

Twitter Thread by Larry Schweikart



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1) A little story about "exit polls."

2) The year was 2004. Kerry was supposedly leading W.

3) I was active in a key precinct in Dayton, OH, a true bellwether for ALL of OH.

4) Rs knew if their voters turned out (due to R registration edge) W would win.

5) I was assigned to do "poll flushing." This is when you go to the precinct at 10:00 am and 4:00 pm and check off all the Republicans who had voted.

Then callers will get on the phone to those who haven't yet voted & try to get them out.

6) The first poll flushing was normal and expected #s.

7) I went home and hear Rush going on and on about the exit polling showing a Kerry win.

8) Some of the conservative websites were melting down. "It's over!"

9) Drudge was going crazy with "exit polls" showing a BIG Kerry win, especially in OH which he had to have to win.

10) A little puzzled, I did my 4:00 flushing. Fully 90% of all Republicans had ALREADY VOTED . . . with three hours to go!

11) Remember, if our voters turned out, nothing Lurch could do. We had the #s.

12) I got back home, went on the boards and told people to cool down, that W would win OH and thereby the election. (He was up in FL, unlike 2000).

13) Sure enough, the exit polls were ALL wrong.

14) Moral of the story?

Never, ever let polling pre- or "exit" take the place of real data---requested ballots, returned ballots, counted ballots.