

32 Ways to Look at an Election: Some Graphical Pictures of the San Francisco Precinct Vote in the November 2002 Election, with Selective (and Occasionally Whimsical) Annotations & Interpretations.

by

Rich DeLeon

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INTRO & DISCLAIMER: These graphs are simply “work product” I’ve spun off from my current research on SF politics. I typically produce tons of these kinds of graphs, look at them, keep a few, and then tuck the rest in a folder somewhere and forget them. I’ve learned that at least some Usual Suspects addicts enjoy this stuff, however, so recently I’ve been popping it over to Alex C. to take a look and consider posting some or all of it on his site. If you’re reading this, that means Alex thought this batch was sufficiently interesting to be worth giving the rest of you a look, too. **WARNING:** The graphs that follow are based on my PRELIMINARY analysis of the UNOFFICIAL Statement of Vote (dated November 12, 2002). There are probably some data errors, which I’ve done my best to minimize, but you’ll have to be the judge of that – and if you find any, please email me that info at rdeleon@sfsu.edu. No doubt some of you will think I’ve made some errors of interpretation as well, and I would gladly welcome contrary views. That said, if you’re reading this, I hope you find some value in what you see below. Thanks to Alex for posting this, if he does. And thanks to David Lee for giving me a list of current BOS district # codes to collate with my precinct data file. Cheers & Happy Thanksgiving to you all, **RICH DELEON**.

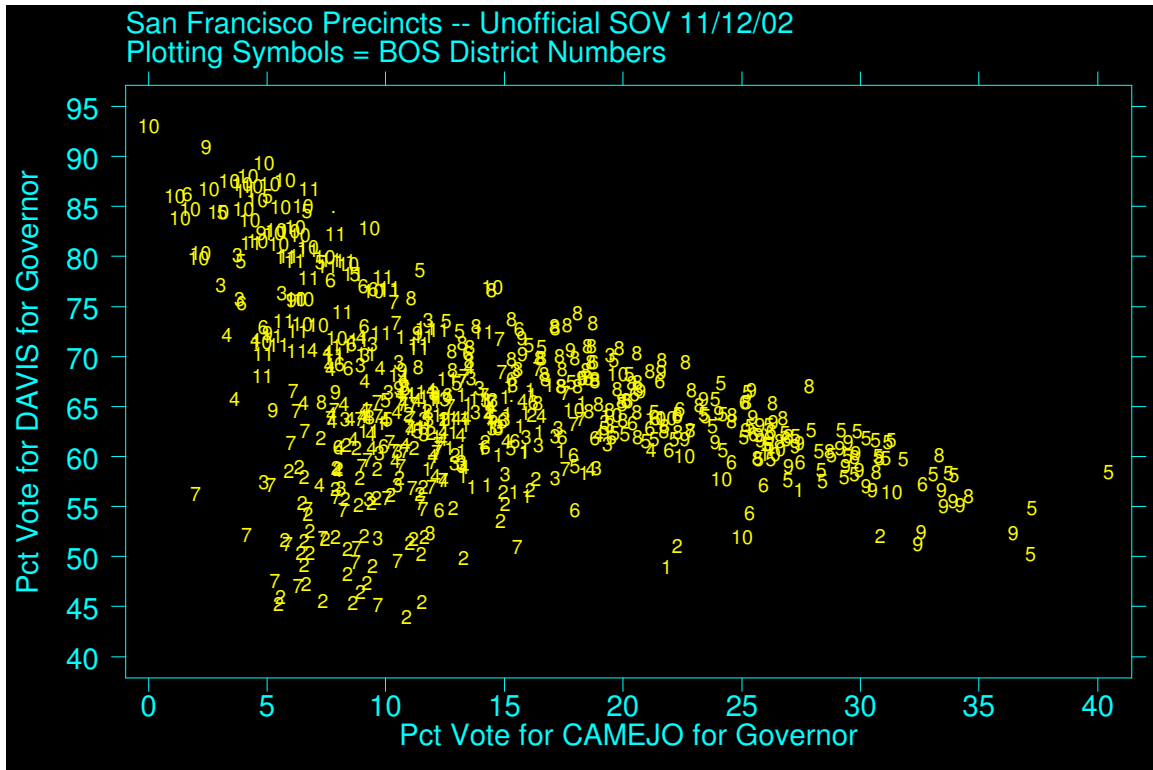


FIGURE 1: Plot of % vote for Davis vs. % vote for Camejo using BOS district numbers as plotting symbols. The triangular pattern is very familiar in my analyses of SF voting patterns. Note cluster of “conservative” precincts (esp. Dist 2 & 7) lower left, the cluster of what I call “traditional liberal” precincts upper left (esp. Dist 10 & 11), and what I call “progressive” precincts lower right (esp. Dist 5 & 9.) This triangular pattern really applies mainly to the more partisan & identity-politics-driven zero-sum candidate races, however, not to voting on policy issues. In many of the plots that follow, I was struck by what might be a trend: Precinct electorates in more traditionally “liberal” districts (10 & 11, but esp. 10) moving in a more “progressive” direction relative to the patterns observed in previous elections.

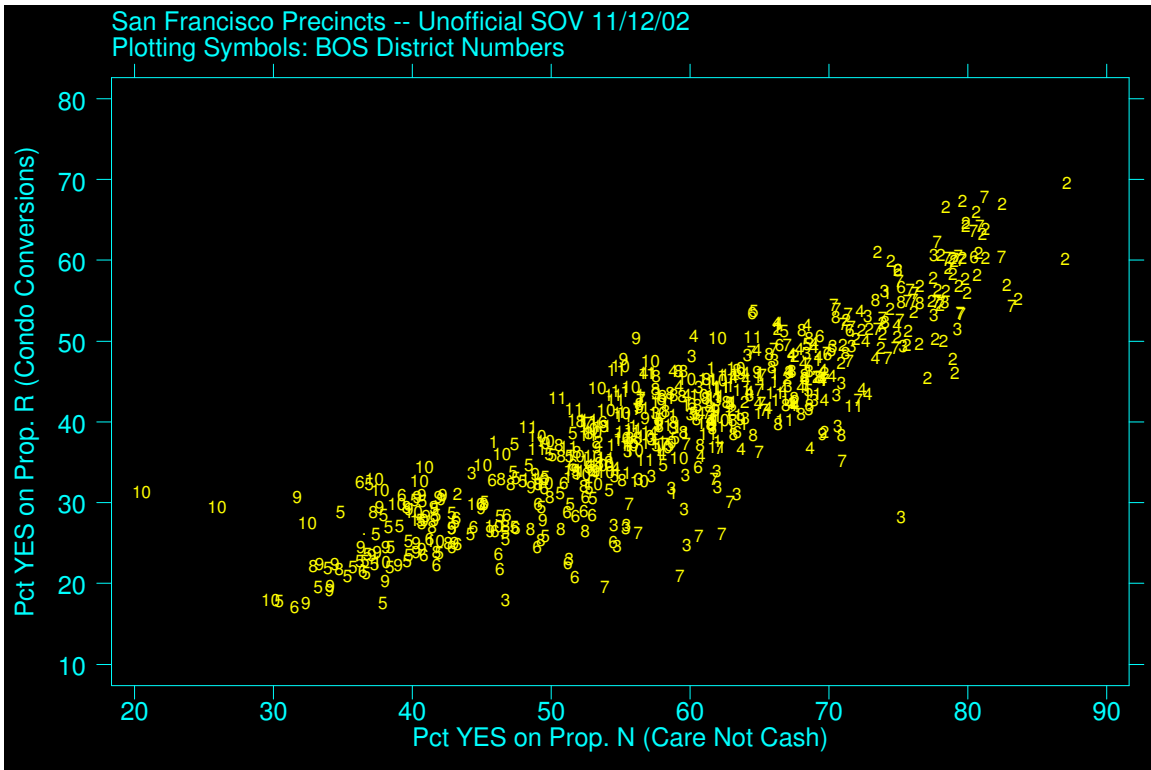


FIGURE 2: Plot of % yes on Prop. R vs. % yes on Prop. N.

