A recount glossary

Datavote:
A punch card voting system which produced comparatively few undervotes or overvotes in DeSoto, Dixie, Gilchrist, Glades, Hardee, Jefferson, Madison, Nassau and Wakulla counties.

Lever machines:
Old-fashioned voting technology in which the voter pulls a lever next to the name of the candidate they choose and their vote is recorded. Used only in Martin County.

Optical scan:
A voting system used in 41 Florida counties in which voters fill in a bubble next to the name of their selection, or complete part of an arrow pointing at their selection. The paper ballots are then tabulated either at the precinct or in a central location by machines that read the marks placed on the ballot by voters.

Overvote: A ballot on which a machine or hand count recognized votes for two or more of the presidential candidates, thereby invalidating the ballot.

Paper ballots:
Ballots on which voters mark their choices using pen or pencil on a ballot which is then counted by hand. Used only in Union County.

Undervote:
A ballot on which no vote for any presidential candidate was recognized either by a machine count or a hand count.

Votomatic:
The punch card system used in Broward, Collier, Miami-Dade, Duval, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lee, Marion, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Sarasota and Sumter counties.

* In an effort to duplicate the number of undervotes and overvotes that existed on election night, the media group asked supervisors in several counties to resegregate their ballots by hand. In three counties, that process located several valid ballots that were rejected by machines on election night. In one county, that hand segregation corrected an overage in the certified totals. For purposes of this project, those adjustments are reflected in the net "gain" shown for the counties.

** Though they were never certified, these totals reflect the results of the hand counts of undervoted ballots in Palm Beach and 139 precincts in Miami-Dade.

Alachua: Gore gains 14
Certified vote: Gore by 13,245
Voting machine: Optical (precinct)
Recount standard: Overvotes — Yes, they would have been accepted where votes for more than one candidate were crossed out or erased or the voter selected a candidate both by filling in an oval and writing in the name. Undervotes — Yes, they would have been accepted where the candidate or political party's name was circled, or other marks appeared next to either, or where the space for voting was not fully filled in or the wrong color ink or incorrect writing instrument was used.

Baker: Bush gains 16*
Certified vote: Bush by 3,219
Voting machine: Optical (precinct)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, where the oval was not fully filled in but voter intent was obvious, or the wrong color ink or incorrect writing instrument was used.

Bay: Bush gains 16
Certified vote: Bush by 19,809
Voting machine: Optical (precinct)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No decision reached. Undervotes — Yes, using the same standards as Alachua.

Bradford: No change
Certified vote: Bush by 2,341
Voting machine: Optical (central tabulation)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, using the same standards as Alachua. Each candidate picked up 8 votes among undervotes.

Brevard: Gore gains 11
Certified vote: Bush by 17,912
Voting machine: Optical (precinct)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No decision was made. Undervotes — Yes, using the same standard as Alachua.

Broward: No change
Certified vote: Gore by 209,821
Voting machine: Punch card (Votomatic)
Recount standard: Broward's hand count was included in the certified total that day. The standards evolved during Broward's count, until they were recognizing anything from a dimpled chad on up as a vote.

Calhoun: No change
Certified vote: Bush by 717
Voting machine: Optical (precinct)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, using the same standard as Alachua.

Charlotte: Bush gains 7
Despite a state law which directs canvassing boards to look through rejected ballots to find a voter's intent, Charlotte and some other counties declined to sort or review ballots until ordered by a court. The supervisor of elections also refused to segregate undervotes and overvotes from other ballots until the media group sued and prevailed.
Certified vote: Bush by 5,782
Voting machine: Optical (central tabulation)
Recount standard: Overvotes — Maybe if the voter tried to erase additional votes or clearly wrote their intent on the ballot. Undervotes — Yes, using the same standard as Alachua.

Citrus: Gore gains 3
Certified vote: Bush by 4,270
Voting machine: Optical (precinct)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, using most of the same standards as Alachua, though they would have rejected ballots where the only mark was a circle around the chosen political party's name.

Clay: Bush gains 57
Certified vote: Bush by 27,235
Voting machine: Optical (precinct)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, using most of the same standards as Alachua, but they would not have accepted circles or marks around the name of the political party as valid votes.

