

Ballot Blunders

One of the key points of the recount was the mistakes voters made when completing ballots, particularly optical ballots. Here are a few examples of voter errors.

OPTICAL BALLOT ERRORS

■ “Complete the arrow” ballots

Correctly completed ballot

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
(Vote for One)

JENNIFER S. CARROLL
REPUBLICAN

CORRINE BROWN
DEMOCRAT

WRITE IN

Incorrectly-completed arrows

REPUBLICAN
GEORGE W. BUSH, President
DICK CHENEY, Vice-President

DEMOCRATIC
AL GORE, President
JOE LIEBERMAN, Vice-President

(Vote for Group)

REPUBLICAN
GEORGE W. BUSH, For President
DICK CHENEY, For Vice President

DEMOCRATIC
AL GORE, For President
JOE LIEBERMAN, For Vice President

■ Optical filled oval ballots

Incorrectly-filled ovals

ELECTORS
For President and
Vice President
(A vote for the candidates will
actually be a vote for their electors.)
(Vote for Group)

(REPUBLICAN)
GEORGE W. BUSH
For President

(DEMOCRATIC)
DICK CHENEY
For Vice President

(LIBERTARIAN)
AL GORE
For President
JOE LIEBERMAN
For Vice President

For President
For Vice President

CONGRESSIONAL

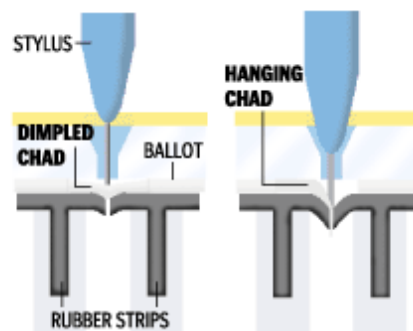
UNITED STATES SENATOR
(Vote for ONE)

BILL McCOLLUM (REP)
BILL NELSON (DEM)
JOE SIMONETTA (REP)
JOEL DECKARD (REP)
WILLIE LOGAN (DEM)
ANDY MARTIN (DEM)

PUNCHCARD BALLOT ERRORS

■ Votamatic ballot

Voter error on votamatic ballots often occur when the ballot is misaligned in the machine or the stylus is used improperly. This creates dimpled and hanging chads.



The rubber strips may stiffen with age and not allow the chad to fall through, causing a "dimpled chad."

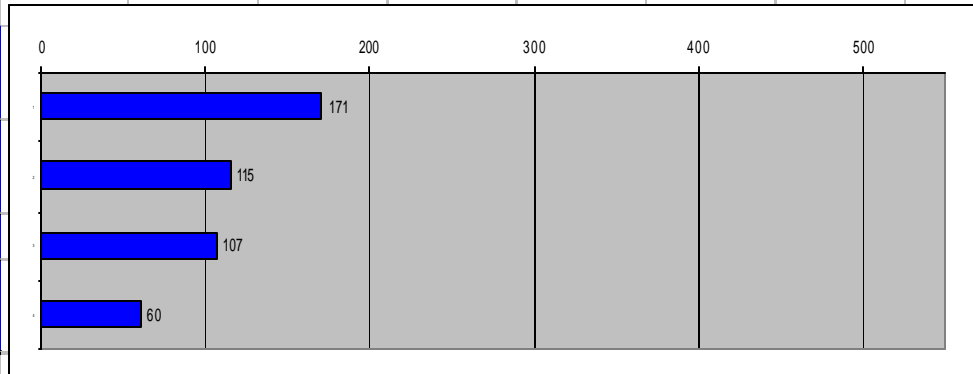
The voter may misalign the ballot in the machine, causing "hanging" or misaligned chad.