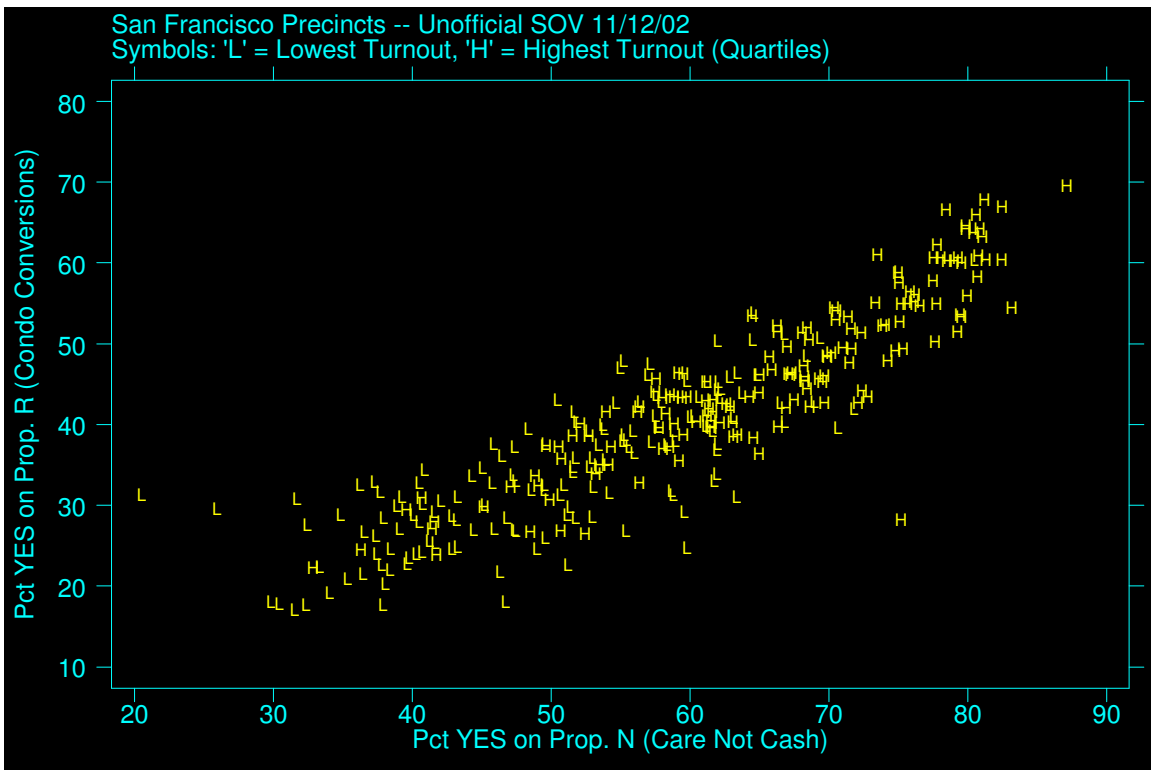


FIGURE 3 (Another view of Figure 2): Plot of % yes on Prop. R vs. % yes on Prop. N, showing low and high voter turnout precincts. You can see that voters in most of the low turnout precincts tended to oppose both N and R, while those in most of the high turnout precincts tended to support both N and R. (I plotted only those precincts ranking in the lowest 25% and highest 25% of voter turnout as a percent of total registered.)

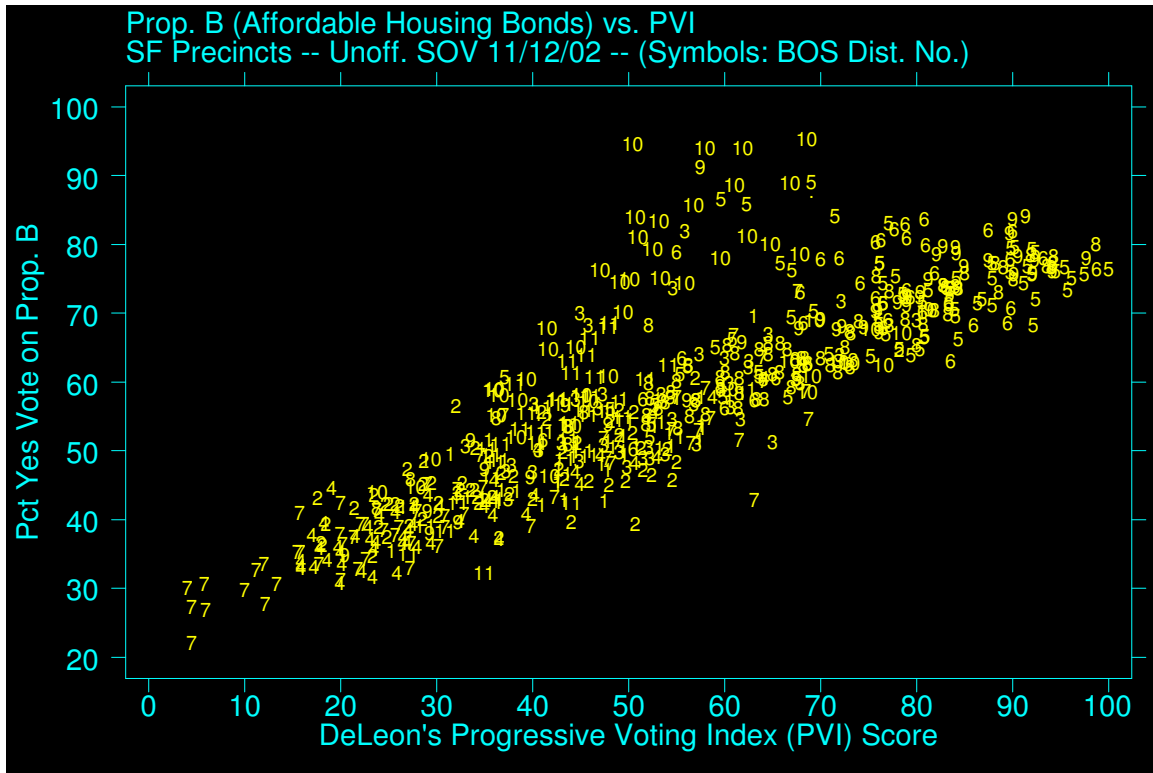


FIGURE 4: Plot of % Yes on Prop. B vs. Progressive Voting Index (PVI) Score. The PVI is a composite measure of progressive voting in SF based on an analysis of precinct voting on 12 key ballot propositions in the 2000 and 2001 elections. (See DeLeon Index, Usual Suspects, for the precinct scores, a map, and technical info on index construction.) You can see the very strong positive correlation between the yes vote on Prop. B and the PVI, suggesting that the PVI is useful as a single number predicting the vote on a range of issues. But also note the spray of District 10 precincts above the general pattern, indicating that voters in this district were much more inclined to vote yes on affordable housing bonds than would have been predicted based on their precinct PRI scores.

