

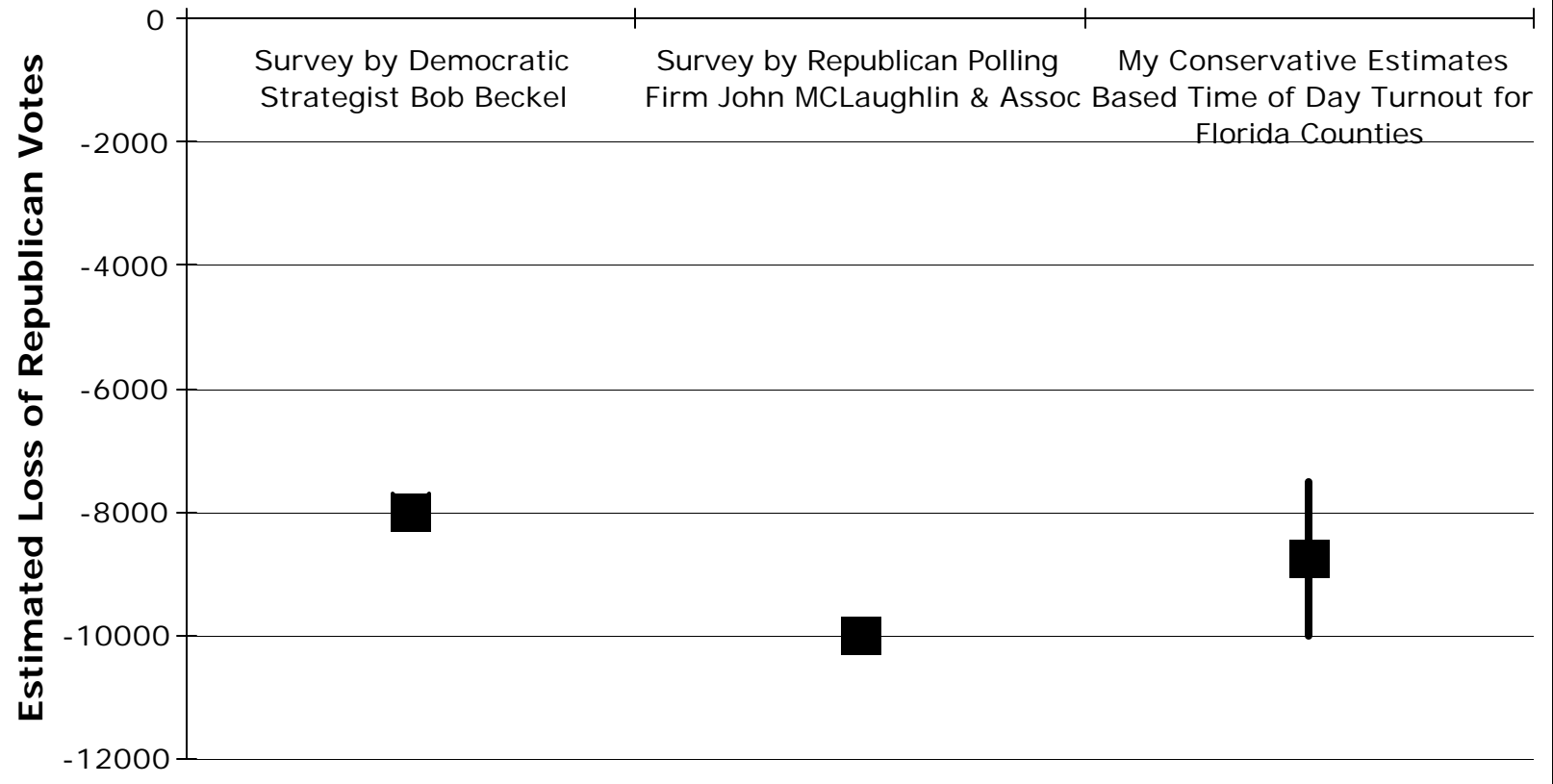
# The Florida 2000 Presidential Election

- Impact of Television Networks Prematurely Saying Polls had Closed in Florida  
Forthcoming in the journal **Public Choice**
- Non-voted Ballots and Discrimination in Florida  
**Journal of Legal Studies**

# Impact of Networks Calling Election Early

- Polls in Florida were open until 8 PM local time, but the state crosses two time zones
- ABC, CBS, CNN, FOX, MSNBC, and NBC all called the polls in Florida as closing an hour before they closed in the extremely heavily Republican Western Panhandle.
- Florida senate race called for Democrat 58 minutes before polls closed in the Western Panhandle, presidential race called 12 minutes early
- Heavily Republican area (two-thirds vote for Bush), even if early calls equally depressed voting rates for both parties, it hurts Republicans
- Data: polls (possibly suspect), actual turnout overtime

# Impact of Television Networks Prematurely Saying Polls had Closed in the Entire State of Florida on the Number of Republican Votes in the Western Panhandle



# Non-voted Ballots and Discrimination in Florida

- Out of 1,049 votes the average precinct had 25.7 non-votes, 17.6 over votes, 8 under votes
- Disturbing Claims of Discrimination against African-Americans still haunt the political debate
- Quotes by Jesse Jackson, Wesley Clark, John Kerry, Congresswoman Carrie Meek
- Two Different Types of Data
  - examining each of Florida's 67 counties for the presidential elections from 1992 to 2000
  - looks across precincts during the 2000 election, put together by the USA Today/ Miami Herald

