

THE GLBT VOTE IN THE 2004 ELECTION

- According to the National Election Pool's (NEP) exit polling, more than 4.6 million self-identified lesbian, gay and bisexual voters cast ballots in the 2004 presidential race.¹
- Of those 4.6 million GLBT voters, 77% of them cast a ballot for the Kerry-Edwards ticket. According to the *L.A. Times* national exit poll, 81% of GLBT voters cast ballots for Kerry, with 17% casting ballots for Bush.
- The GLBT community delivered more than 3.5 million votes for the Democrats, accounting for more than 6% of all votes cast for the Kerry-Edwards ticket.
- The GLBT community is now second only to the African-American community (88%) in base vote loyalty to Democratic candidates.²
- The Kerry-Edwards ticket received roughly 400,000 more GLBT votes than the Gore-Lieberman ticket did in 2000.
- According to exit polls, between 20% to 23% of GLBT voters cast a ballot for the Bush-Cheney ticket. This represents a decrease in GLBT support from 2000, when Republicans received nearly 25% of the GLBT vote.
- Data from the NEP also reveals some interesting demographic trends:
 - 28% of self-identified GLBT voters were between the ages of 18-29.
 - 53% of self-identified GLBT voters were women. According to several scholars, this may be the first time a GLBT sample has been majority female.
- The majority of the electorate supports legal recognition for same-sex couples.
 - According to the NEP, 60% of American voters favor legal recognition of same-sex couples. 25% of voters favor marriage equality, 35% favor civil unions, and only 37% claim that same-sex couples should be granted no legal recognition.
 - Many pro-GLBT voters cast ballots to re-elect Bush. 22% of the voters who favor marriage equality and 52% of the voters who favor civil unions voted for Bush

¹ The NEP did not ask voters to self-identify as transgender. For purposes of this memorandum, the lesbian, gay and bisexual vote will be referred to as the "GLBT vote."

² In 2000, 79% of Jewish voters cast a ballot for Gore, compared to 70% of GLBT voters. In 2004, Kerry won only 76% of the Jewish vote, compared with 77% to 81% of the GLBT vote.