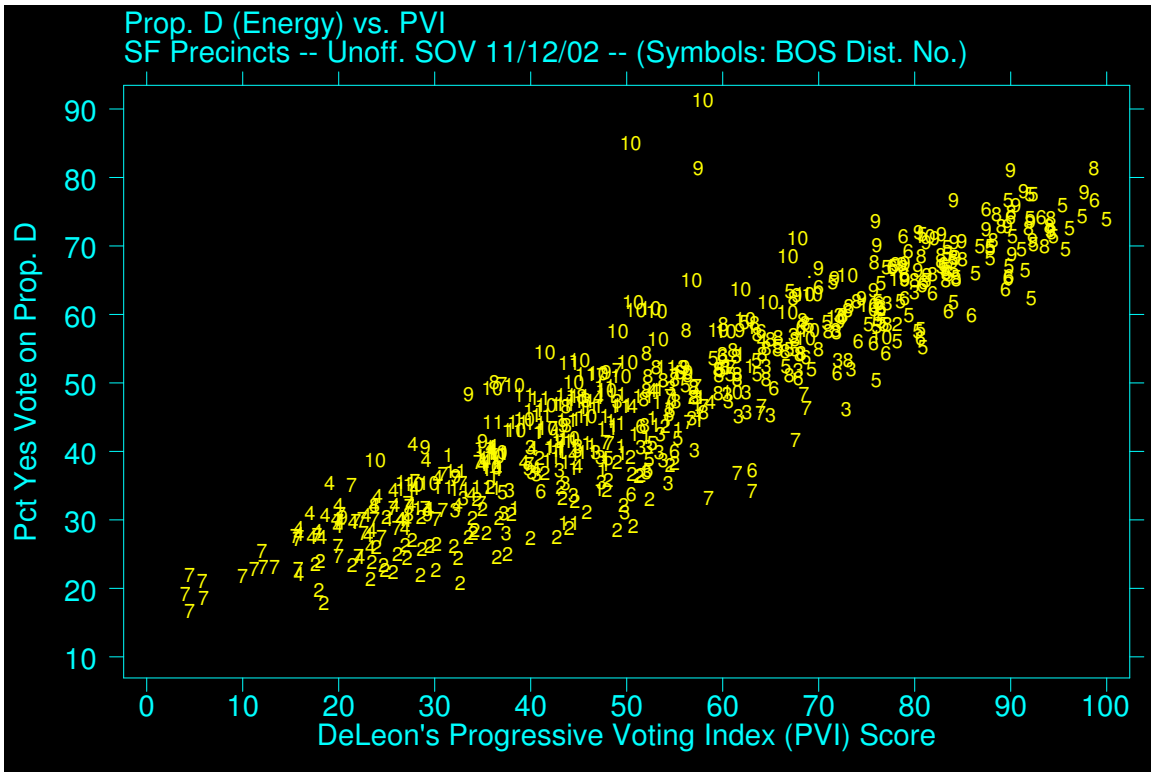


FIGURE 5: Plot of % yes on Prop. D vs. PVI score.

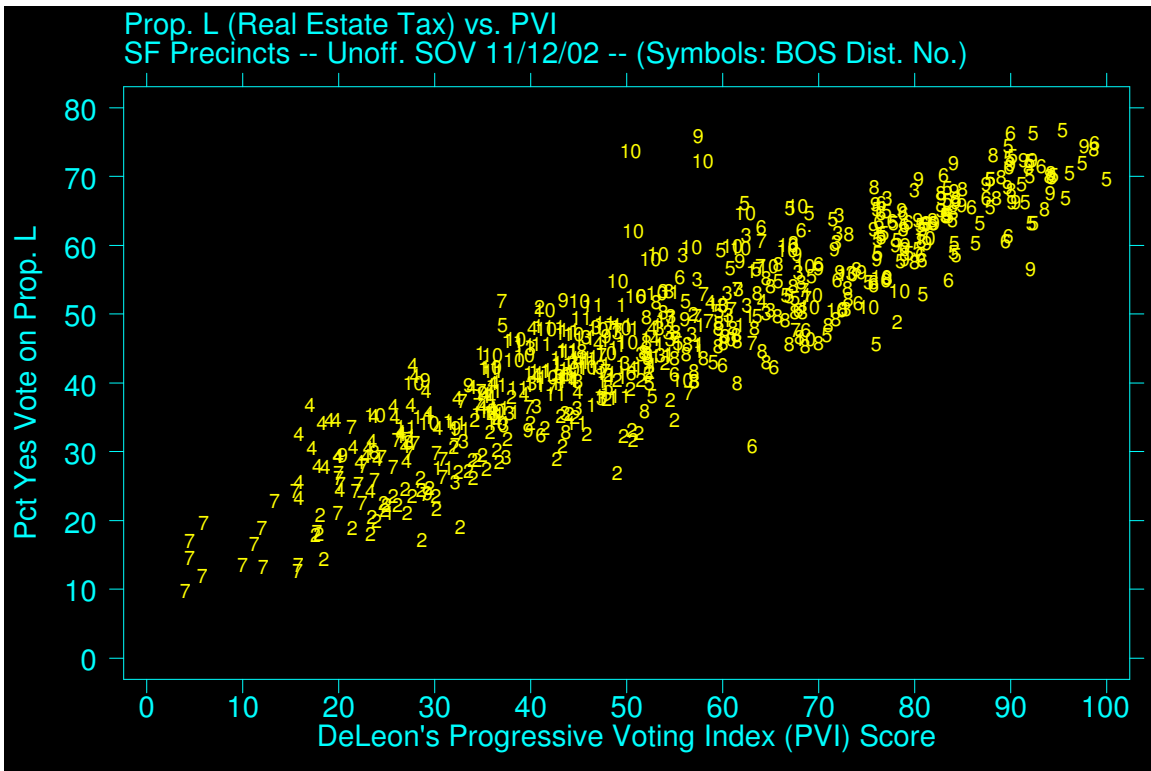


FIGURE 6: Plot of % yes on Prop. L vs. PVI score.

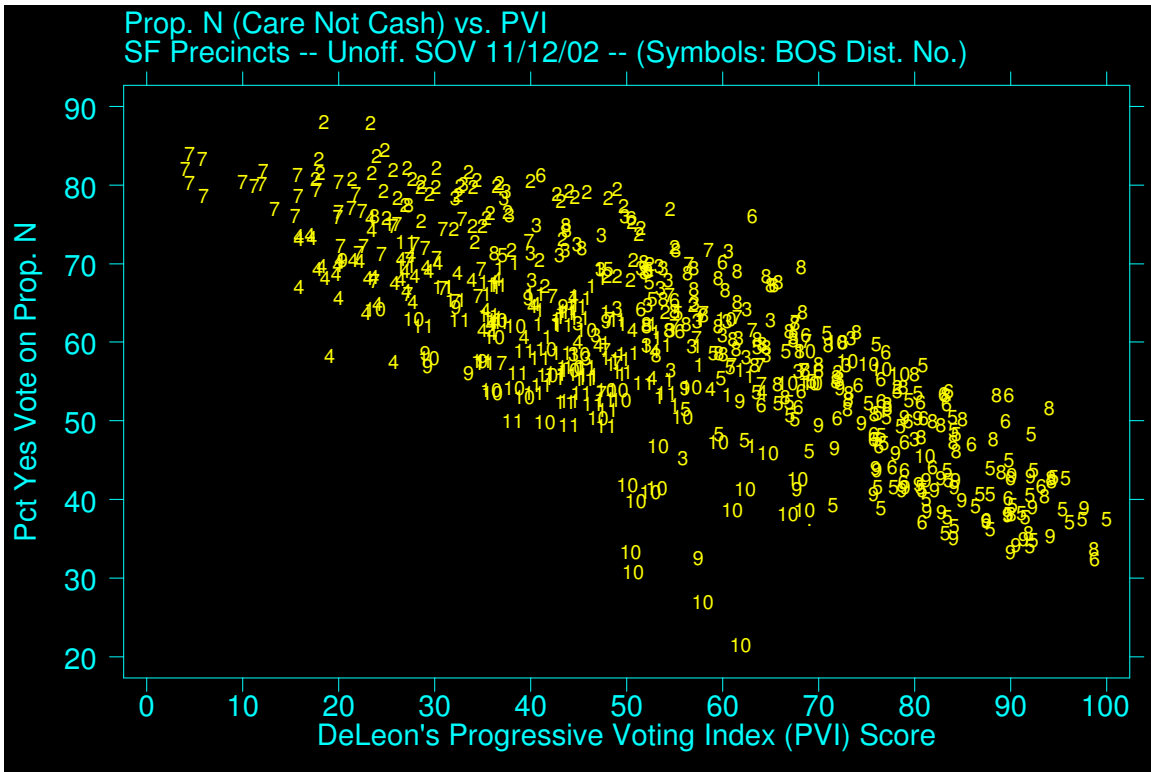


FIGURE 7: Plot of % yes on Prop. N vs. PVI score. Compared to the previous graphs using the PVI score, Figure 7 shows that the precinct vote on Prop. N was a progressive vs. conservative vote but with a lot more “scatter,” indicating that more was involved than just ideology in explaining the N vote. Also note, once again, that many of the District 10 precinct electorates fell below the level of support for Prop. N that might have been predicted just from their PVI scores. Is District 10 the new hotbed of SF progressivism?