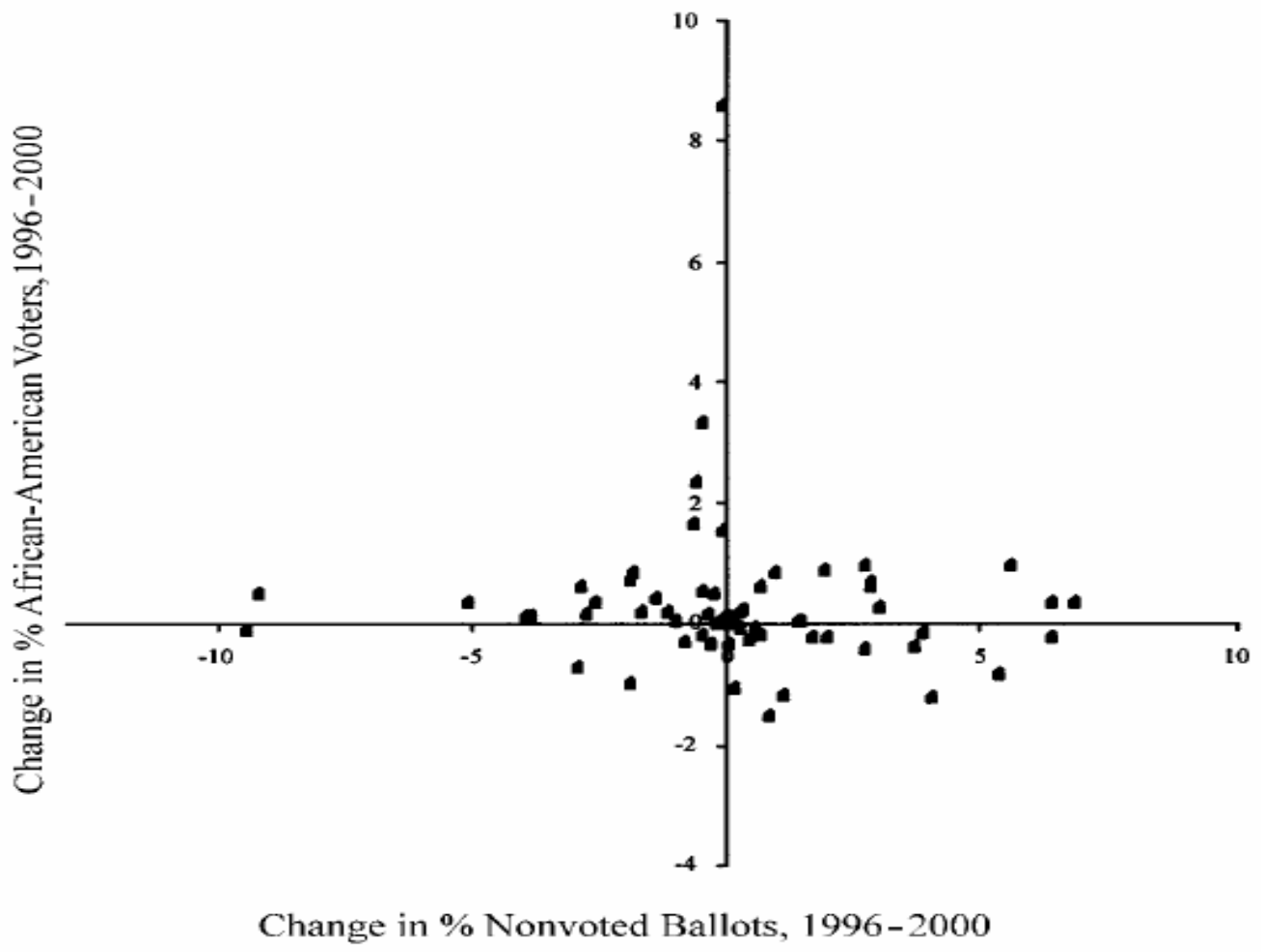
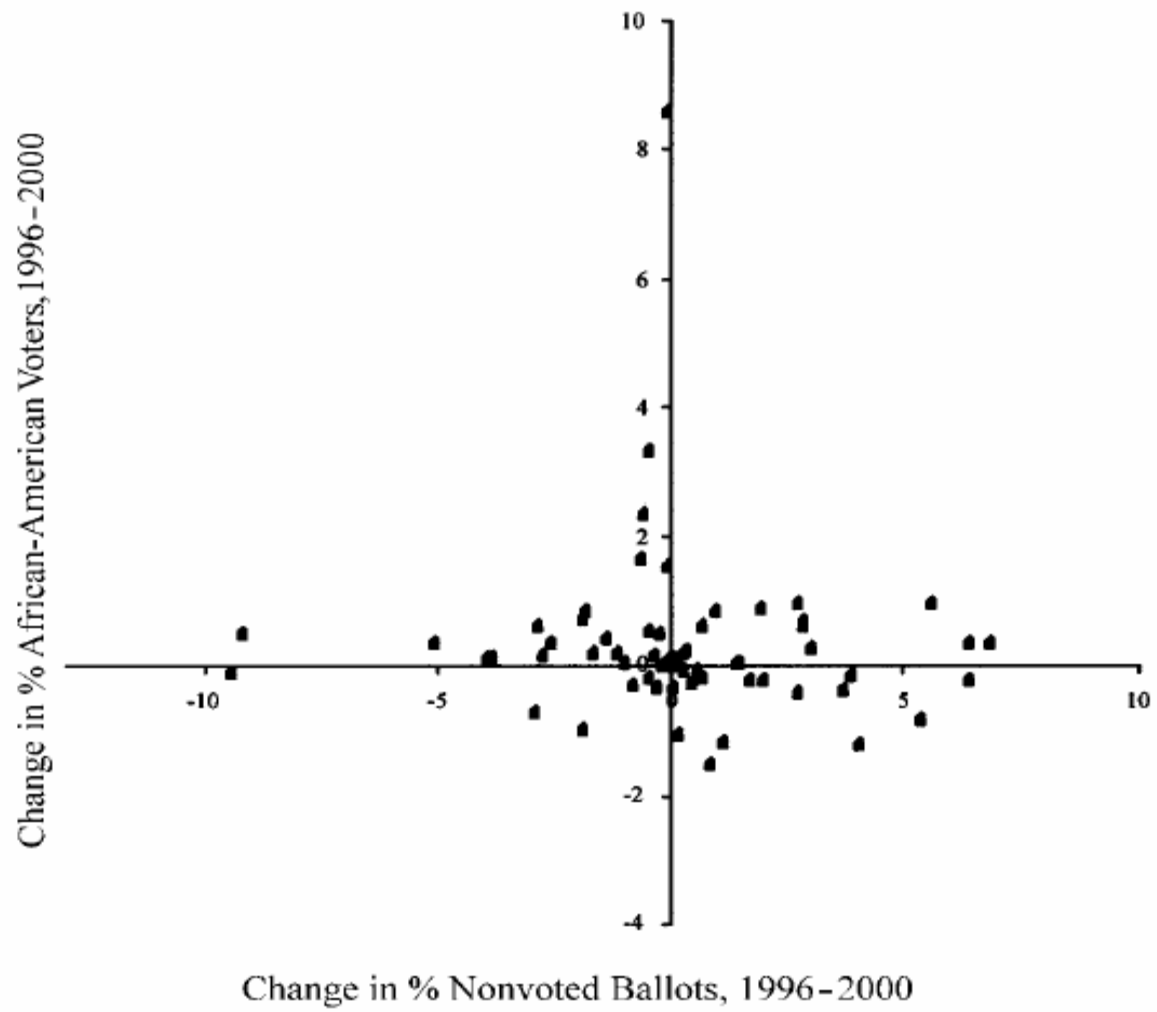
