

## Who Will Win the U.S. Presidential Election? Ask Polly

ELMAR Contribution by J. Scott Armstrong

April 20, 2004

---

Who will win the U.S. presidential election this year? A new website, Polly's Page, allows you to track the forecasts by using a combined forecast known as the Pollyvote. The purpose of this page is to show how findings on forecasting methodology can be applied to a practical problem. In particular, combined forecasts have been shown to provide substantial improvements in accuracy and they have been used in other fields, such as economics. The Pollyvote is based on inputs from procedures that have been successful in the past, including a number of impartial intentions polls, quantitative models, and market forecasts. Polly's page also provides a compilation of poll results, links to betting markets, and other sources of information about this year's presidential election. This is a new site and we welcome suggestions for improvement on the methodology or on the site. We are also on the lookout for Pollypuns.

In the past, it has been possible to predict the winner relatively early in the campaign. At present, the combined forecast captured by Pollyvote yields a tentative win for one of the candidates in a close election. Currently, the winner is at Polly's Page <http://politicalforecasting.com>