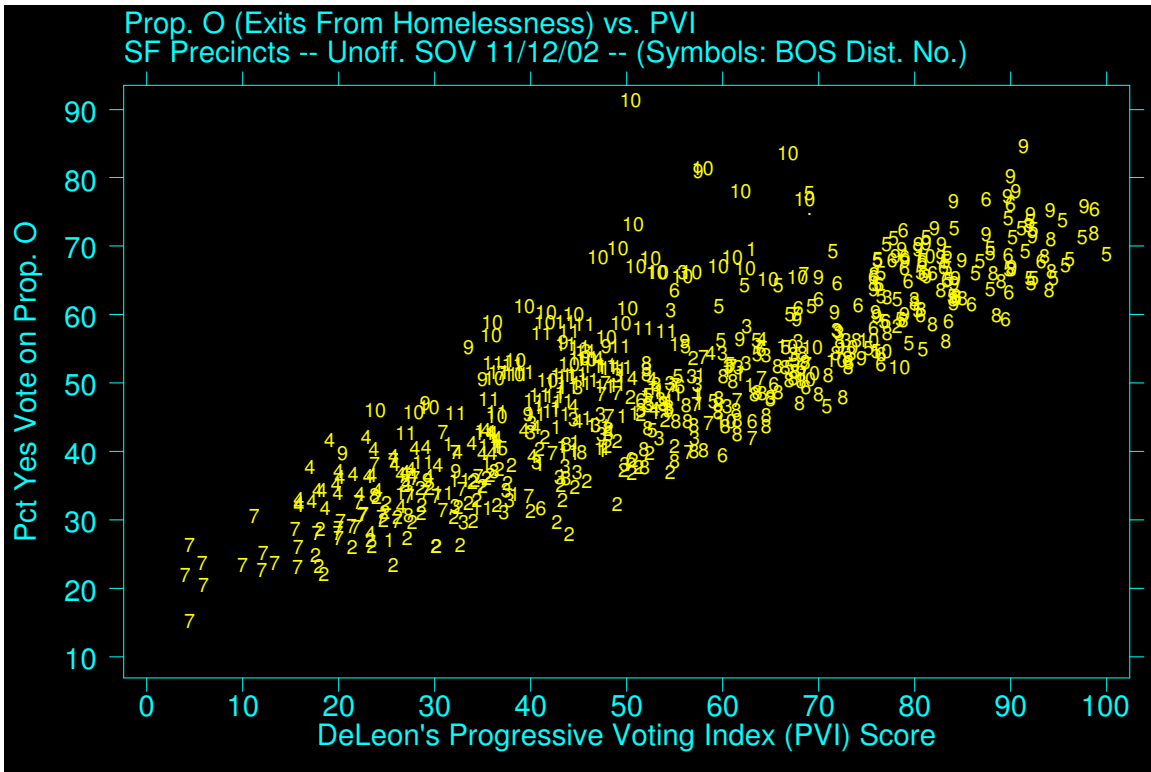


FIGURE 8: Plot of % yes on Prop. O vs. PVI score. Compared to Figure 7, here we see a much tighter, stronger positive correlation between the yes vote and the PVI score. Notice those District 10 precincts again!

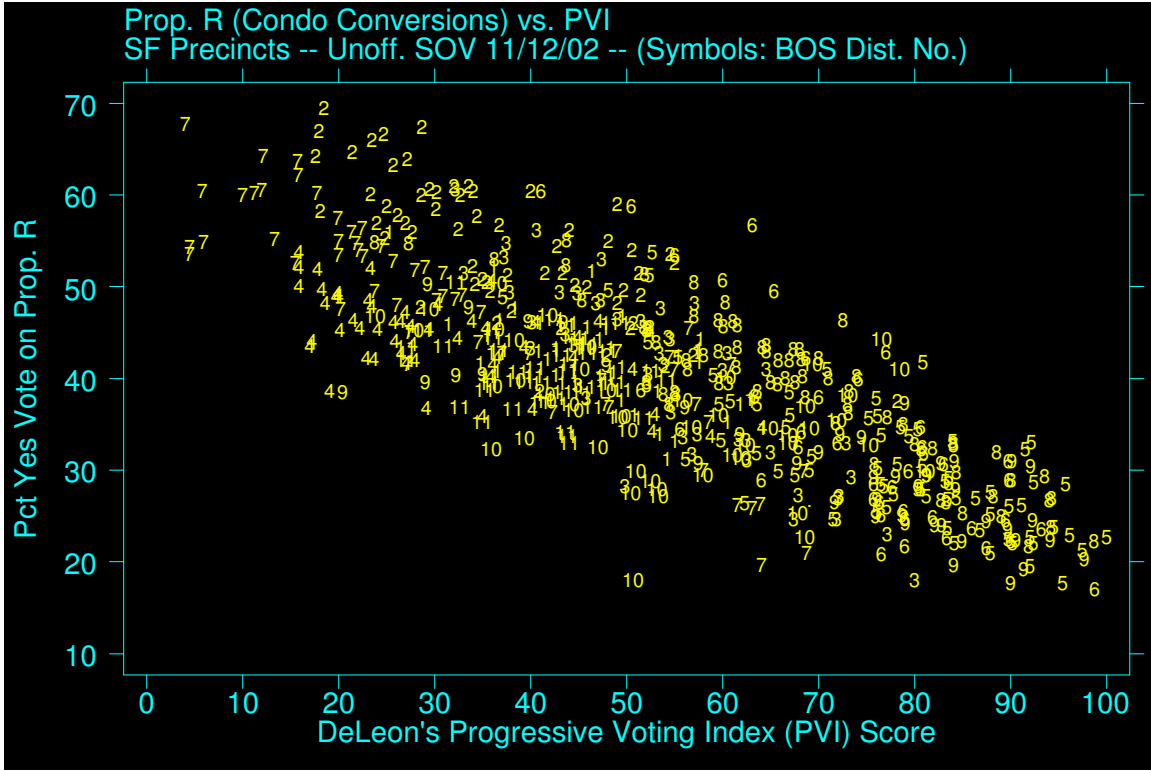


FIGURE 9: Plot of % yes on Prop. R vs. PVI score. Definitely a conservative vs. progressive vote, but with considerable “scatter,” as we saw for the Prop. N vote.