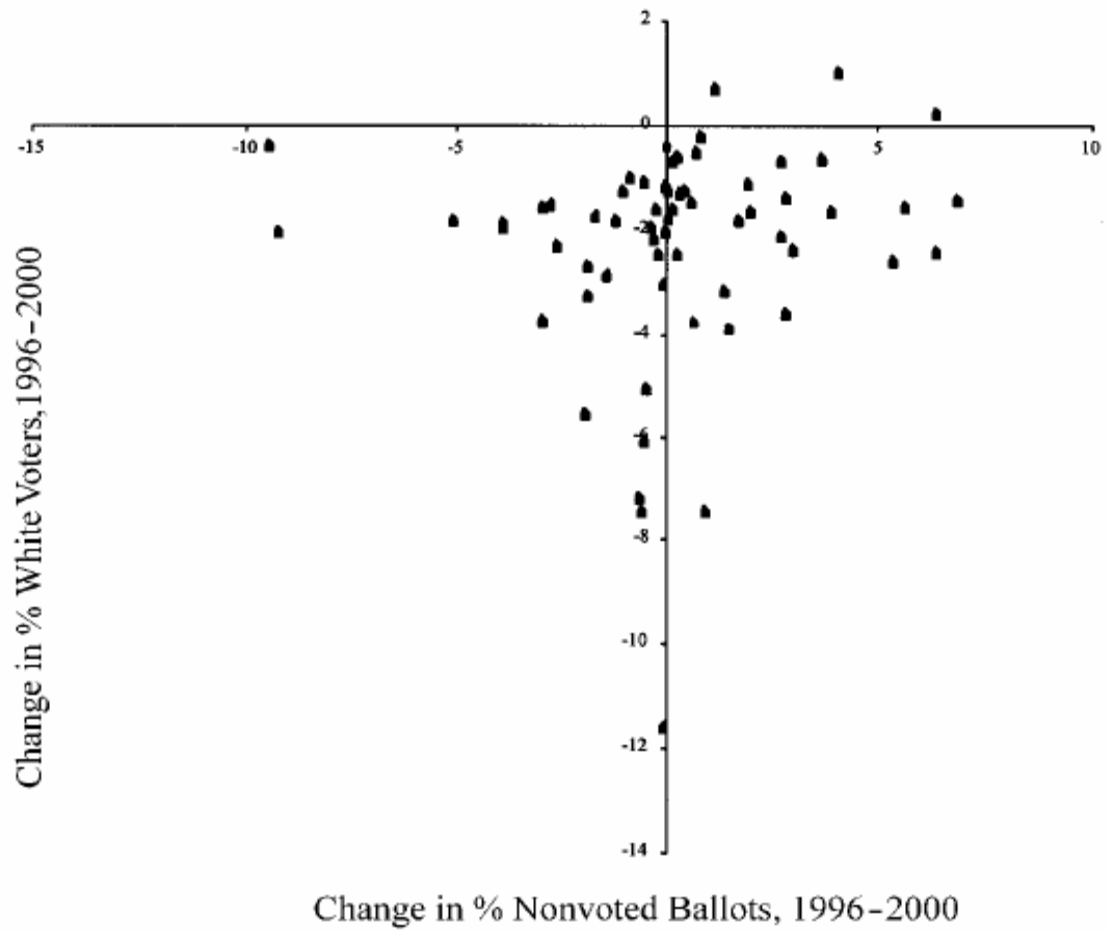