Collier: Bush gains 158
Certified vote: Bush by 30,528
Voting machine: Punch card (Votomatic)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, with one or more corners detached on a chad. Would have accepted dimples if the rest of the ballot also contained dimples. Would have accepted a circled chad or a chad marked in ink, but not punched.

Columbia: Bush gains 2
Certified vote: Bush by 3,919
Voting machine: Optical (precinct)
Recount standard: Overvotes — Yes, where it was clear the voter tried to erase the additional choice or where the vote clearly wrote their intent on the ballot. Undervotes — Yes, using most of the same standards as Alachua, but probably rejecting stray marks near candidate's names as valid votes.

Desoto: Gore gains 7
Certified vote: Bush by 935
Voting machine: Punch card (Datavote)
Recount standard: Overvotes — Yes. Undervotes — Yes, they would have accepted anything from dimpled chads to clean punches on undervoted ballots.

Dixie: No change
Certified vote: Bush by 870
Voting machine: Punch card (Datavote)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, with one or more corners detached from a chad, but not dimples. Neither candidate would have picked up another vote.

Duval: Bush gains 261
Members of Duval's canvassing board said after Dec. 9 that there was no chance the county could have met the Florida Supreme Court's deadline for completing the recount. They were still waiting for software and equipment from Miami to sort the ballots when the U.S. Supreme Court issued the order stopping the count.
Certified vote: Bush by 44,421
Voting machine: Punch card (Votomatic)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Would not have reviewed overvotes. Undervotes — Yes, if there were two or more corners detached from a chad.

Escambia: Gore gains 3
Certified vote: Bush by 32,181
Voting machine: Optical (precinct)
Recount standard: Completed a review of the ballots before the U.S. Supreme Court order, so this number reflects uncertified changes from the Escambia canvassing board, not NORC's review.

Flagler: Gore gains 5
Certified vote: Gore by 1,279
Voting machine: Optical (precinct)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, using most of the same standards as Alachua, but rejecting ballots marked only with marks near the political party's name.

Franklin: Gore gains 2
Certified vote: Bush by 407
Voting machine: Optical (central)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, using the same standards as Alachua.

Gadsden: No change
Gadsden, along with Jackson, Union and Liberty Counties, sorted and reviewed undervoted and overvoted ballots immediately after the election to determine voter intent. So they weren't inclined to do it again in December.
Certified vote: Gore by 4,966
Voting machine: Optical (central)
Recount standard: One of four counties which refused to perform a hand recount.

Gilchrist: Gore gains 1
Certified vote: Bush by 1,390
Voting machine: Punch card (Datavote)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, if it had three corners punched on a chad. Might have accepted ballots with one or more corners detached. Would not have accepted dimples.

Glades: Bush gains 3
Certified vote: Bush by 399
Voting machine: Punch card (Datavote)
Recount standard: Overvotes — Yes. Undervotes — Yes, where one or more corners were detached on a presidential chad. Would have accepted a ballot if a particular chad was circled or otherwise marked with clear voter intent.

Gulf: Gore gains 1
Certified vote: Bush by 1,155
Voting machine: Optical (central tabulation)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, where the choice was clear but the marking didn't fully fill in the oval, or the wrong color ink or improper writing instrument was used.

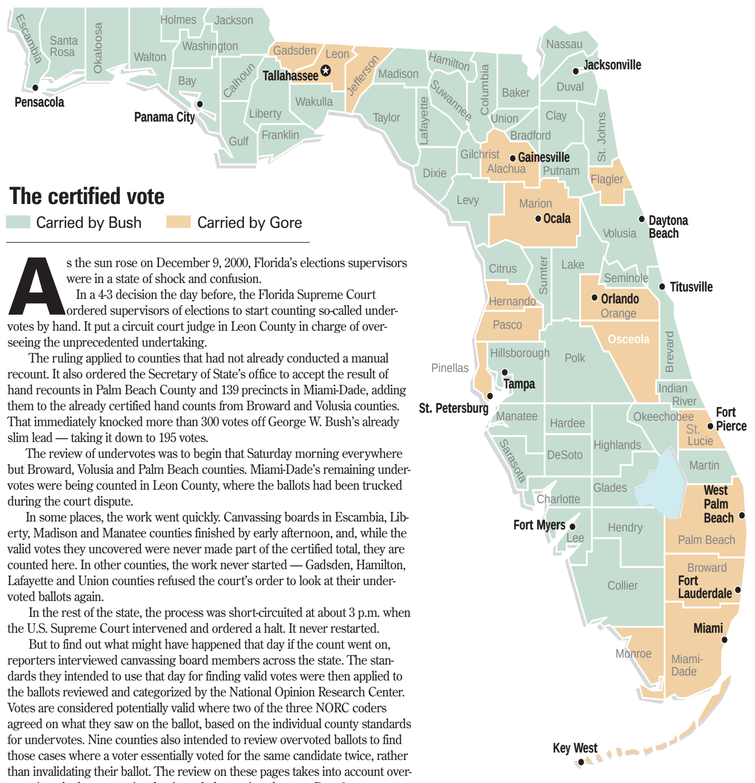
Hamilton: No change
Certified vote: Bush by 424
Voting machine: Optical (central tabulation)
Recount standard: One of four counties which refused to perform another hand recount.