Incorrectly-punched ballot

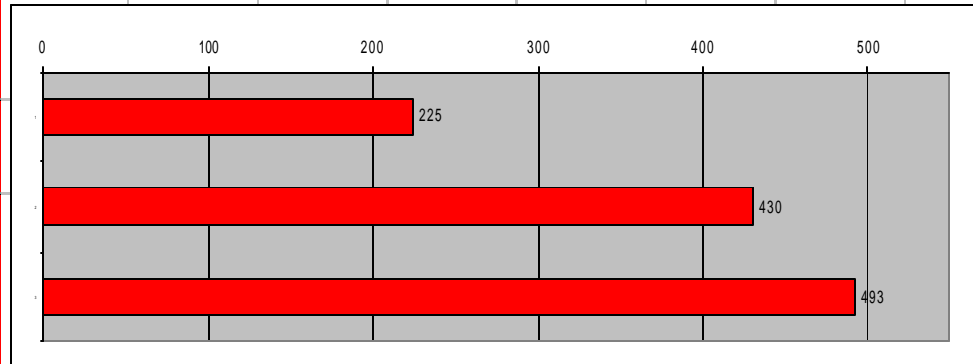
9	35	61	87	113
10	36	62	88	114
11	37	63	89	115
12	38	64	90	116

THE WASHINGTON POST

Statewide Recounts		Winner	Margin
Standard for acceptable marks set by each county in their recount	Gore	171	
Fully punched chads and limited marks on optical ballots	Gore	115	
Any dimple or any optical mark	Gore	107	
One corner of chad detached or any optical mark	Gore	60	



Limited Recounts		Winner	Margin
Gore request for recounts in Volusia, Broward, Palm Beach and Miami-Dade	Bush	225	
FL Supreme Court order for all undervotes statewide	Bush	430	
FL Supreme Court order, as being implemented by counties, some of whom refused and some counted undervotes and overvotes	Bush	493	



Certified Result		Winner	Margin
Recounts included from Volusia and Broward only	Bush	537	



Overvotes, Optical Ballots Were Key

While punch-card ballots and undervotes dominated the debate over Florida recounts, it was actually the overvotes and optical ballots that could have flipped the election in Al Gore's favor.

Net additional votes reaped in ballot review

ALL UNDERVOTES TALLIED

Technology	Net gain
Votomatic (punch card)	Bush 416 votes
Datavote (punch card)	Bush 24 votes
Optical	Gore 140 votes
All	Bush 300 votes

ALL OVERVOTES TALLIED

Technology	Net gain
Votomatic (punch card)	Gore 225 votes
Datavote (punch card)	Bush 2 votes
Optical	Gore 662 votes
All	Gore 885 votes

TOTAL BALLOTS TALLIED

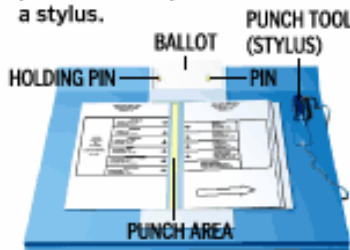
Technology	Net gain
Votomatic (punch card)	Bush 191 votes
Datavote (punch card)	Bush 26 votes
Optical	Gore 802 votes
All	Gore 585 votes

Voting Glossary

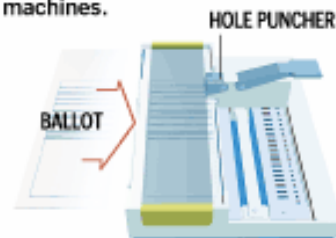
TYPES OF BALLOTS

Punch-style ballots

Votomatic: Perforated holes are poked out of a punch card with a stylus.

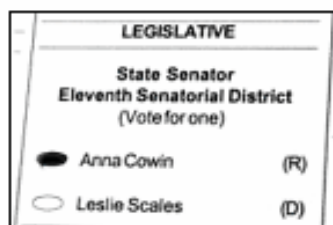


Datavote: Squares are bitten out of punch cards with hole-punch machines.

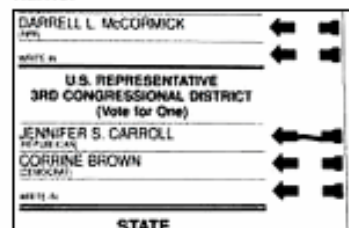


Optical ballots

Filled oval ballot: Voters use a pencil to fill in the oval beside their chosen candidate's name.