Figure 1. African Americans and nonvoted ballot rate



**Figure 1.** African Americans and nonvoted ballot rate



**Figure 2.** Whites and nonvoted ballot rate

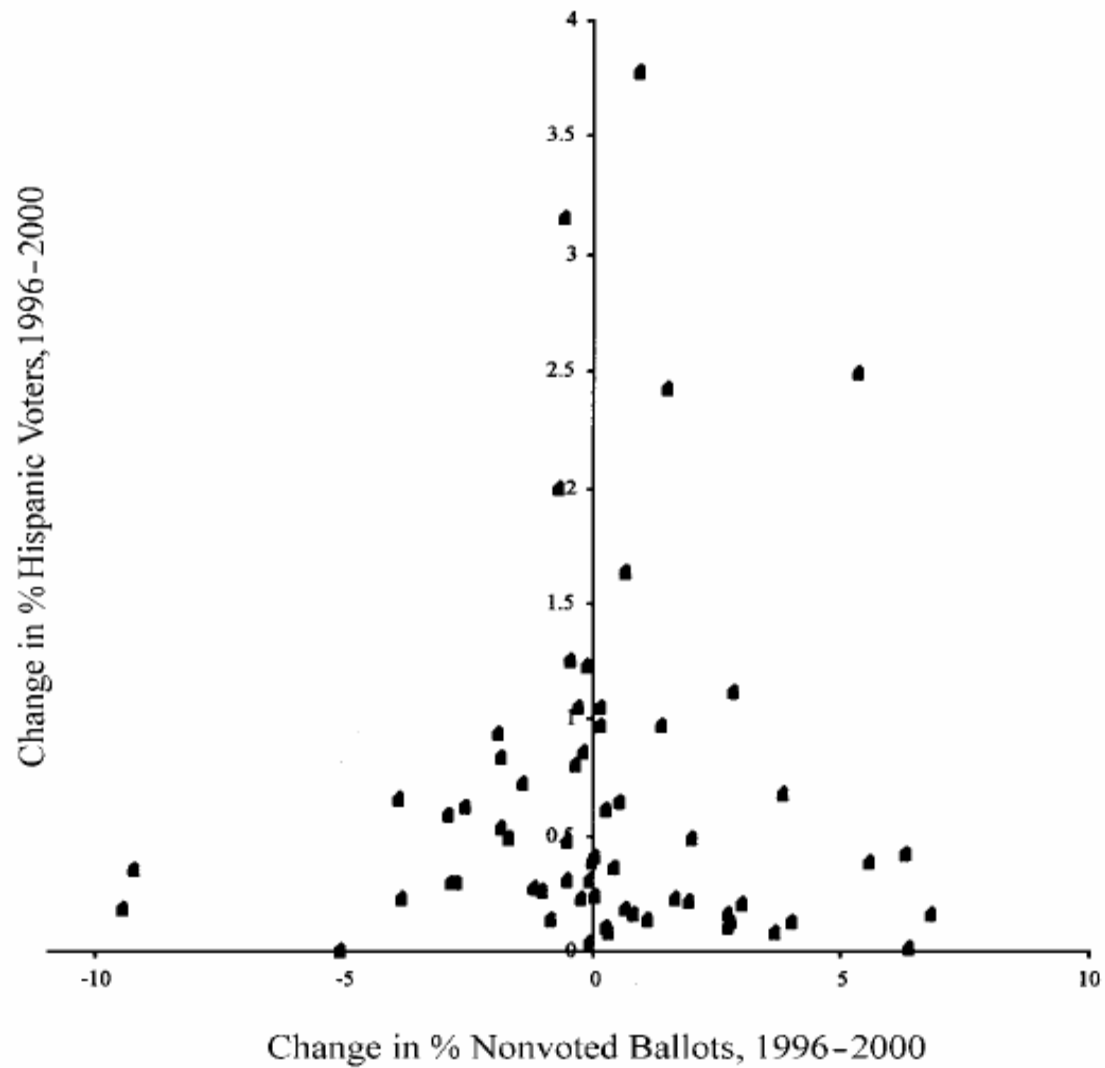


Figure 3. Hispanics and nonvoted ballot rate

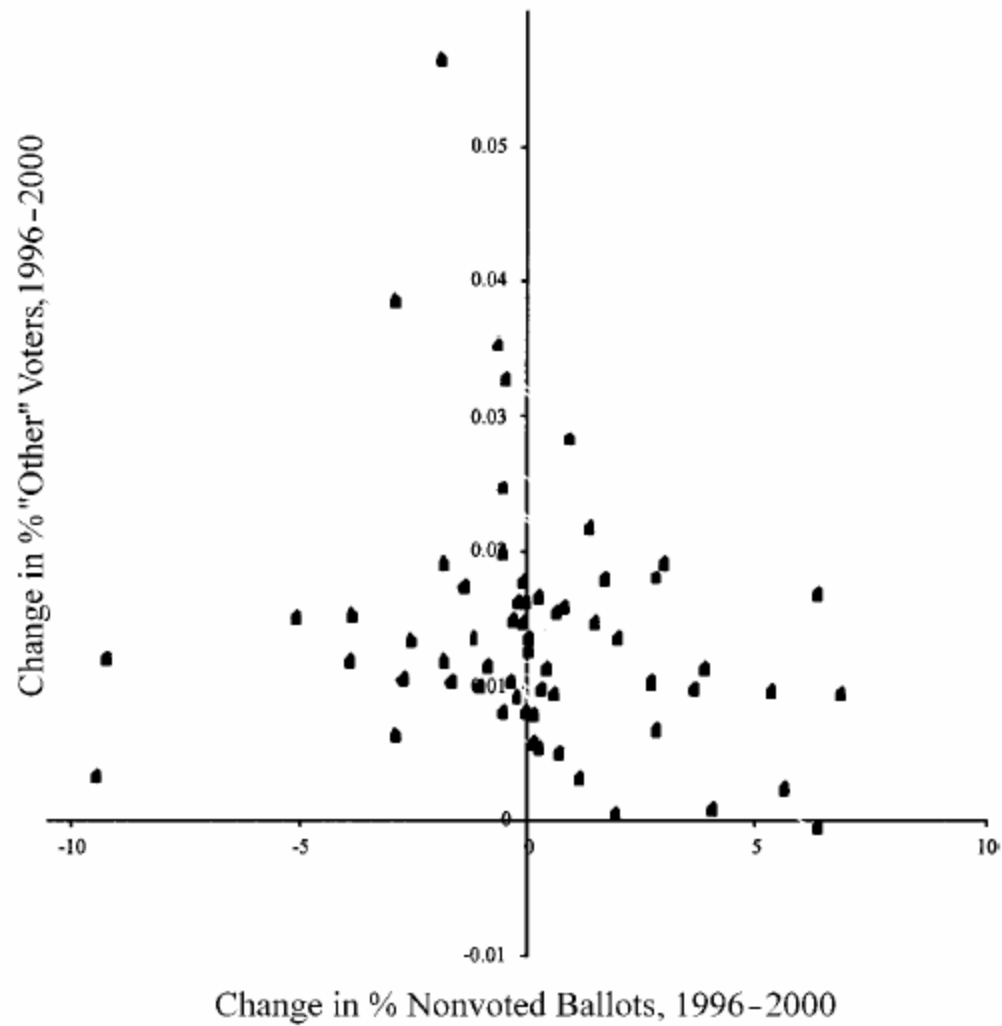


Figure 4. "Other" voters and nonvoted ballot rate

# USA Today/Miami Herald Consortium 2000 Florida Election Data by Precinct

- implies that adding 1,000 more African Americans in a precinct increases the number of non-voted ballots by 2.6 votes
- Every 15 to 18 African-American Republicans will produce as many non-voted ballots as 1,000 randomly selected African Americans. The non-voted ballot rate for African-American Republicans is about 56 to 66 times higher than for African-Americans generally.

- a county with a Democratic supervisor experiences a non-voted ballot rate that is 14 percent higher, and a county with African-American Democratic supervisor has a rate that is 31 percent higher
- Women have a higher non-voted ballot rate than men. Older people have a higher rate than younger ones.
- Neither information on voting machines, ballot design, nor race explain very much of the variation in non-voted ballots
  - removing information on whether ballots are counted centrally or at the precinct, the ballot type, and the machine type reduces the amount of variation in non-voted ballots explained by these regressions by 11 percentage points
  - removing measures of race and political affiliation reduce the amount of variation explained by a little over 2 percentage points

- Voter Stupidity Doesn't Seem to be the Explanation
  - If true, precincts with lower levels of education or lower levels of income should have higher non-voted ballot rates