Hardee: Gore gains 2
Certified vote: Bush by 1,423
Voting machine: Punch card (Datavote)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, where two or more corners were detached on a chad. Also would have accepted dimples if the rest of the ballot were similarly dimpled and would have accepted ballots if the voter clearly circled their chad of choice.

Hendry: No change
Certified vote: Bush by 1,507
Voting machine: Optical (central)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, where the area next to the candidate's name was partially filled in or the wrong color ink or improper writing instrument were used.

67 COUNTIES 67 RECOUNTS

A look at what would've happened in the 2000 Florida presidential election if the U.S. Supreme Court had not intervened



The certified vote
Carried by Bush — Carried by Gore

As the sun rose on December 9, 2000, Florida's elections supervisors were in a state of shock and confusion.

In a 4-3 decision the day before, the Florida Supreme Court ordered supervisors of elections to start counting so-called undervotes by hand. It put a circuit court judge in Leon County in charge of overseeing the unprecedented undertaking.

The ruling applied to counties that had not already conducted a manual recount. It also ordered the Secretary of State's office to accept the result of hand recounts in Palm Beach County and 139 precincts in Miami-Dade, adding them to the already certified hand counts from Broward and Volusia counties. That immediately knocked more than 300 votes off George W. Bush's already slim lead — taking it down to 195 votes.

The review of undervotes was to begin that Saturday morning everywhere but Broward, Volusia and Palm Beach counties. Miami-Dade's remaining undervotes were being counted in Leon County, where the ballots had been trucked during the court dispute.

In some places, the work went quickly. Canvassing boards in Escambia, Liberty, Madison and Manatee counties finished by early afternoon, and, while the valid votes they uncovered were never made part of the certified total, they are counted here. In other counties, the work never started — Gadsden, Hamilton, Lafayette and Union counties refused the court's order to look at their undervoted ballots again.

In the rest of the state, the process was short-circuited at about 3 p.m. when the U.S. Supreme Court intervened and ordered a halt. It never restarted.

But to find out what might have happened that day if the count went on, reporters interviewed canvassing board members across the state. The standards they intended to use that day for finding valid votes were then applied to the ballots reviewed and categorized by the National Opinion Research Center. Votes are considered potentially valid where two of the three NORC coders agreed on what they saw on the ballot, based on the individual county standards for undervotes. Nine counties also intended to review overvoted ballots to find those cases where a voter essentially voted for the same candidate twice, rather than invalidating their ballot. The review on these pages takes into account overvotes in only those counties that intended to review them on Dec. 9.

Had they finished their work that day using the standards they described, Bush's lead would have grown to 493 votes.

Hernando: Gore gains 4
Certified vote: Gore by 1,990
Voting machine: Optical (precinct)
Recount standard: Overvotes — Maybe, where the voter attempted to cross out or erase additional votes, or where the voter put in a write-in vote for the same candidate they chose on the ballot. Undervotes — Yes, using most of the same standards as Alachua, but rejecting ballots with only stray marks near the political party's name.

Highlands: Bush gains 9
Certified vote: Bush by 6,038
Voting machine: Punch card (Votomatic)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, where one or more chads was detached. Dimpled chads would have been rejected.

Hillsborough: Bush gains 1
Certified vote: Bush by 11,218
Voting machine: Punch card (Votomatic)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, where two or more corners were detached. Would not have accepted dimpled chads as votes.