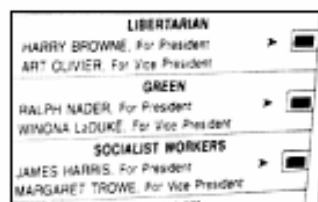


"Complete the arrow" ballot: Voters use a pen to complete the arrow beside their chosen candidate's name.



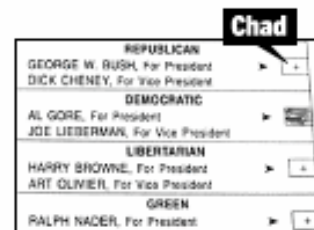
TYPES OF MISVOTES

Overvote: Ballots on which more than one choice for a candidate was recorded.



The voter punched chads for more than one candidate in a race.

Undervote: Ballots on which no vote for a candidate was recorded.



The voter filled in their selection with a pencil instead of punching the chad.

BY CHRIS KIRKMAN, CRISTINA RIVERO AND SETH HAMBLIN—THE WASHINGTON POST

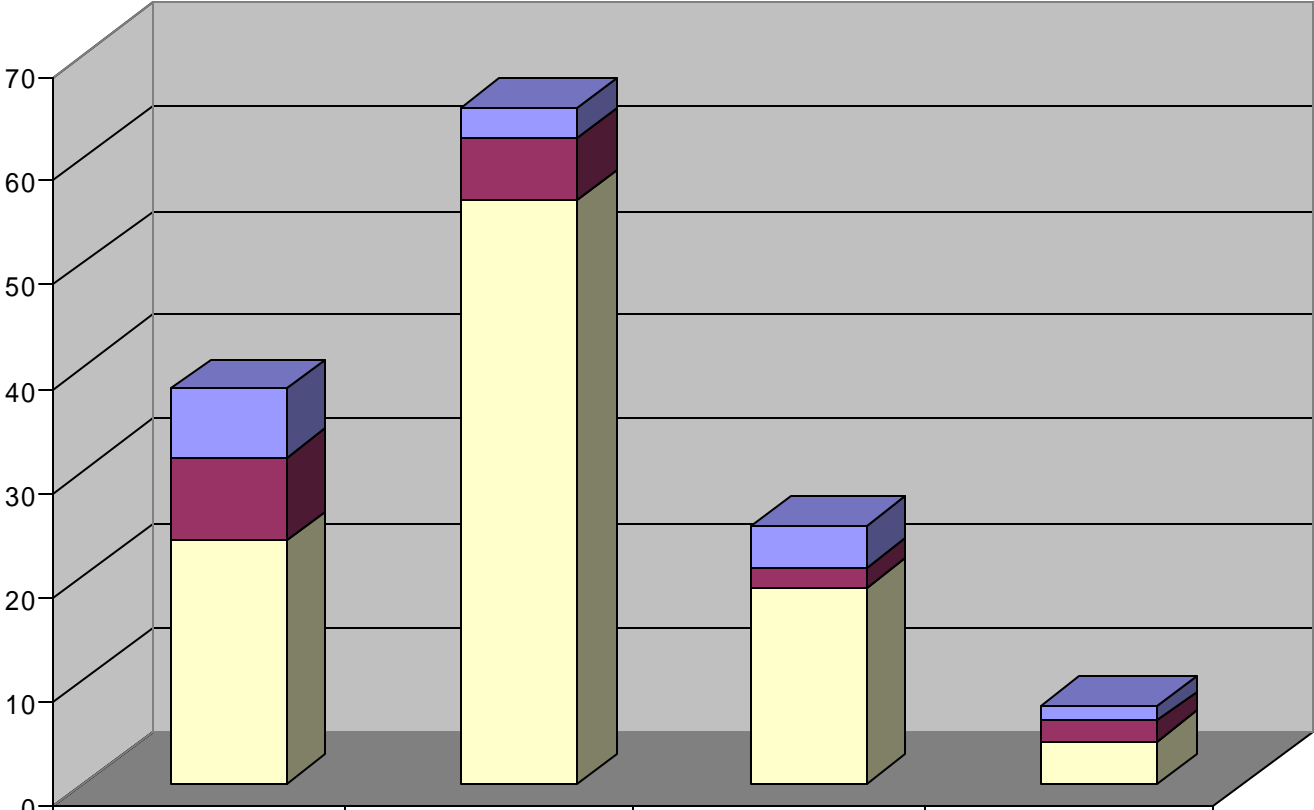
Breakdown of Net Undervotes/Overvotes Reaped By Technology								
(outcome of recount ballots alone, not recount combined with certified results)								
	Undervote			Overvote			Total	
Technology	Winner	Margin		Winner	Margin		Winner	Margin
Votomatic (punchcard)	Bush	416		Gore	225		Bush	191
Datavote (punchcard)	Bush	24		Bush	2		Bush	26
Optical	Gore	140		Gore	662		Gore	802
Grand Total	Bush	300		Gore	885		Gore	585