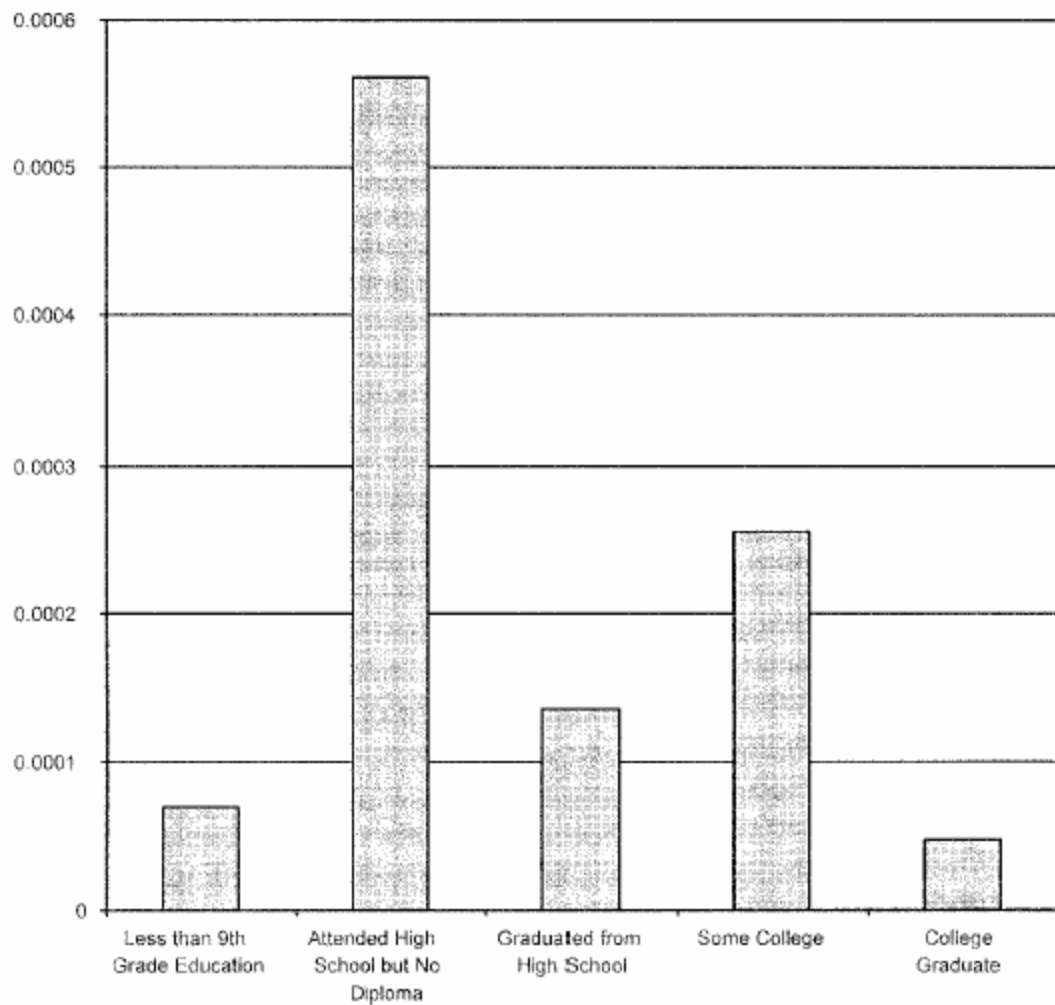


Figure 5. Relationship between educational attainment and nonvoted ballot rate

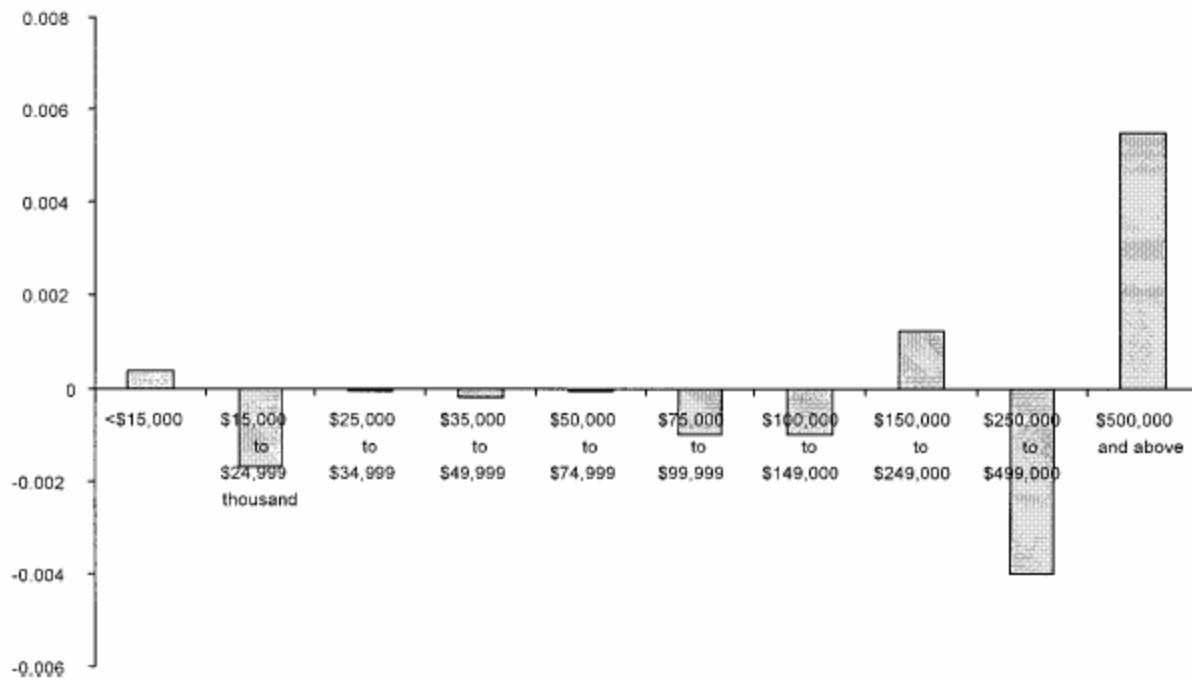


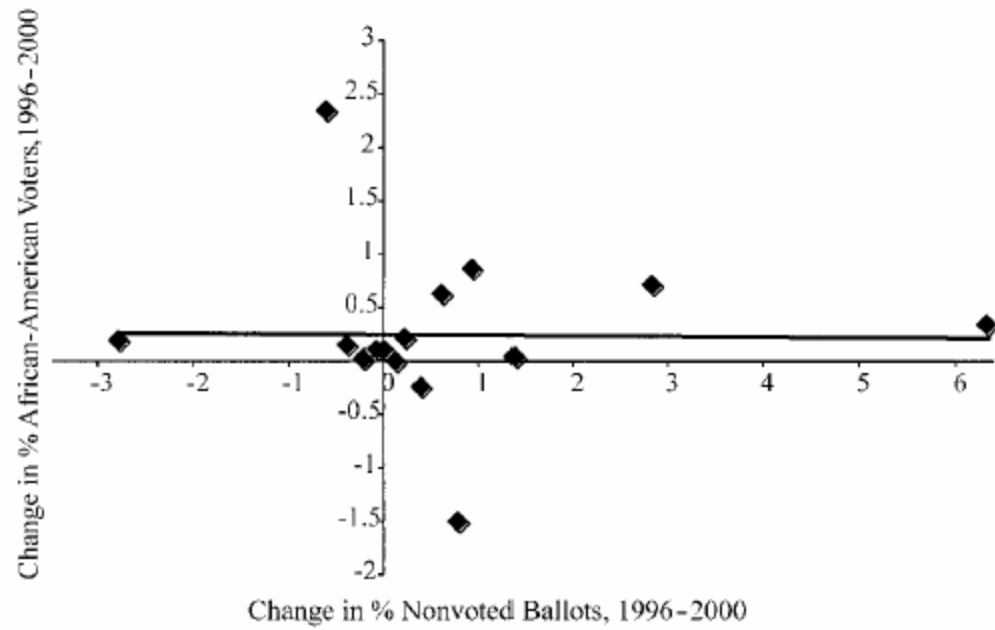
Figure 6. Relationship between income and nonvoted ballot rate

- Some voters might simply be more uncertain who to vote for than others.
  - The high non-voted ballot rate for African-American Republicans may arise simply because they were more conflicted than other voters in deciding whom to vote for.
  - Similar types of conflicted views might be arising for other groups such as those in households making over \$500,000 or those with some college or some high school education.

