

THE POLLS IN 1992: A ROPER REVIEW

Editor's Note: In the January/February issue of Public Perspective, we will present detailed analysis of the 1992 vote, including analysis of some of the most interesting survey data. Here, in a section prepared immediately after the balloting, we confine ourselves to a summary of how polls fared as they sought to chart the electorate's course in a year when things political were so much in flux. Ross Perot's electronic candidacy alone upset many traditional calculations and made the final outcome harder to read.

Given this environment, we think the polls' performance, nationally and in the states, was on the whole exceptionally good. The polls listed below are a continuation of the complete trend in this issue's Public Opinion Report. As the review indicates, the late pre-election surveys slightly overstated Clinton's margin, and understated Perot's final share of the vote. But the big story is how closely overall they captured voter sentiment. We're inclined to give the 1992 election polls a grade of "A." In two articles which follow, Michael Traugott and Robert Worcester add their own, independent assessments.

--ECL--

The Popular Vote Totals, 11/3/92:	Clinton	Bush	Perot
Number	43,728,375	38,167,416	19,237,247
Percentage	43.24	37.74	19.02

THE FINAL NATIONAL VOTE & LATE PRE-ELECTION POLLS

	Organization	Clinton	Bush	Perot	Sample
10/26-29	Greenberg-Lake/Tarrance Group	41%	36%	17%	1000 RV*
10/27-28	NBC News/ <i>Wall Street Journal</i>	43	37	13	1158 RV
10/27-28	ABC News Tracking poll	44	35	16	903 LV
10/27-30	Greenberg-Lake/Tarrance Group	40	36	17	1000 RV*
10/28-29	Gallup for <i>Newsweek</i>	41	39	14	808 LV
10/28-29	Gallup/ <i>USA Today</i> /CNN	41	40	14	1666 LV
10/28-31	Greenberg-Lake/Tarrance Group	40	36	19	1000 RV*
10/28-11/1	<i>Washington Post</i>	43	35	16	722 LV
10/29-30	CBS News/ <i>New York Times</i>	44	36	17	924 LV
10/29-30	Gallup/ <i>USA Today</i> /CNN	42	39	14	1620 LV
10/29-31	ABC News Tracking poll	42	37	17	1369 LV
10/29-11/1	CBS News/ <i>New York Times</i>	46	36	16	2086 LV
10/29-11/1	Greenberg-Lake/Tarrance Group	40	36	19	1000 RV*
10/30-31	Gallup/ <i>USA Today</i> /CNN	43	36	15	1579 LV
10/30-11/1	Louis Harris & Associates	44	38	17	1975 LV
10/31-11/1	ABC News Tracking poll	44	37	16	908 LV
10/31-11/1	Gallup/ <i>USA Today</i> /CNN	44	36	14	1562 LV
10/31-11/2	CBS News/ <i>New York Times</i>	45	37	15	1731 LV
11/1	NBC News/ <i>Wall Street Journal</i>	44	36	15	1008 RV
11/1-2	Gallup/ <i>USA Today</i> /CNN	44	37	14	1589 LV

*Rolling 4-day sample; approximately 250 registered voters interviewed nightly.

