

Election 2004 Drinking Game

Nothing goes better with election nights than drinking (except in 1920, perhaps), so in that spirit, here are some fun diversions for your evening in front of the TV.

(All times CST).

Early on: *After last time, the networks will not make an early call, so we'll probably be treated to "analysis" of the last election, the 2004 campaign, and whatever other anecdotes Tim, Bob, Tom, Dan, Katie, Sean, and the rest can assemble.*

Have one sip of wine or beer every time you hear one of the following phrases or statements.

1. If Gore had contested Ohio he might have won the election
2. "Hanging chad"
3. "37 days"
4. "Historic 2000 election"
5. Howard Dean
6. Iowa caucuses
7. "Mortgaged his Beacon Hill home"
8. Swift Boat Veterans for Truth
9. Abu Ghraib
10. Strong performance in the debates
11. Polarized electorate
12. 9/11 President
13. "Global War on Terror"
14. "Undecided voters"
15. "Seeking to avoid the fate of his father as a one-term president"

Quick path to inebriation

Polls close in Virginia and New Hampshire at 8pm.

If Virginia goes for Kerry break out the champagne.

If New Hampshire goes for Bush, you may want some alcohol to dim the pain of a long night. Kerry can win without New Hampshire, but it gets a lot harder.

Electoral College analysis

Shortly after 6.30pm we'll be hearing about Ohio and West Virginia. Both candidates can win without these states, but it gets harder. Have a sip every time you hear one of these phrases

1. Bush/Kerry needs to "run the table on Kerry/Bush"
2. No Republican has ever won without winning Ohio
3. Ohio has voted for the winner 23 of the last 25 elections

4. “Steel tariffs” (West Virginia)
5. “Manufacturing job losses (Ohio)
6. Cuyahoga county (Cleveland: Democrats have to pile up a big majority here to win)
7. “Allegations of voter suppression”
8. “Poll watchers”
9. “Early voting”
10. “Absentee ballots”

Things start to become clearer despite the alcohol

By 7pm, 260 electoral votes are in play, and we should know where things are headed.

Take a sip every time you hear one of these phrases

1. Can Jeb Bush deliver Florida for his brother?
2. Can Ed Rendell deliver Pennsylvania for Kerry?
3. Missouri has voted for the winner 24 of the last 25 elections
4. Take two sips if they say that the last time Missouri voted with the loser was 1956
5. Take another sip if they say Missouri has been “trending Republican of late”
6. Maine can split its electoral votes
7. Polls showed the race surprisingly close in New Jersey.
8. “Battleground states”

Special Senatorial and House points

The main game is the Presidency, but we’ll hear something about the Senate and House races. Take a sip when you hear any of the following

1. “Increasingly bizarre behavior” in reference to KY senator Jim Bunning
2. “State Education Commissioner” in reference to SC Democratic candidate Inez Tenenbaum
3. “Guaranteed pick-up” in reference to the Democrats in Illinois, or the Republicans in Georgia.
4. “Texas Five” in reference to the Texas re-districting
5. “Coat-tails” in any context.
6. “Split ticket voting”
7. “ex-Congressman John Thune”
8. “First Latino Senator from Florida/Colorado”
9. First Cuban-American in the Senate
10. Special election in Massachusetts in March
11. Run-off election in Louisiana.

Things really start falling apart or into place

By 9pm, and certainly by 10pm, we should be well on our way to certain inebriation, and one of these outcomes

- a clear victory to Kerry
- a clear victory to Bush

- litigation and recounts

Have a drink every time you hear one of these phrases

1. Has not gone Democratic since 1964 (South Dakota)
2. “Upper Midwest battlegrounds”
3. Went for Dukakis in 1988 (in reference to Minnesota, Wisconsin, or Iowa) or “Dukakis Five” – a reference to the above three plus Oregon and Washington.
4. Has not gone Republican since 1972 (Minnesota)
5. Only state to vote for Walter Mondale in 1984
6. Yucca Mountain (Nevada)
7. “Prairie Populism” (a reference to the Senate elections in North and South Dakota)
8. Electronic voting machines
9. Help America Vote Act
10. David Boies
11. “Florida recount”

Bizarre historical analogies

As the results become clearer, expect some fairly ridiculous attempts to put the whole thing in historical perspective. Drink up whenever you hear a comparison to one of the following.

Probably used if Kerry is winning

1. Benjamin Harrison (Lost in 1892 after winning Electoral College in 1888 despite losing popular vote).
2. John Quincy Adams (Lost in 1828 after winning EC/losing popular vote in 1824)
3. James Buchanan (One of the nation’s worst presidents. Lost to Lincoln in 1860)
4. George H.W. Bush

Probably used if Bush is winning

1. Bob Dole (this would be really bad for Kerry)
2. Franklin Roosevelt (Again, really bad for Kerry)
3. Walter Mondale (See above)
4. William McKinley (Have another drink if they mention Karl Rove’s admiration for Mark Hanna)

Probably used if no-one appears to be heading to a clear victory

1. Harry Truman
2. Al Gore
3. Woodrow Wilson (1916)
4. John Adams or Thomas Jefferson (in reference to 1796)
5. “Sending the election to the House of Representatives”
6. “Waiting on the results from Hawaii”