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (LZW) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

**Table 7.** Examining the Racial and Gender Differences Further Using County-Level Data from 1992 to 2000

Racial and Gender Data (%)	Coefficient Sign	Statistically Significant? <sup>a</sup>
20–29 years of age:		
African-American male	–	No
African-American female	+	No
White male	+	No
White female	–	No
Other male	+	Yes
Other female	–	Yes
30–39 years of age:		
African-American male	+	No
African-American female	–	No
White male	–	No
White female	+	No
Other male	–	Yes
Other female	+	Yes
40–49 years of age:		
African-American male	–	No
African-American female	+	No
White male	+	No
White female	–	No
Other male	+	No
Other female	–	No
50–64 years of age:		
African-American male	+	No
African-American female	–	No
White male	–	Yes
White female	+	Yes
Other male	+	No
Other female	–	No
Over 64 years of age:		
African-American male	+	No
African-American female	–	No
White male	–	No
White female	+	No
Other male	–	Yes
Other female	+	Yes



**Figure A1.** Counties using punch card machines in both elections—African Americans

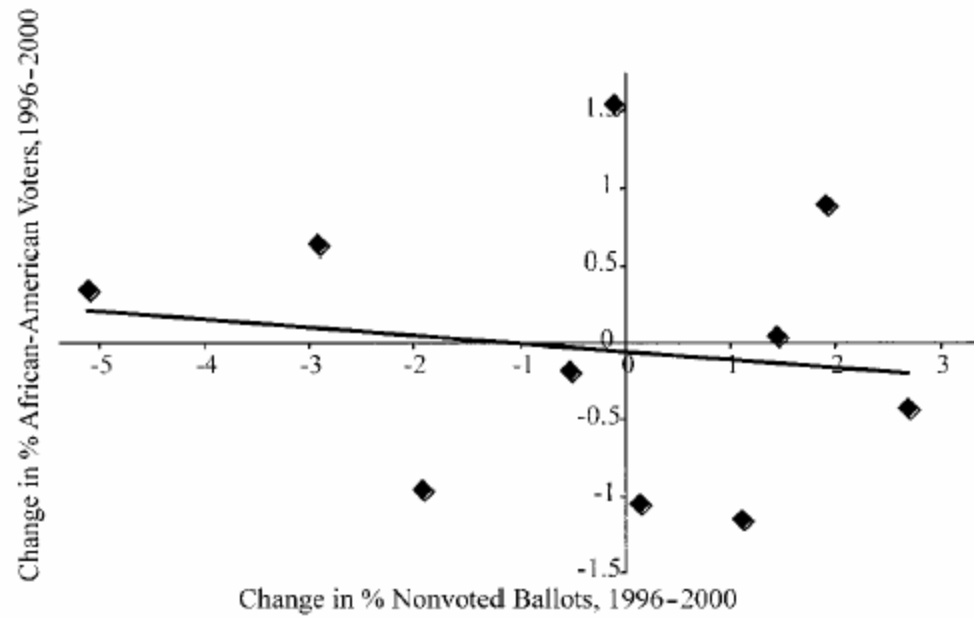
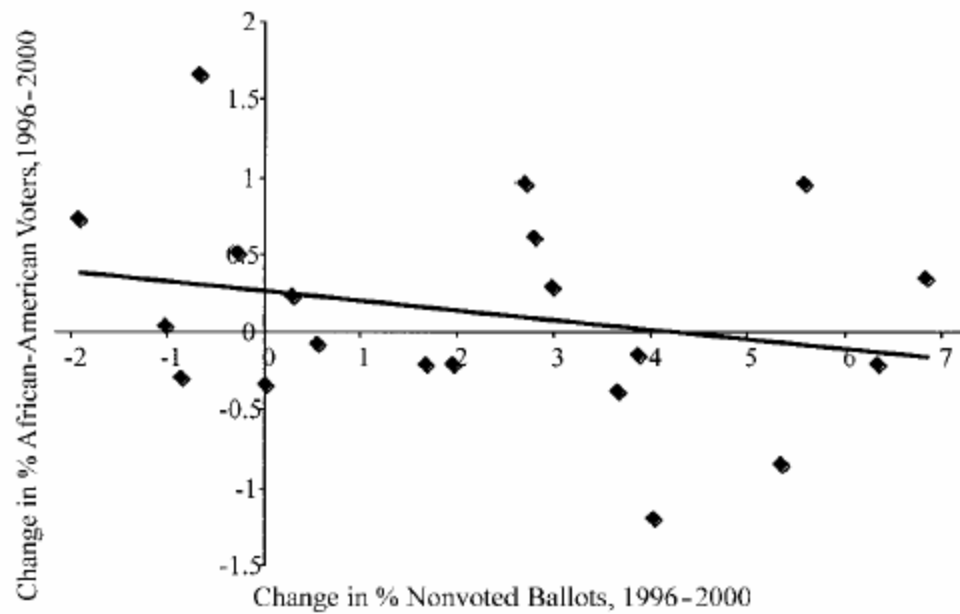
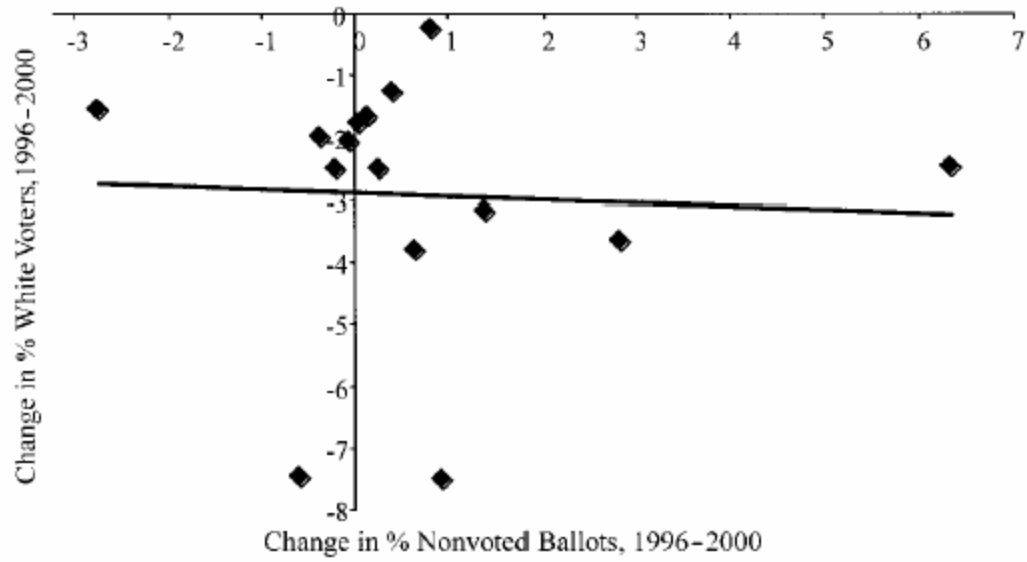


