Elections & Candidate Data

Data Description: The original files from Louisiana Secretary of State are text files that can be imported into excel or another database. The headings are self explanatory (precinct/candidate/vote reg/etc). They are tab delimited, so that importing by that standard will import the data seamlessly. This importing and combining has been done already by election type and date, and is included in the series of excel files on the DVD.

Louisiana Secretary of State disclaimer regarding the data:

Reapportionment Statistics Information – Read before using.

The data provided is intended for parish demographers or others with sufficient knowledge of databases and statistics to assist with Section 5 submissions to the USDOJ. The IT Section of the Department of State unfortunately cannot provide technical assistance in the import and further filtering/use of the data to meet specific parish/office needs. The parish must assume this responsibility to meet reapportionment needs.

The Secretary of State has made every effort to "cleanse" the data. Matching data was extremely difficult because the state maintained separate elections and voter registration systems until 2010. Precincts were not named the same. Parishes are responsible for confirming the information provided is absolutely correct before use in its submission.

If a parish finds instances where the data is incorrect, please immediately report this to reapportionment@sos.lousiana.gov

Each zip file contains two tab delimited text files with election results and voter statistics for all candidate elections from 1/1/2000 through 2/19/2011. There are 2 data sets- one zip file contains all races and one contains only the races where there was both a black and white candidate. Users will have to select the file(s) needed for their parish or they may choose to use the state file.

Post election statistics are only provided for wards and precincts in which a candidate election occurred.

"True phantom" precincts have been eliminated. For data extract purposes a phantom was defined as a race in a ward and precinct in which all candidates received 0 votes and there were no voter statistics in the ward and precinct.

Voter statistics are provided for some "phantom" precincts because another race held on the same day in the parish, ward and precinct contained eligible voters. In this case you will see 0 votes cast but eligible voters in the ward and precinct.

Absentee and provisional vote results do not match to a specific ward and precinct alpha. For analysis purposes, the two tables provided must be joined on ElectionDate, Parish, and WardPrecinctAlpha where ALL records from Results are returned but only those records from Voter Statistics where the joined fields are equal.