

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: October 30, 2008

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Survey by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Political Science Students Offers Pre-Election Glimpse of Local Voter Preferences Interviewees drawn from Nueces County residents who voted in March primary

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – A survey conducted by a political science class at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi provides insight into the preferences of voters in Nueces County just days before the Nov. 4 general election.

Students in Dr. Bob Bezdek's Campaign Politics class interviewed more than 550 Nueces County residents between Oct. 8 and Oct. 28 to determine which candidates they support. The group, drawn from people who had voted in the 2008 primary election, consisted of residents with a listed telephone number. Communities where a long distance telephone charge would have been assessed were excluded.

While Bezdek stresses that the survey is an accurate reflection of voter preferences within 5 percentage points at the time it was taken, he cautions that generally election results are predicted most accurately with a poll the last three days of the campaign or with an Election-Day exit poll.

"A survey is a 'snapshot' of voter intentions," said Bezdek. "It's comparable to taking a photo of the horses running in the Kentucky Derby as they go into the home stretch. Just because a horse is in the lead at the final turn doesn't mean it's going to be the first to cross the finish line."

Methodological concerns not experienced in previous polls are also a factor, he said. First, there are an increasing number of people who rely on cell phones, and the students conducting the interviews had no way of contacting those individuals. Second, recently registered voters could not be interviewed, and third, no one is capable of accurately predicting which demographic groups will actually turn out on Election Day. Bezdek added that the impact of negative advertising and unanticipated events are impossible to predict.

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The class's findings for Nueces County were:

PRESIDENT

McCain 41%
Obama 46%
Barr 1%
Undecided 12%

U.S. SENATE

Cornyn 41%
Noriega 43%
Other 4%
Undecided 12%

U.S. CONGRESS

Vaden 33%
Ortiz 51%
Powell 4%
Undecided 12%

214th DISTRICT COURT

Williams 31%
Longoria 53%
Undecided 16%

SHERIFF

Kaelin 58%
Flores 32%
Undecided 10%

**TAX ASSESSOR-
COLLECTOR**

Tinney 22%
Canales 64%
Undecided 14%

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