Table 3

Ballots That Could Be Reclaimed in a Recount By Technology and Undervote-Overvote,
Dimple Standard on Punchcards or Any Candidate Mark on Optical Ballots, Florida
2000

Technology	Ballots Reviewed	Potential Votes	
Undervote			
Votomatic Punchcard	53,215	18,351	35%
Datavote Punchcard	771	259	34%
Optical Ballots	6,865	2,314	34%
All	60,851	20,924	34%
Overvote			
Votomatic Punchcard	84,822	641	1%
Datavote Punchcard	4,427	80	2%
Optical Ballots	24,400	3,008	12%
All	113,649	3,729	3%
All	174,500	24,653	14%

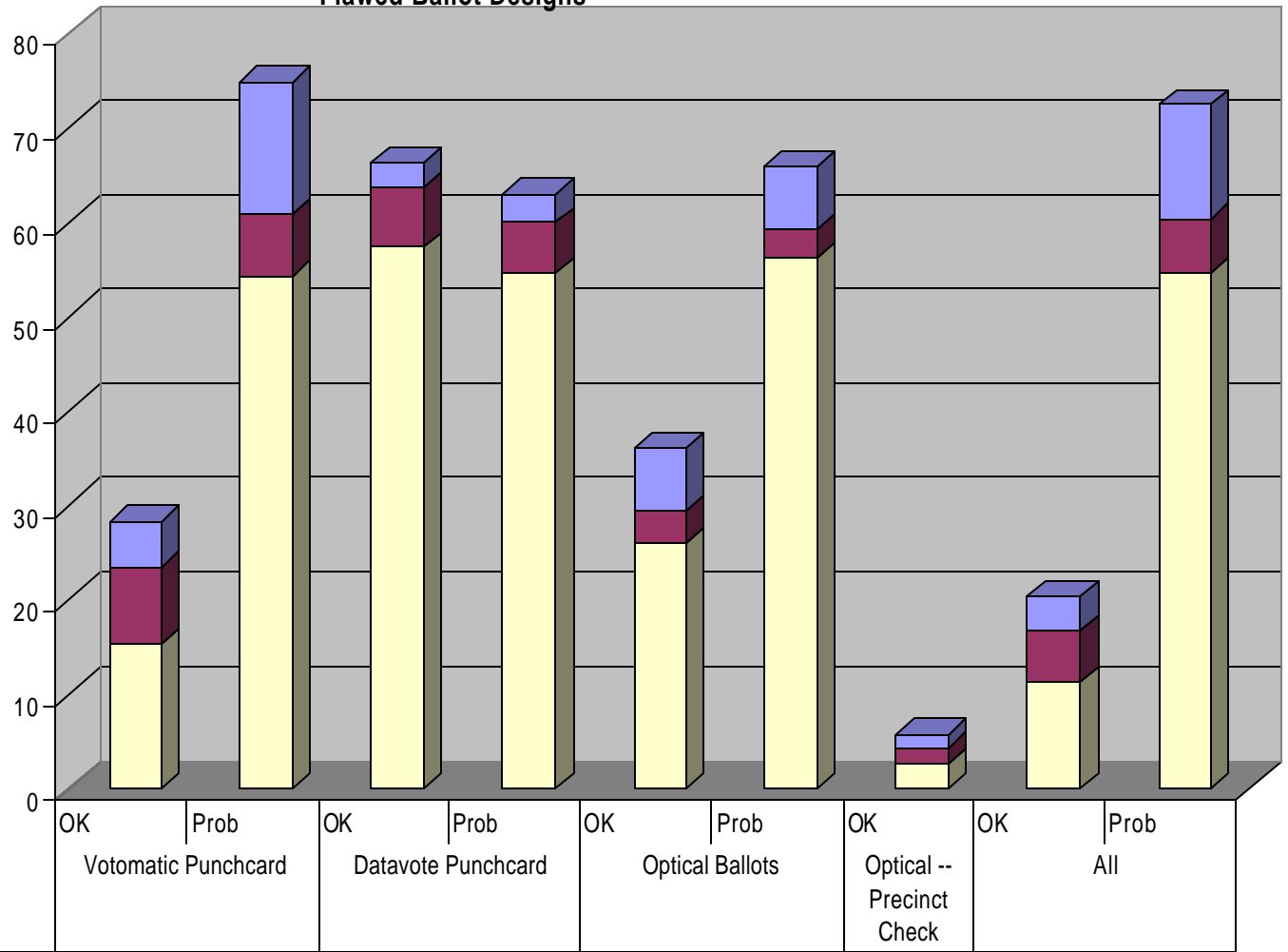
Error Rates By Technology
Distinguishing Genuine "No Opinion" from Failed Votes
Rate per 1,000 Ballots Cast



