Notes and Background Context for the 2016 Presidential Forecast

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Demographics are shifting to the left and this is demonstrated by the 2004, 2008 and 2012 presidential elections, and these trends suggest big trouble for Republicans in 2016. In 2004, there were seven states with a total of 86 electoral votes that George W. Bush carried in his reelection win over John Kerry. All of those states have gone Democrat since then and in 2008 and 2012 were carried by Obama.

	2004	2008	2012	swing	EV	food stamp participation +/- % 2014/2011	
CO	4.67%	-8.95%	-5.37%	-10.04%	9	24.83%	above national average
FL	5.01%	-2.82%	-0.88%	-5.88%	29	35.46%	above national average
IA	0.67%	-9.58%	-5.84%	-6.51%	6	19.91%	above national average
NM	0.79%	-15.13%	-10.15%	-10.94%	5	20.68%	above national average
NV	2.60%	-12.57%	-6.72%	-9.32%	6	37.94%	above national average
OH	2.11%	-4.54%	-2.98%	-5.09%	18	9.00%	below national average
VA	8.21%	-6.31%	-3.88%	-12.09%	13	16.89%	above national average
				-8.55%	**86**	**23.53%**	**average for these states**
						15.47%	**national average**
					69	**total squeaker electoral votes**	
					40	**total squeaker electoral votes ex-florida**	
					275	**trump with squeaker flip ex-florida**	
					263	**clinton with squeaker flip ex-florida**	

These same states have become increasingly dependent on transfer programs. Their participation in the food stamp program (SNAP), for example, has increased on average by 24% (2014 vs. 2011) in contrast to the national average of 15% for the same period.

Four of these seven states are Colorado, Florida, Ohio and Virginia, the states we have identified as “squeakers”; *i.e.*, states with forecasted popular vote margin differentials of less than 3.5 percentage points. These four states total 69 electoral votes. The forecast awards Florida to Donald Trump and awards all of the other three states to Hillary Clinton. Were those three states awarded to Hillary Clinton to flip to Donald Trump’s favor, he would have the requisite electoral votes necessary to win the presidency per our forecast.

The forecasted popular-vote margin of victory for Hillary Clinton in the case of Virginia is a razor thin 27,716 votes. This is the state in which governor Terry McAuliffe recently decreed by executive order the conferring of voting rights for convicted felons, a population of potential voters thought to be as high as or higher than 200,000 voters in the state of Virginia. Terry McAuliffe is former chairman of the Democrat party and is widely regarded as angling for a major position in a prospective Clinton Administration.