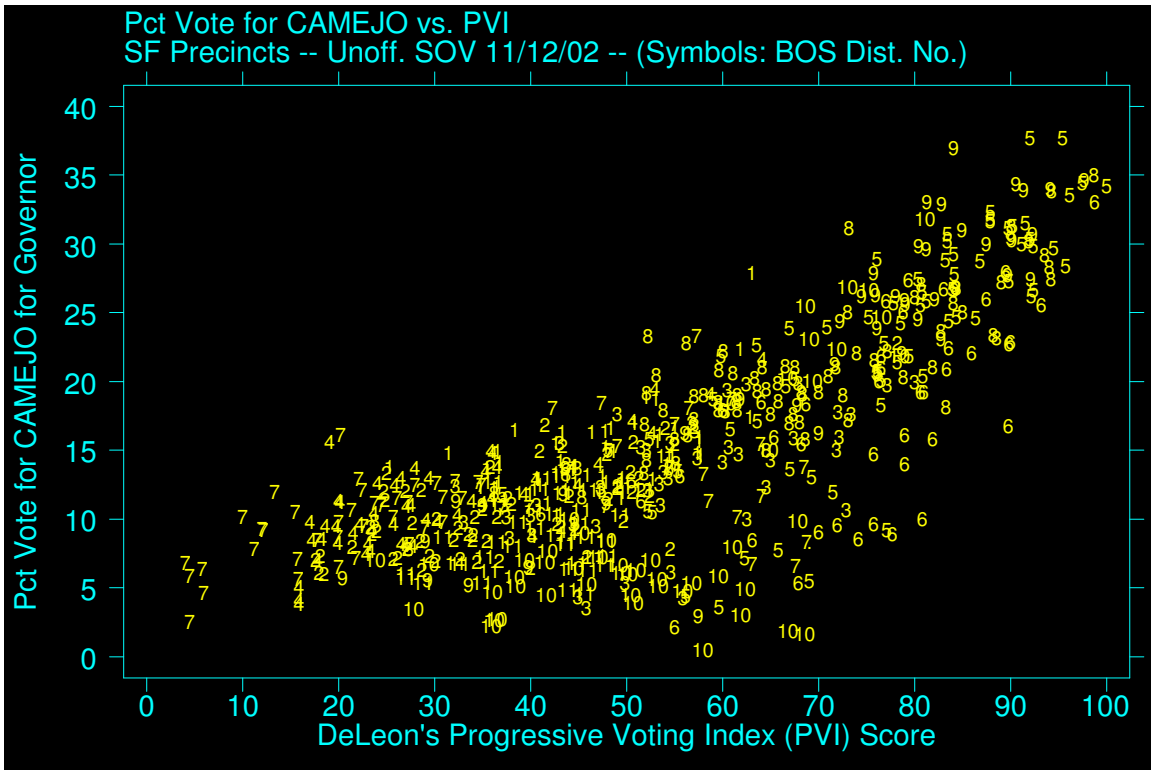


FIGURE 10: Plot of % vote for Camejo for Gov. vs. PVI score. This graph is kind of interesting for several reasons. We see the overall pattern of higher PVI, higher vote for Camejo – with Dist 5 & 9 precincts upper right (high on both scales) and Dist 4 & 7 precincts lower left (low on both). But notice the pattern isn't linear – in fact, the relationship between the Camejo vote & the PVI is pretty flat until the PVI reaches about 50. From that point on the support for Camejo takes off with increasing PVI. So I'm thinking a PVI score of about 50 is the critical mass threshold where progressive ideology begins to convert into electoral support for progressive third party candidates. Hmmm. Also note the little pod of Dist 10 precincts sprinkling down from the main pattern, another indicator that Dist 10 voters, while becoming more progressive in voting on certain issues, remain traditional liberal Democrats in voting on candidates.

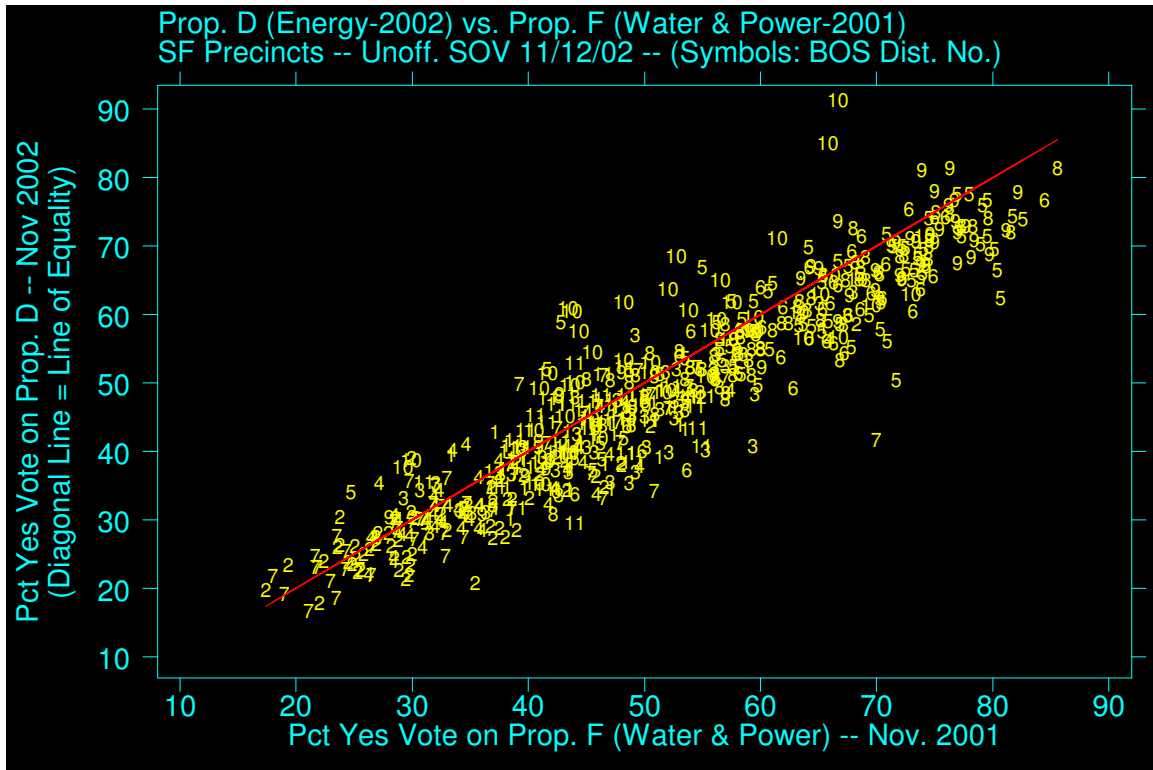


FIGURE 11: Plot of % yes on Prop. D (2002) vs. % yes on Prop. F (2001). I thought it would be interesting to see if the precinct vote for Prop. F last year predicted the vote for Prop. D this year. As you can see, the correlation is very tight. I also put a red diagonal line of equality on the graph. Precincts that fall right on that line voted exactly the same % yes on D as they did on F. Those above the line increased their support for public power above their 2001 levels; those below the line were less supportive. Once again, those Dist 10 precincts above the line catch my eye. And I see quite a few Dist 5 precincts below the line.