Holmes: Gore gains 2
Though the county intended to comply with the Supreme Court order and complete a hand review on Dec. 9, a judge there placed all the ballots in a courthouse safe because the sheriff's race came down to just four votes and a protest was immediately filed. It was not resolved until February.
Certified vote: Bush by 2,835
Voting machine: Optical (precinct)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, where the oval next to the candidate's name was fully filled in with the wrong color pen or an incorrect writing instrument. This was the strictest standard in the state among optical scan counties.

Indian River: Bush gains 20
Certified vote: Bush by 8,870
Voting machine: Punch card (Votomatic)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Maybe where one or more corners were detached on a chad, but no firm decision was made. Dimples would not have been accepted.

Jackson: Gore gains 11
Certified vote: Bush by 2,269
Voting machine: Optical (central tabulation)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, using the same standard as Alachua.

Jefferson: Gore gains 3
Certified vote: Gore by 563
Voting machine: Punch card (Datavote)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, where the ballot was dimpled or a single corner was detached on a chad, or the selected chad was circled.

Lafayette: No change
Certified vote: Bush by 881
Voting machine: Optical (central tabulation)
Recount standard: One of four counties which planned to refuse to conduct a hand recount.

Lake: Gore gains 151
Had the recount gone forward on Dec. 9, Lake County might have become the next battleground as Bush's lawyers would have challenged the decision to review ballots classified as overvotes.
Certified vote: Bush by 13,439
Voting machine: Optical (central tabulation)
Recount standard: Overvotes — Yes, if the voter attempted to erase the additional votes or scribbled through the name of candidates they discarded or cast a write-in vote for the same candidate they selected from the list. Undervotes — Yes, using the same standard as Alachua.

Lee: Bush gains 12
Certified vote: Bush by 32,580
Voting machine: Punch card (Votomatic)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, where a chad had one or more detached corners. Would not have accepted dimpled chads.

Leon: Bush gains 1*
Certified vote: Gore by 22,371
Voting machine: Optical (precinct)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, using the same standards as Alachua.

Levy: Gore gains 1
Certified vote: Bush by 1,465
Voting machine: Optical (central tabulation)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, using the same standard as Alachua.

Liberty: Gore gains 1
Certified vote: Bush by 300
Voting machine: Optical (central tabulation)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, using the same standards as Alachua.

Madison: Gore gains 2
The county completed its review before the U.S. Supreme Court ordered a halt.
Certified vote: Bush by 23
Voting machine: Punch card (Datavote)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, where one or more corners were detached from a chad or the voters intent was clearly written on the ballot. Did not accept dimpled chads as votes.

Manatee: Gore gains 2
Certified vote: Bush by 8,797
Voting machine: Optical (precinct)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, where the candidates name was circled, the oval was partially filled in, there was another clear mark next to the oval or the wrong ink color or incorrect writing instrument was used.

Marion: Bush gains 30
Certified vote: Bush by 10,472
Voting machine: Punch card (Votomatic)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, where one or more corners of a chad were detached. Would have accepted dimples if the rest of the ballot was similarly marked.

Martin: Bush gains 11
Only county in the state which employed the old-fashioned lever machine. The absentee ballots, which were done on punch cards, produced the only problems.
Certified vote: Bush by 7,351
Voting machine: Absentee voting by punch card. Lever machines at the polls.
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, where one or more corners of the chad were detached. Would have counted punch cards where the voter clearly circled the chad corresponding to a candidate.

Miami-Dade: Bush gains 43
Certified vote:** Gore by 39,461
Voting machine: Punch card (Votomatic)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Would not have counted overvotes. Would have counted undervotes where one or more corners of a chad were detached or the voter clearly wrote their intent on the ballot card. Counted some undervotes where chads were dimpled.

Monroe: Gore gains 3
Certified vote: Gore by 424
Voting machine: Optical (precinct)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, where the candidate's name was circled, the oval was partially filled in or the wrong color ink or incorrect writing instrument was used.

Nassau: Bush gains 6
Certified vote: Bush by 9,453
Voting machine: Punch card (Datavote)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, where two or more corners were detached on chads or where the voter wrote their intent on the ballot card or where dimples appeared throughout the ballot.