THE STATES: Actual Vote and the Late Polls' Readings

State (Electoral Votes)	ACTUAL VOTE			Interview Dates	LATEST POLL(S)			Survey Firm/ Survey Sponsor
	C	B	P		C	B	P	
Alabama (9)	41%	48%	11%	10/26-31	38%	45%	14%	<i>Birmingham News</i>
Alaska (3)	32	41	28	10/25-26	30	37	23	Cromer Group
Arizona (8)	37	39	24	10/24-25	37	33	21	KAET-TV
Arkansas (6)	54	36	11	10/16-18	52	31	10	<i>Arkansas Democrat Gazette</i>
California (54)	47	32	21	10/25-28	45	29	23	Field Institute
Colorado (8)	40	36	23	10/29-31	41	32	19	<i>Denver Post</i>
Connecticut (8)	42	36	22	10/23-30	37	29	18	ISI/Univ. of CT <i>Hartford Courant</i>
Delaware (3)	44	36	21	10/28-31	42	36	18	<i>The News Journal</i>
District of Columbia (3)	86	9	4	10/12-14	71	17	8	WJLA-TV
Florida (25)	39	41	20	10/24-27	37	39	21	<i>New York Times</i> regional newspapers
Georgia (13)	44	43	13	10/19-21	44	38	12	WSB-TV/ <i>Atlanta Journal Constitution</i>
Hawaii (4)	49	37	14	10/25	40	30	19	<i>Honolulu Advertiser</i>
Idaho (4)	29	43	28	10/22-24	25	35	28	KTVB-TV
Illinois (22)	48	35	17	10/26-29	46	30	14	<i>The Daily Herald/News 7</i>
Indiana (12)	37	43	20	10/28-31	37	41	15	<i>Indianapolis Star</i>
Iowa (7)	44	38	19	10/25-30	41	32	19	<i>Des Moines Register</i>
Kansas (6)	34	39	27	10/26-29	33	33	22	<i>Topeka Capital Journal</i>
Kentucky (8)	45	42	14	10/27-29	45	38	12	<i>Lexington Herald Leader</i>
Louisiana (9)	46	42	12	10/23-24	41	36	11	<i>Shreveport Times</i>
Maine (4)	39	31	30	10/23-27	30	21	21	<i>Press Herald</i>
Maryland (10)	50	36	14	10/20-24	48	31	15	George Washington University
Massachusetts (12)	48	29	23	10/23-25	44	23	22	The Becker Institute
Michigan (18)	44	37	20	10/31-11/2 10/30-11/1	40 46	30 30	14 16	WJBK-TV <i>Oak Park Press/WDIV-TV</i>

Minnesota (10)	44%	32%	24%	10/27-30	44%	28%	18%	<i>Minnesota Star Tribune</i>
Mississippi (7)	41	50	9	10/23-24	37	41	11	<i>Natchez Democrat</i>
Missouri (11)	44	34	22	10/25-29	42	27	20	<i>Post-Dispatch/KMOX-TV</i>
Montana (3)	38	36	26	10/16-19	41	29	19	Eastern Mountain College
Nebraska (5)	30	47	24	10/20-22	29	38	17	<i>World Herald</i>
Nevada (4)	38	35	27	10/23-24	35	30	27	KLAS-TV
New Hampshire (4)	39	38	23	10/27-28 10/25-26	44 35	29 33	18 21	American Research Group <i>Concord Monitor</i>
New Jersey (15)	43	41	16	10/23-29 10/29-31	42 36	30 29	18 12	<i>Star Ledger</i> <i>Asbury Park Press</i>
New Mexico (5)	46	38	16	10/28-11/2	44	33	12	KOAT-TV
New York (33)	50	34	16	10/25-26	51	29	16	The Marist Institute
North Carolina (14)	43	44	14	10/25-28	40	32	10	<i>Raleigh N&O</i>
North Dakota (3)	32	44	23	10/29-30	36	37	20	<i>Great Falls Herald</i>
Ohio (21)	40	39	21	10/26-29 10/26-31	41 42	40 36	19 18	<i>Columbus Dispatch</i> <i>Beacon Journal</i>
Oklahoma (8)	34	43	23	10/26-28	31	37	16	KWTV-TV
Oregon (7)	43	32	25	10/22-26	42	24	20	<i>The Oregonian</i>
Pennsylvania (23)	45	36	18	10/27-28	45	36	11	KDKA-TV
Rhode Island (4)	48	29	23	10/23-25	48	27	18	WPRI-TV
South Carolina (8)	40	48	12	10/26-28	40	43	13	<i>Columbia State</i>
South Dakota (3)	37	41	22	10/21-22	35	31	20	<i>Argus Leader</i>
Tennessee (11)	47	43	10	10/25-26	44	39	10	Mason-Dixon Research
Texas (32)	37	40	22	10/26-28	35	43	15	Mason-Dixon Research
Utah (5)	26	45	29	10/26-30	24	37	13	<i>Salt Lake Tribune</i>
Vermont (3)	46	31	23	10/20-22	43	26	16	<i>Burlington Free Press</i>
Virginia (13)	41	45	14	10/26-29 10/28-29	33 38	40 43	13 10	<i>Times Dispatch</i> Mason-Dixon Research
Washington (11)	44	31	24	10/27-28	39	34	15	<i>The Journal American/</i> KOMO-TV
West Virginia (5)	49	36	16	10/26-28	40	31	14	<i>Charleston Gazette</i>
Wisconsin (11)	41	37	22	10/29-30	38	35	20	<i>Milwaukee Journal</i>
Wyoming (3)	34	40	26	10/22-24	32	35	23	<i>Casper Star Tribune</i>