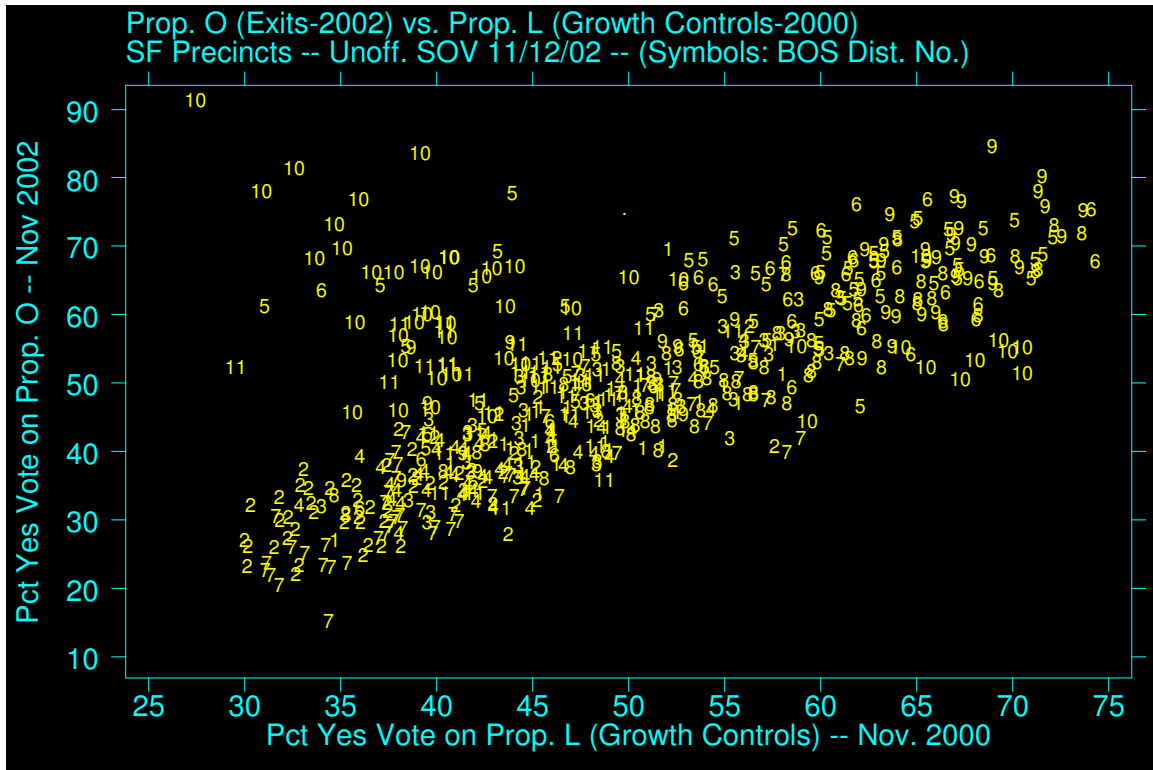


FIGURE 12. Plot of % yes on Prop. O (2002) vs. % yes on Prop. L (2000). I ran this plot because I'm becoming intrigued by those Dist 10 precincts and I also wanted to see if the vote in Nov 2000 for Prop. L ("Daughter of Prop. M") carried over in predicting the vote for Prop. O this year. Well, yes, it certainly did carry over, as can be seen, but check out those Dist 10 precincts (with some Dist 11's and a few 5's mixed in) floating above the main pattern on the left. Those 10's are mostly BVHP precincts. The little cluster of 10's below the main pattern on the right are located mostly around Portrero Hill.

SOME PLOTS SHOWING NOV 2002 PRECINCT VOTING PATTERNS IN DISTRICT 8 AND DISTRICT 4.

I'll simply show these plots one after another with no annotations, except for Figure 13, which I'll annotate simply to illustrate how to "read" them. I recommend first looking at the **yellow** pattern in these graphs, then the **red**, then both together.

One general (and admittedly rather obvious) conclusion can be drawn after looking at all these graphs, namely, the District 8 runoff seems clearly to be a battle of ideologies (yellow and red patterns clearly distinct & in opposite directions). The District 4 runoff, while it has some ideological structuring, involves a lot of other factors that aren't linked to precinct voting on the issues (yellow and red patterns blurred together, indistinct). Of course, that conclusion is based on an analysis of the Nov vote. Shifts in campaign strategies, coalition-building, etc., between the Nov and Dec elections might well produce a different result and interpretation.

**DISTRICT 8 GRAPHS:
ANALYSIS OF HANSEN AND DUFTY PRECINCT VOTE**

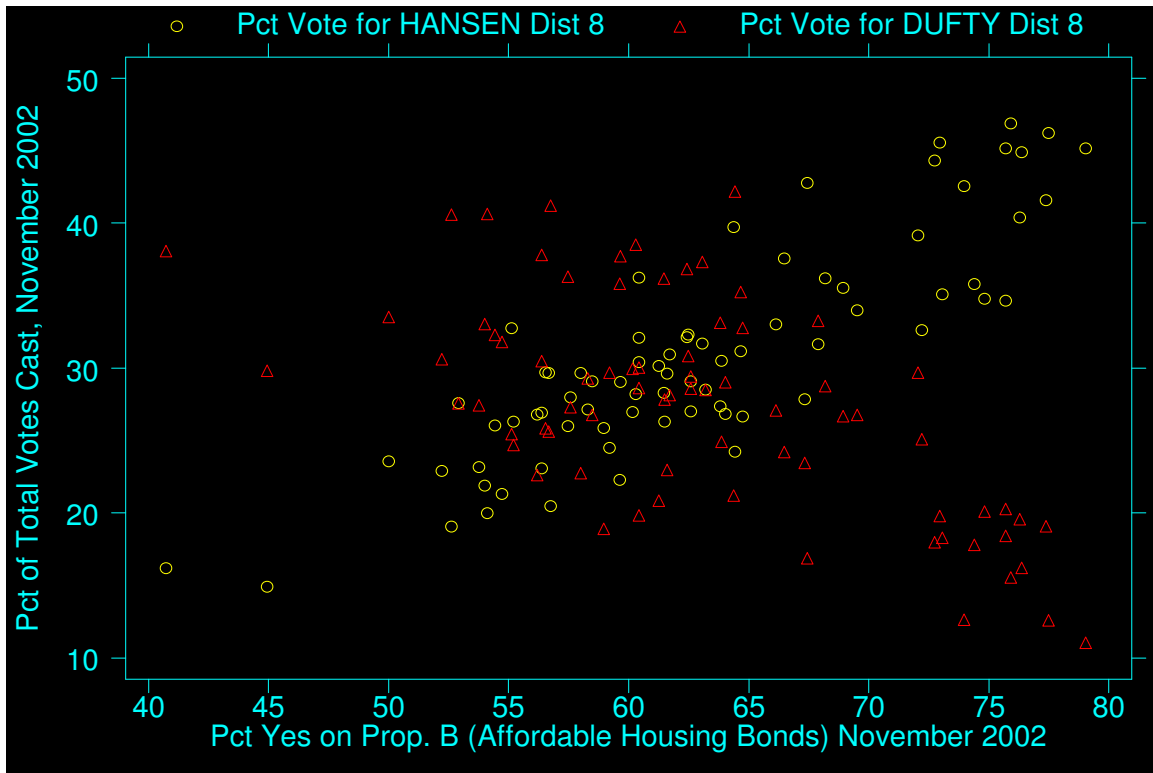


FIGURE 13: Plot of % vote for Hansen (yellow) and % vote for Dufty (red) vs. % yes on Prop. B. “Read” the yellow pattern (for Hansen) first. The higher the precinct yes vote for Prop. B, the higher the Hansen vote. Then read the “red” pattern (for Dufty): The higher the precinct yes vote for Prop. B, the lower the Dufty vote. Notice the yellow and red patterns crossing in the middle, making a kind of “X,” with an especially big gap (high Hansen, low Dufty) observed in the strongly pro-affordable housing precincts on the right side of the graph. This general “X” pattern can be seen in most of the Dist 8 graphs that follow, esp. clearly in the plots for Prop. N, O, and R – and also for the Progressive Voting Index.

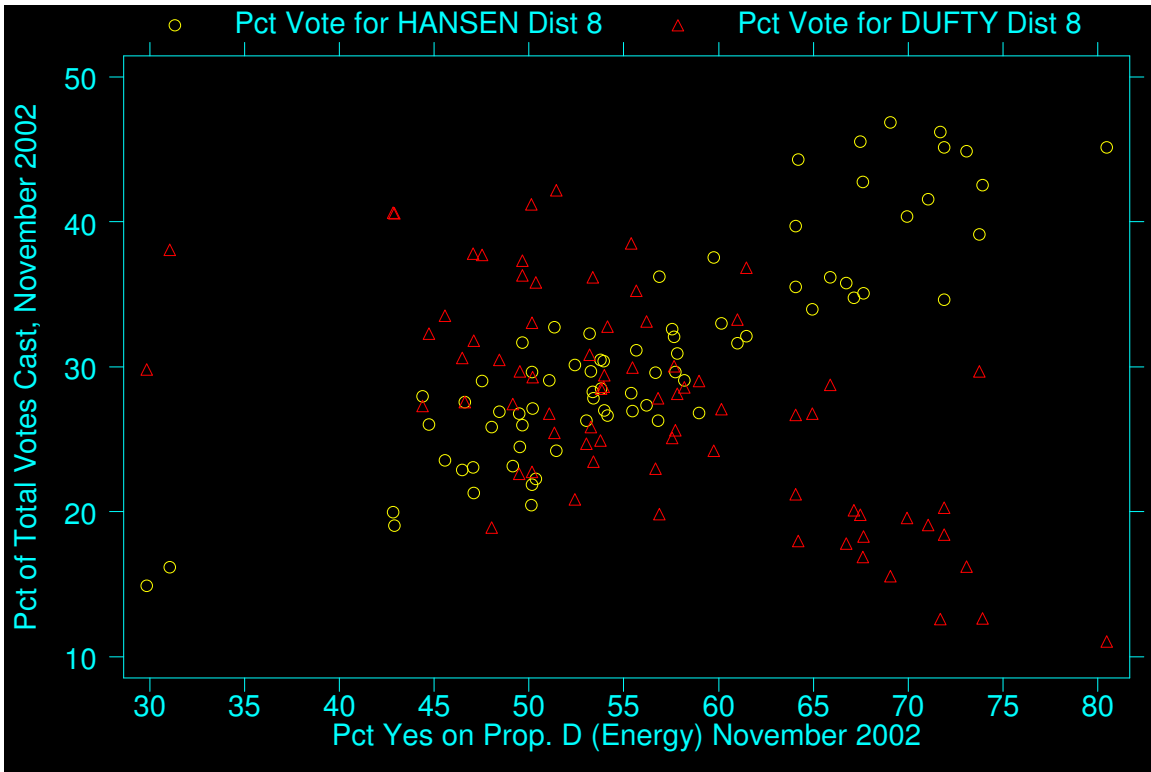


FIGURE 14: Plot of % vote for Hansen and % vote for Dufty vs. % yes on Prop. D.