	Votomatic Punchcard	Datavote Punchcard	Optical Ballots	Optical Ballots with Precinct Checking
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Failed Mark For One Candidate	6.7	2.8	4.1	1.4
No Attempted Mark "Genuine Undervote"	7.8	5.9	1.8	2.0
Marks for More Than One Candidate	23.4	56.1	18.8	4.1

Flawed Ballot Designs



Failed Mark For One Candidate	4.8	13.9	2.6	3.1	6.7	6.6	1.4	3.6	12.1
No Attempted Mark "Genuine Undervote"	8.2	6.5	6.3	5.3	3.4	3	1.7	5.5	5.7
Marks for More Than One Candidate	15.3	54.3	57.3	54.6	26	56.2	2.7	11.3	54.6

June 21, 2004

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Error Rates By Technology and Race
Rates per 1,000 Ballots Cast

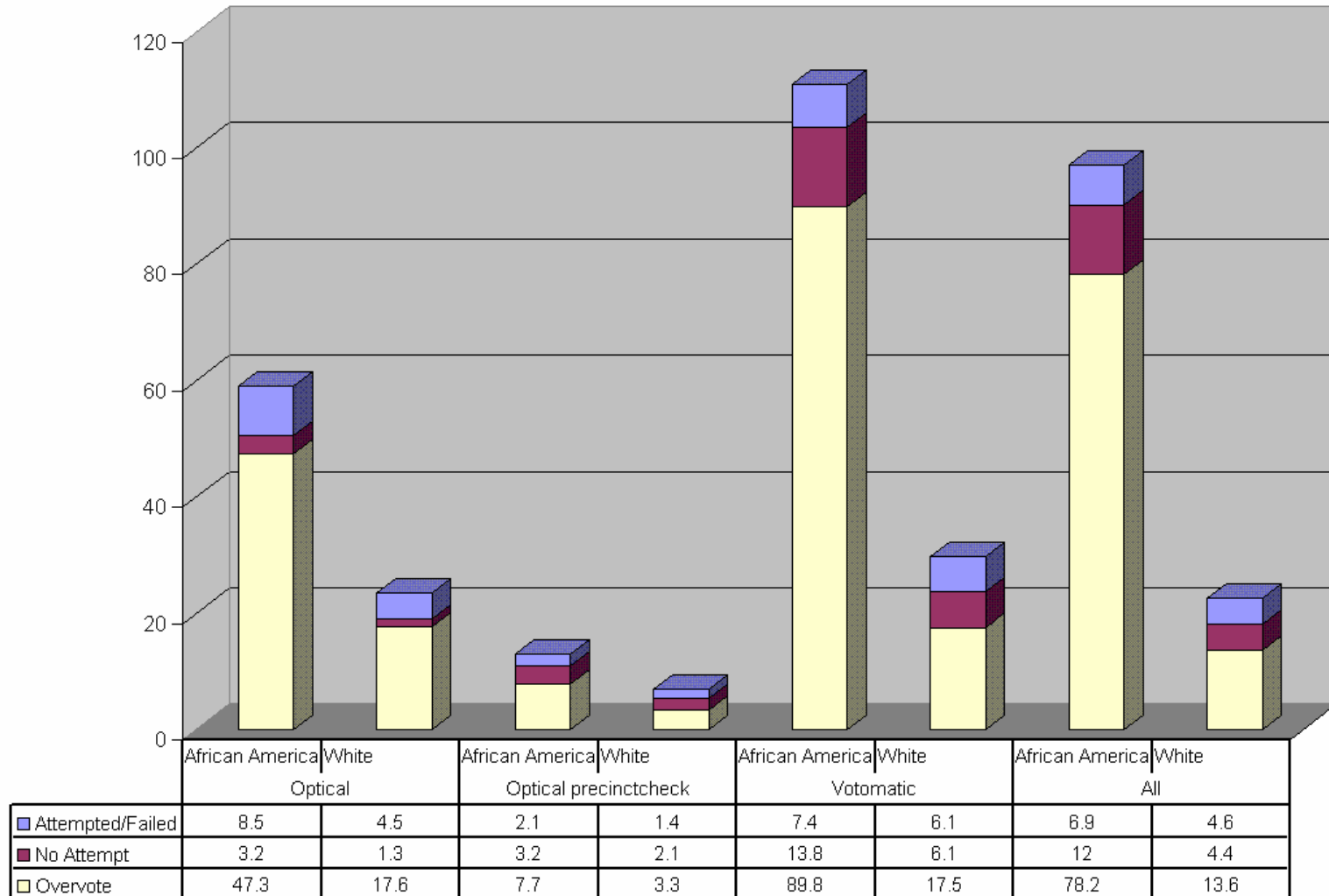
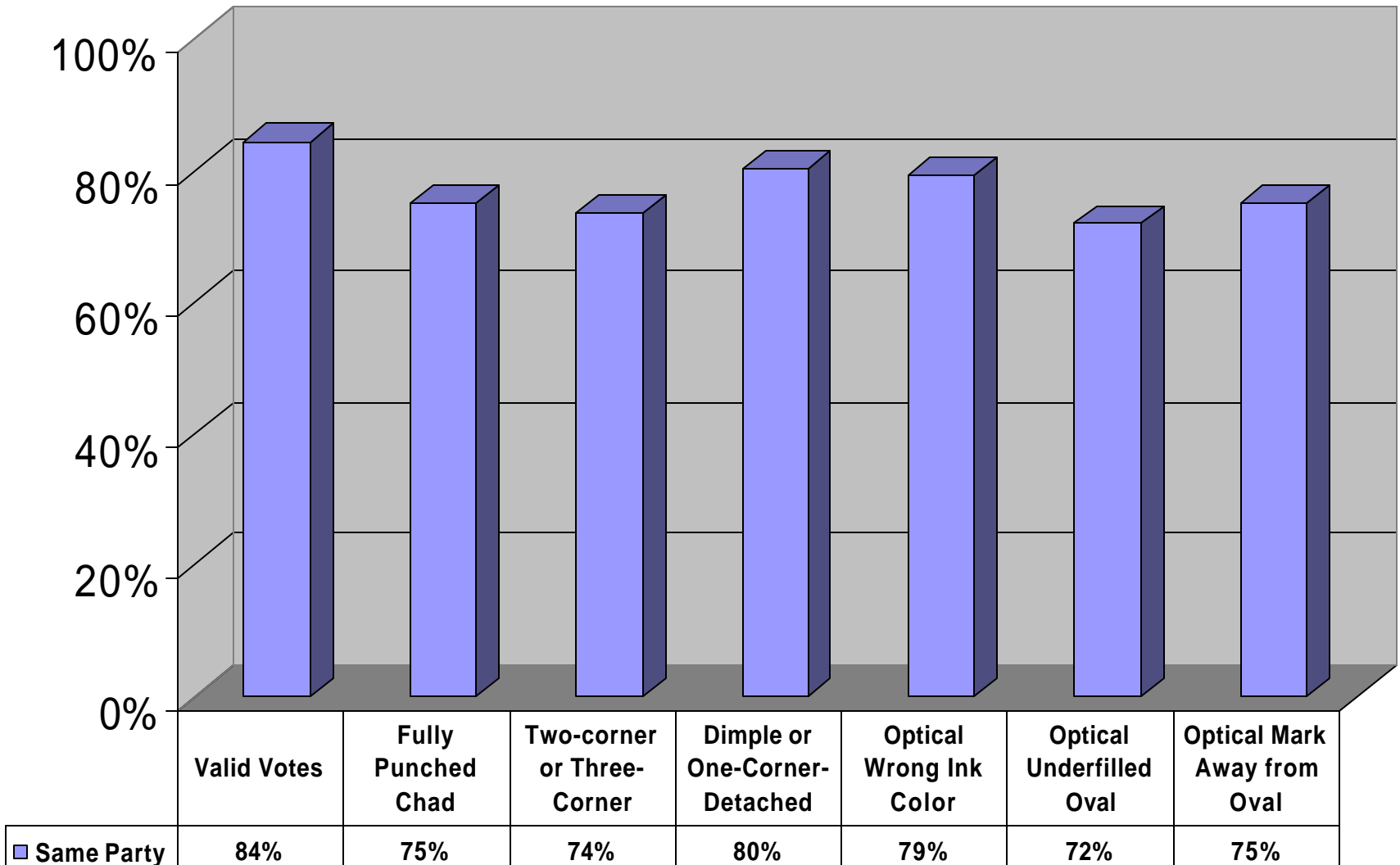