Okaloosa: Bush gains 1
Certified vote: Bush by 35,197
Voting machine: Optical (precinct)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, where the name of the party or the candidate was circled, if there were another mark near the candidate's name, or where the oval was not fully filled in or the wrong color ink or incorrect writing instrument were used.

Okeechobee: Gore gains 4
Certified vote: Bush by 468
Voting machine: Optical (central tabulation)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, using the same standard as Okaloosa.

Orange: Gore gains 169*
Certified vote: Gore by 5,705
Voting machine: Optical (precinct)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, using the same standard as Alachua.

Osceola: Gore gains 11
Certified vote: Gore by 1,950
Voting machine: Punch card (Votomatic)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, where a dimpled chad allowed light to pass through. Also would have accepted dimples that occurred within the border of a candidate's area, but not necessarily on the chad itself. This was the most permissive standard among the state's punch card counties.

Palm Beach: No change
Certified vote:** Gore by 116,964
Voting machine: Punch card (Votomatic)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, they completed a hand recount before Supreme Court order and accepted many dimpled chads and some chads with one corner detached. Accepted all undervotes with two or more corners detached.

Pasco: Bush gains 9
Certified vote: Gore by 969 votes
Voting machine: Punch card (Votomatic)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, where two or more corners of a chad were detached.

Pinellas: Bush gains 15
Certified vote: Gore by 15,808
Voting machine: Punch card (Votomatic)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, where one or more corners were detached on a chad. Would have accepted dimpled chads as valid votes if light could pass through.

Polk: Gore gains 6
Certified vote: Bush by 15,103
Voting machine: Optical (precinct)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, where a candidate or political party's name was circled, or if the voter failed to fully fill in the bubble or used the wrong ink color or improper writing instrument.

Putnam: Gore gains 11
Certified vote: Bush by 1,350
Voting machine: Optical (precinct)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, using the same standards as Polk County.

Santa Rosa: Bush gains 6
Certified vote: Bush by 23,521
Voting machine: Optical (precinct)
Recount standard: Overvotes — Yes, where the voter tried to erase additional votes, or the voter wrote-in the name of the same candidate they chose. Undervotes — Yes, using the same standards as Polk County.

Sarasota: Bush gains 13
Certified vote: Bush by 10,248 votes
Voting machine: Punch card (Votomatic)
Recount standard: Overvotes — Yes. Undervotes — Maybe, where one or more corners detached on a chad. Would not have considered a single dimple, but might have counted dimples if the rest of the ballot was similarly marked.

Seminole: Gore gains 11
This county entered the spotlight during the presidential recount phase when it was revealed that the supervisor of elections allowed a Republican Party worker to alter hundreds of absentee ballot applications so they could be properly considered.
Certified vote: Bush by 16,563 votes
Voting machine: Optical (precinct)
Recount standard: Overvotes — Yes, where the voter made an attempt to erase, cross out or scribble out the names or votes for additional candidates. Undervotes — Yes, using the same standards as Alachua.

St. Johns: Bush gains 15*
Certified vote: Bush by 20,055 votes
Voting machine: Optical (precinct)
Recount standard: Overvotes — Maybe, if additional votes were crossed out, leaving just one valid vote. Also might have counted those where the voter wrote in the name of a candidate they also chose on the ballot. Undervotes — Yes, using most of the same standard as Alachua County, but might have rejected stray marks near the candidate's name or oval as not indicative of a vote.

St. Lucie: Gore gains 21
Certified vote: Gore by 6,855 votes
Voting machine: Optical (precinct)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, where the candidate's name or the political party's name were circled, or if the voter partially filled in an oval or used an incorrect ink color or writing instrument.

Sumter: Gore gains 4
Certified vote: Bush by 2,490 votes
Voting machine: Punch card (Votomatic)
Recount standard: Overvotes — Yes, if voter intent could be clearly determined. Undervotes — Yes, where two or more corners were detached on a chad. Would not accept dimples.

Suwannee: Gore gains 1
Certified vote: Bush by 3,933 votes
Voting machine: Optical scan (central)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, using the same standards as Alachua.

Taylor: Gore gains 9
Certified vote: Bush by 1,409 votes
Voting machine: Optical (central)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, using the same standards as Alachua County, except that they would have rejected ballots where the party's name was simply circled.