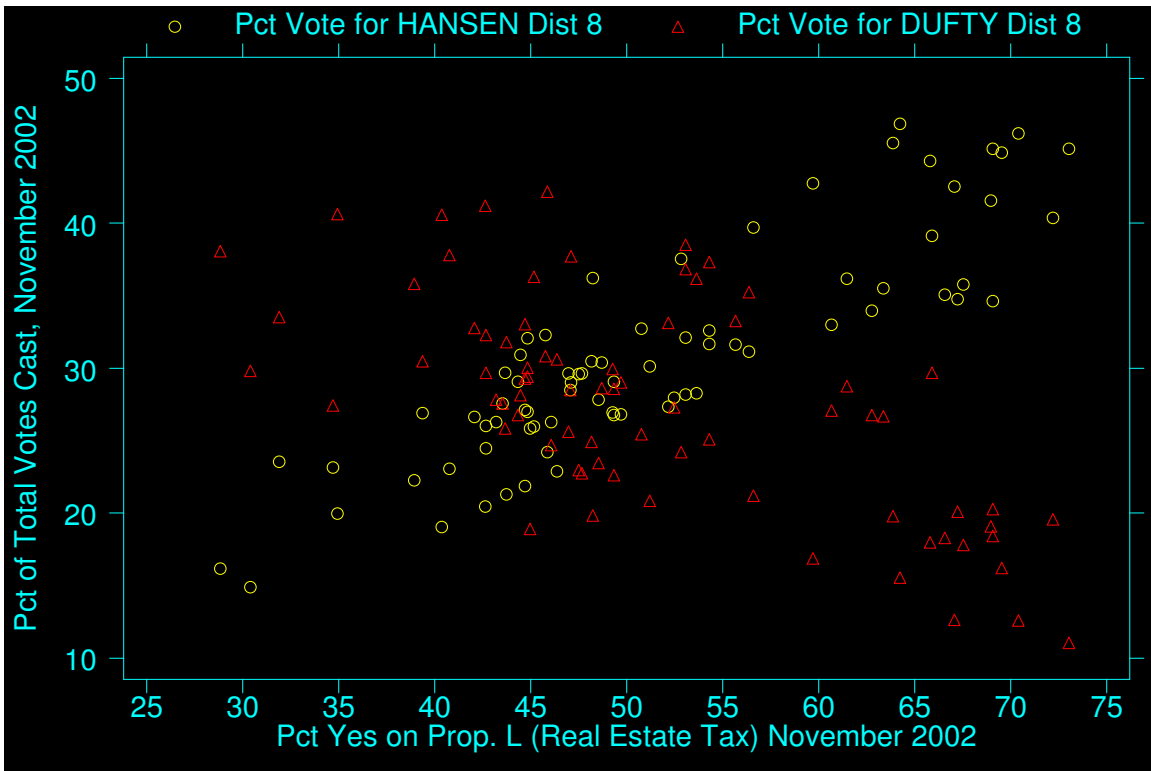


FIGURE 15: Plot of % vote for Hansen and % vote for Dufty vs. % yes on Prop. L.

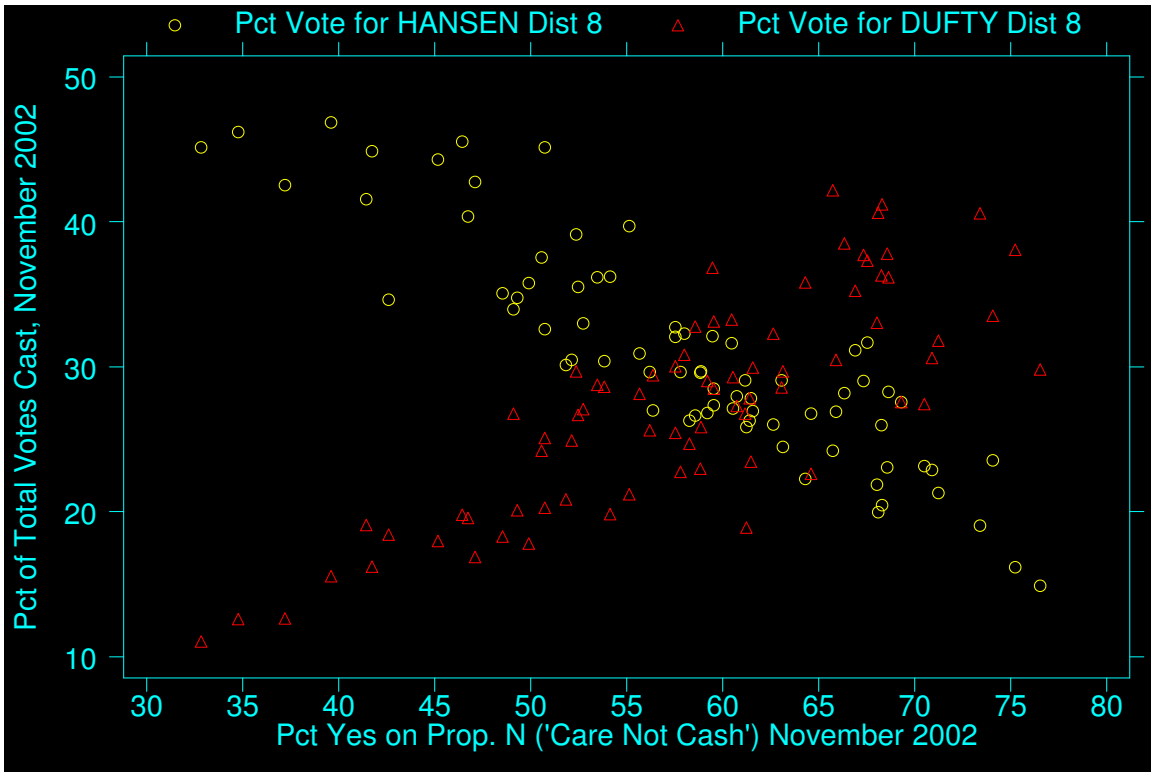


FIGURE 16: Plot of % vote for Hansen and % vote for Dufty vs. % yes on Prop. N.

