BRENNAN
CENTER
FOR JUSTICE

SUMMARY OF 2008 DATA ON UN-MATCHED
FLORIDA VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

(from 9/8/08, when matching resumed in Florida,
through 10/6/08, the registration deadline for the 2008 general election)[1]

480,032 applications were received during the period in which the no match, no vote policy was in effect for the 2008 election (from Sept. 8 through Oct. 6, the registration deadline for the 2008 election). Of these, 355,317 were new, valid registrations received from sources other than the motor vehicles department and submitted for matching. In an automatic attempt to match name, date of birth, and identifying number from election records to motor vehicles or Social Security records, 66,705 of these 355,317 matching requests initially failed — for a failed match rate of 19%. State and county officials were able to resolve many of these mis-matches through follow-up investigation, but by the Thursday after Election Day, 11,315 applicants remained unmatched — and not eligible to cast a valid ballot because of match problems alone.

The no match, no vote policy disproportionately affected non-white applicants and those relying on the Social Security Administration. Though whites constituted 42% of all applicants, they accounted for only 19% of those still unmatched on Election Day. Blacks, by contrast, constituted only 23% of all applicants, yet they comprised 30% of voters unmatched on Election Day. Similarly, Hispanic applicants made up only 17% of all applicants, but represented 24% of those unmatched by Election Day. Similarly, only 13% of all applicants submitted Social Security digits rather than driver's license numbers, but the applications with Social Security digits represented 75% of applications unmatched by Election Day.

Table 1
Number of Total Applicants and Un-matched Applicants

	Applicants for 2008 general election during matching period			
	All applicants[2]	Attempted matches[3]	Initial matching failures[4]	Still unmatched by 2008 election[5]
Total numbers	480,032	355,317	66,705	11,315

19%

Table 2
Percentages of Total Applicants and Un-matched Applicants
By Race

	All applicants	Attempted matches	Initial matching failures	Still unmatched by 2008 election
White	**42%**	39%	25%	**19%**
Hispanic	**17%**	18%	20%	**24%**
Black	**23%**	23%	23%	**30%**
Other	5%	5%	6%	5%
Unknown	13%	15%	26%	22%

Table 3
Percentages of Un-matched Applicants
By Number Submitted on Application

	All applicants	Attempted matches	Initial matching failures	Still unmatched by 2008 election
Submitted Social Security digits	**13%**	15%	28%	**75%**
Submitted driver's license number	**54%**	67%	60%	**16%**
Both SSN and DL number on record	**30%**	18%	10%	**5%**
Neither number on record	3%	0%	1%	3%

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[1] Summary tables were compiled from data produced by Florida's Secretary of State on March 30, 2009.

[2] These figures are based on unique timely applicants for the 2008 election cycle (each of whom may have submitted multiple applications). The total includes applicants who were updating previous applications or who submitted new applications at the DMV, and were not sent for matching.

[3] Attempted matches include any timely application submitted for matching, other than registrations received from the DMV (and sent for a redundant match against DMV data), and other than registrations denied or suspended for reasons other than the matching result.

[4] Initial failures include any timely application in the previous category of attempted matches that was not automatically matched when it was first submitted, or that was not first matched until after the 2008 general election.

[5] This final category includes any timely application in the category of attempted matches that remained unresolved by both state and county election officials through the 2008 general election, after an initial matching failure.