsworth
Parmer	Castro	Swisher	Briscoe	Hall
Bailey	Lamb	Hale	Floyd	Motley
Cochran	Hickley	Lubbock	Crosby	Dickens
Yoakum	Terry	Lynn	Garza	Kent
Gaines	Dawson	Borden	Scurry	Fisher
Andrews	Marin	Howard	Mitchell	Nolan
Ector	Miland	Glasscock	Sterling	Coke
Winkler	Reeves	Ward	Crane	Upton
Reeves	Ward	Crane	Upton	Reagan
Culberson	Jeff Davis	Presidio	Brewster	Terrell
Hudspeth	Jeff Davis	Presidio	Brewster	Terrell
Reeves	Ward	Crane	Upton	Reagan
Gaines	Dawson	Borden	Scurry	Fisher
Andrews	Marin	Howard	Mitchell	Nolan
Ector	Miland	Glasscock	Sterling	Coke
Winkler	Reeves	Ward	Crane	Upton
Reeves	Ward	Crane	Upton	Reagan
Culberson	Jeff Davis	Presidio	Brewster	Terrell
Hudspeth	Jeff Davis	Presidio	Brewster	Terrell