Figure A2. Counties using Datavote machines in both elections—African Americans



**Figure A3.** Counties using optical scan machines in both elections—African Americans



**Figure A4.** Counties using punch card machines in both elections—whites

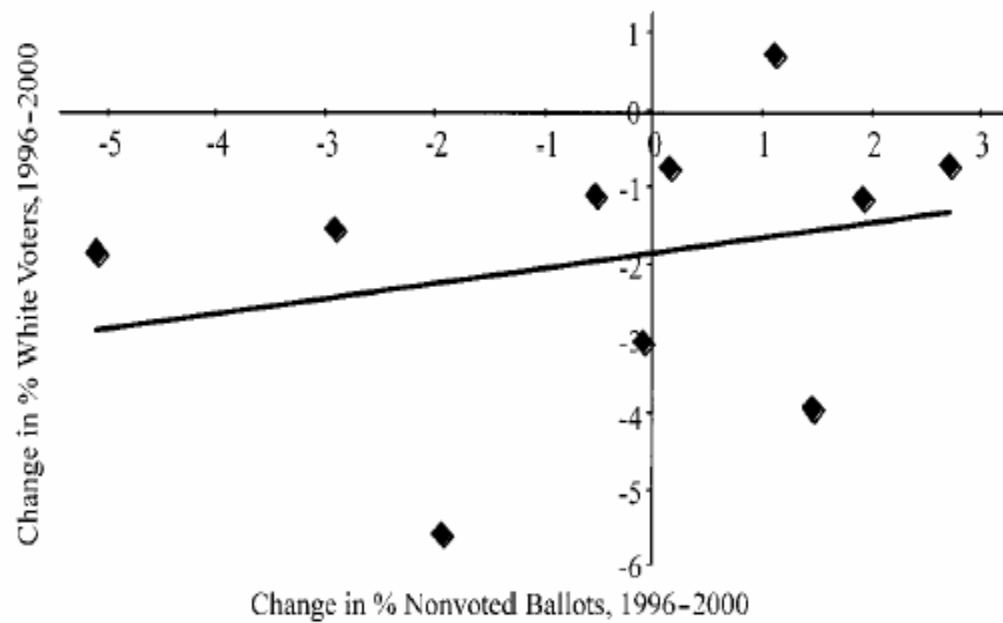


Figure A5. Counties using Datavote machines in both elections—whites

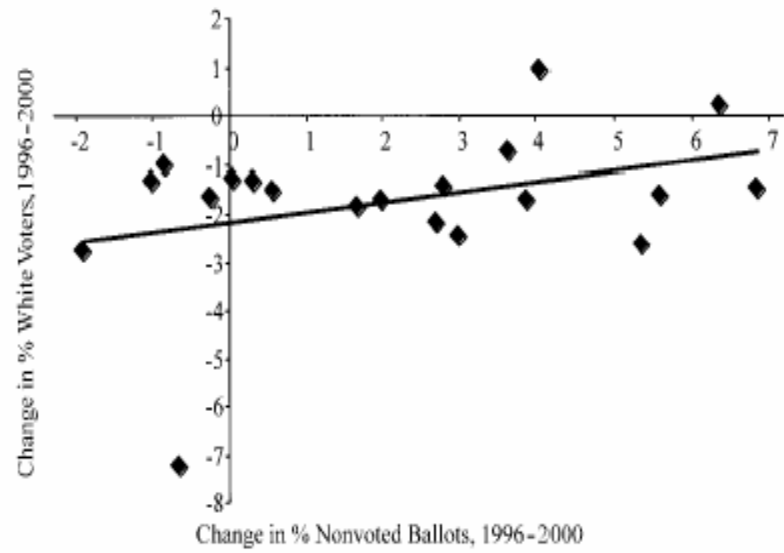


Figure A6. Counties using optical scan machines in both elections—whites

**Table A4.** What Types of Counties Had the Highest Nonvoted Ballot Rates (by Percent)?

	Democratic Election Supervisor	Republican Election Supervisor	Nonpartisan Election Supervisor
Nonvoted ballots by race and political affiliation of county election supervisors (%):			
African-American election supervisor	4.55	. . .	. . .
Non-African-American election supervisor	4.80	1.52	4.62
African-American voters by race and political affiliation of county election supervisors (%):			
African-American election supervisor	22.80	. . .	. . .
Non-African-American election supervisor	11.30	4.97	16.90