## The Campaigns, or the Fundamentals?

"Near-Flawless Run Is Credited in Victory" -New York Times "Worst Campaign Ever?" -Newsweek

## **Retrospective Voting in 2008 Exit Polls**

	National Economic Conditions Poor (Obama Margin)  Strongly Disapprove of Bush's Performance (Obama Margin)	
U.S.	49% (66-31)	51% (82-16)
Florida	53% (66-33)	52% (82-16)
Indiana	43% (66-32)	43% (86-13)
North Carolina	49% (64-35)	47% (84-15)
Ohio	53% (68-30)	52% (83-16)
Pennsylvania	44% (72-27)	53% (86-13)
Virginia	43% (67-33)	50% (84-15)

## A Realignment?

"In a Decisive Victory, Obama Reshapes the Electoral Map" — New York Times "Obama's Victory Marks a Radical Realignment in American Politics"

—The New Republic

## **Shifts in State-Level Voting Patterns**

	2008	1980-2004 (Average)	1932
Continuity of Previous Partisan Pattern (regression slope)	1.00	.94	.66
National Swing (regression intercept)	8.97	8.15	28.62
State-Level Forces (standard deviation)	5.66	5.31	16.45

Presented at an event hosted by the Governance Studies Program at the Brookings Institution in partnership with the Center for the Study of Democratic Politics at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public Affairs