Table 13
 Disagreement in Potential Votes Seen Between One, Two and Three Ballot Reviewers,
 Dimple Standard or Any Candidate Mark on Optical Ballots
 Florida 2000

Reviewer Sees Valid Vote Pattern	Bush Vote	Gore Vote	Margin for Bush	Total Votes	Disagree Group	Disagree Pct
Votomatic Punchcards						
One Sees Vote (Y-N-N)	1,612	1,808	-196	3,420	7,840	36.9%
Two See Vote (Y-Y-N)	2,057	2,363	-306	4,420		
Three See Vote (Y-Y-Y)	7,068	6,345	723	13,413		
Datavote Punchcards						
One Sees Vote (Y-N-N)	22	16	6	38	83	27.4%
Two See Vote (Y-Y-N)	24	21	3	45		
Three See Vote (Y-Y-Y)	122	98	24	220		
Optical Ballots						
One Sees Vote (Y-N-N)	27	59	-32	86	199	8.1%
Two See Vote (Y-Y-N)	45	68	-23	113		
Three See Vote (Y-Y-Y)	1,036	1,215	-179	2,251		
All						
One Sees Vote (Y-N-N)	1,661	1,883	-222	3,544	8,122	33.8%
Two See Vote (Y-Y-N)	2,126	2,452	-326	4,578		
Three See Vote (Y-Y-Y)	8,226	7,658	568	15,884		

Mismarks Follow Party-Match Pattern



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