Union: No change
Union used no machines in voting. Everything was done by hand, but voters still managed to vote for more than one presidential candidate on 235 ballots — nearly 6 percent of the ballots cast.
Certified vote: Bush by 925 votes
Voting machine: Paper ballots
Recount standard: They declined to perform another recount.

Volusia: No change
The first county in the state to complete a manual recount of all ballots. That count was included in the certified total.
Certified vote: Gore by 14,945 votes
Voting machine: Optical (precinct)
Recount standard: They reviewed overvotes and accepted them in most circumstances, but rejected those where several candidate's ovals were filled in and then all but one candidate's name was scribbled out.

Wakulla: Bush gains 8
Certified vote: Bush by 674 votes
Voting machine: Punch card (Datavote)
Recount standard: Overvotes — Yes, if voter intent could be clearly determined. Undervotes — Yes, where one or more corners were detached on a chad or where the voter circled their chad of choice.

Washington: Bush gains 47
Certified vote: Bush by 2,197 votes
Voting machine: Optical (precinct)
Recount standard: Overvotes — No. Undervotes — Yes, if the voter circled the name of the candidate or political party, or failed to fully fill in the oval. next to a candidate's name or used an incorrect ink color or writing instrument.

Counties and percent of problem ballots

1.	Gadsden	12.33%
2.	Glades	9.38%
3.	Duval	9.21%
4.	Jefferson	9.17%
5.	Hendry	8.94%
6.	Hamilton	8.93%
7.	Franklin	8.26%
8.	DeSoto	8.23%
9.	Taylor	8.08%
10.	Okeechobee	8.00%
11.	Bradford	7.80%
12.	Liberty	7.24%
13.	Madison	7.15%
14.	Dixie	6.64%
15.	Jackson	6.62%
16.	Lafayette	6.49%
17.	Palm Beach	6.37%
18.	Union	6.32%
19.	Gulf	6.26%
20.	Hardee	6.14%
21.	Levy	5.63%
22.	Nassau	5.55%
23.	Suwannee	5.55%
24.	Gilchrist	5.06%
25.	Wakulla	4.68%
26.	Charlotte	4.50%
27.	Miami-Dade	4.37%
28.	Washington	3.94%
29.	Indian River	3.76%
30.	Lake	3.65%
31.	Columbia	3.61%
32.	Escambia	3.43%
33.	Collier	3.34%
34.	Sumter	3.31%
35.	Marion	3.16%
36.	Osceola	2.94%
37.	Highlands	2.79%
38.	Pasco	2.67%
39.	Hillsborough	2.48%
40.	Lee	2.42%
41.	Broward	2.19%
42.	Pinellas	2.09%
43.	Holmes	1.80%
44.	Sarasota	1.71%
45.	Baker	1.69%
46.	Calhoun	1.48%
47.	Manatee	1.23%
48.	Bay	1.11%
49.	Walton	1.11%
50.	Okaloosa	1.07%
51.	St. Johns	0.89%
52.	Orange	0.83%
53.	St. Lucie	0.82%
54.	Clay	0.68%
55.	Santa Rosa	0.64%
56.	Martin	0.64%
57.	Putnam	0.64%
58.	Polk	0.53%
59.	Monroe	0.53%
60.	Alachua	0.38%
61.	Hernando	0.38%
62.	Citrus	0.38%
63.	Flagler	0.23%
64.	Seminole	0.19%
65.	Brevard	0.19%
66.	Volusia	0.19%
67.	Leon	0.18%

This report is based on letters sent to Leon Circuit Court Judge Terry Lewis by elections supervisors or canvassing boards in 53 counties. Additionally, reporters from the *St. Petersburg Times, Orlando Sentinel, South Florida Sun-Sentinel* and *Palm Beach Post* interviewed 194 officials across the state, including 160 who were sitting on the various county canvassing boards on Dec. 9 and would have been making the decisions on which votes to accept.

NOV. 17: Florida judge refuses to require that hand recounts be included in final tally. **NOV. 17:** The 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta rejects Republican request to halt hand counts. **NOV. 21:** Florida Supreme Court rules unanimously that hand recounts may continue. **NOV. 22:** Dick Cheney suffers heart attack. **NOV. 24:** U.S. Supreme Court agrees to hear arguments in Bush lawsuit challenging Florida Supreme Court's decision to allow handcounts.