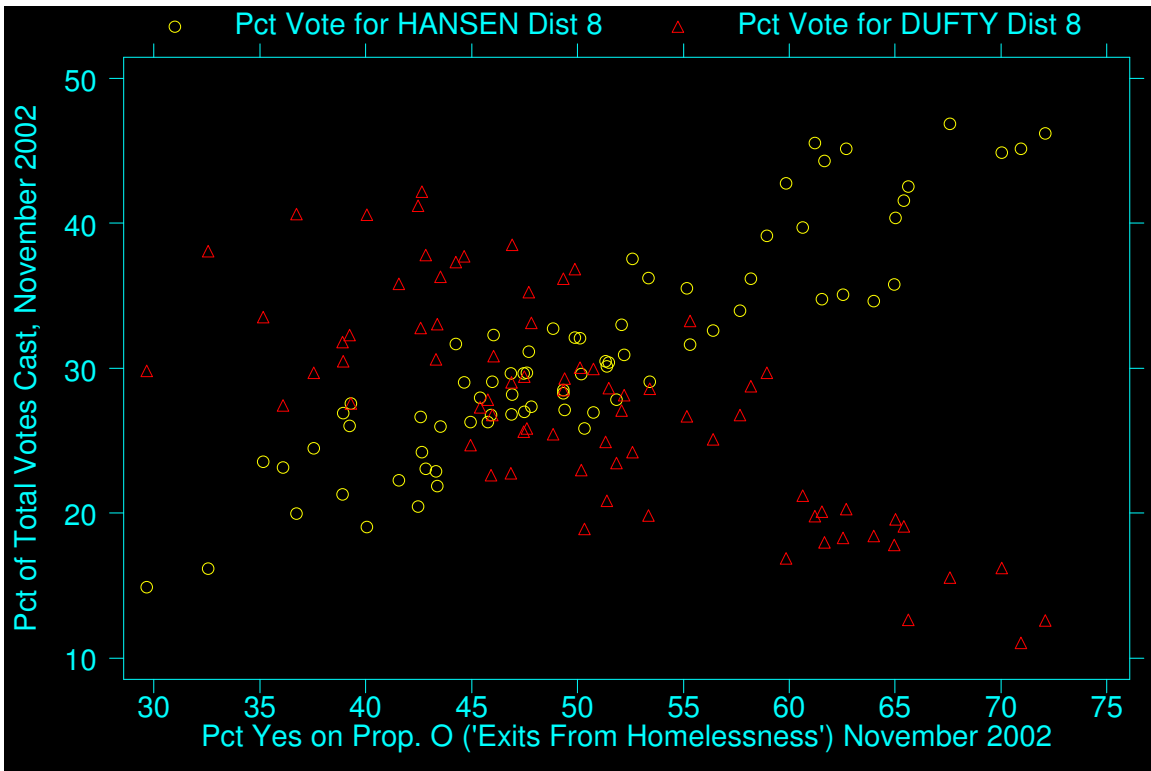


FIGURE 17: Plot of % vote for Hansen and % vote for Dufty vs. % yes on Prop. O.

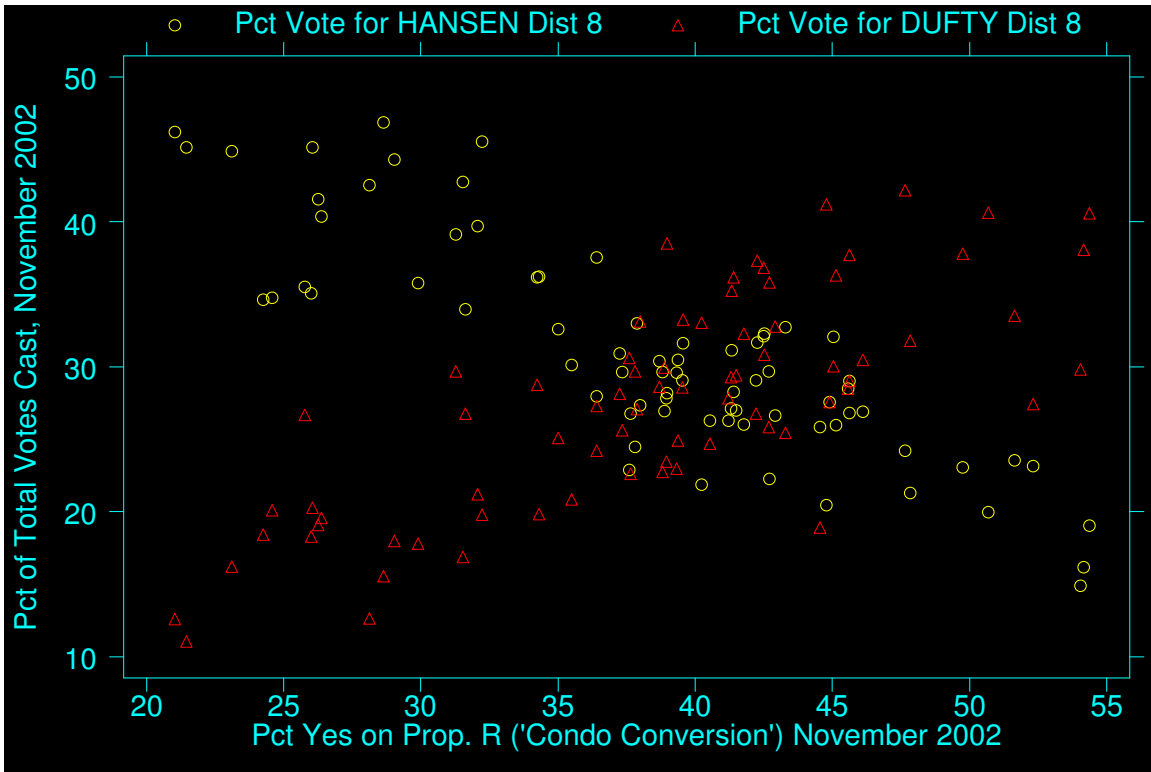


FIGURE 18: Plot of % vote for Hansen and % vote for Dufty vs. % yes on Prop. R,

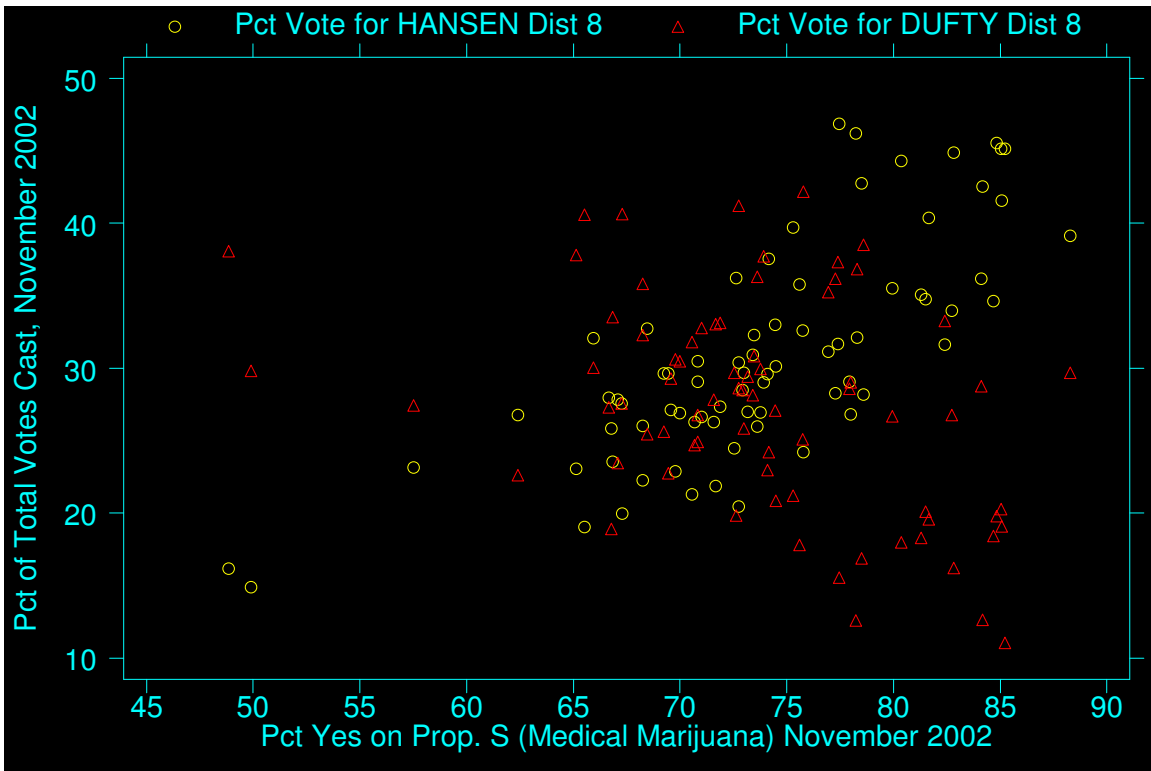


FIGURE 19: Plot of % vote for Hansen and % vote for Dufty vs. % yes on Prop. S.

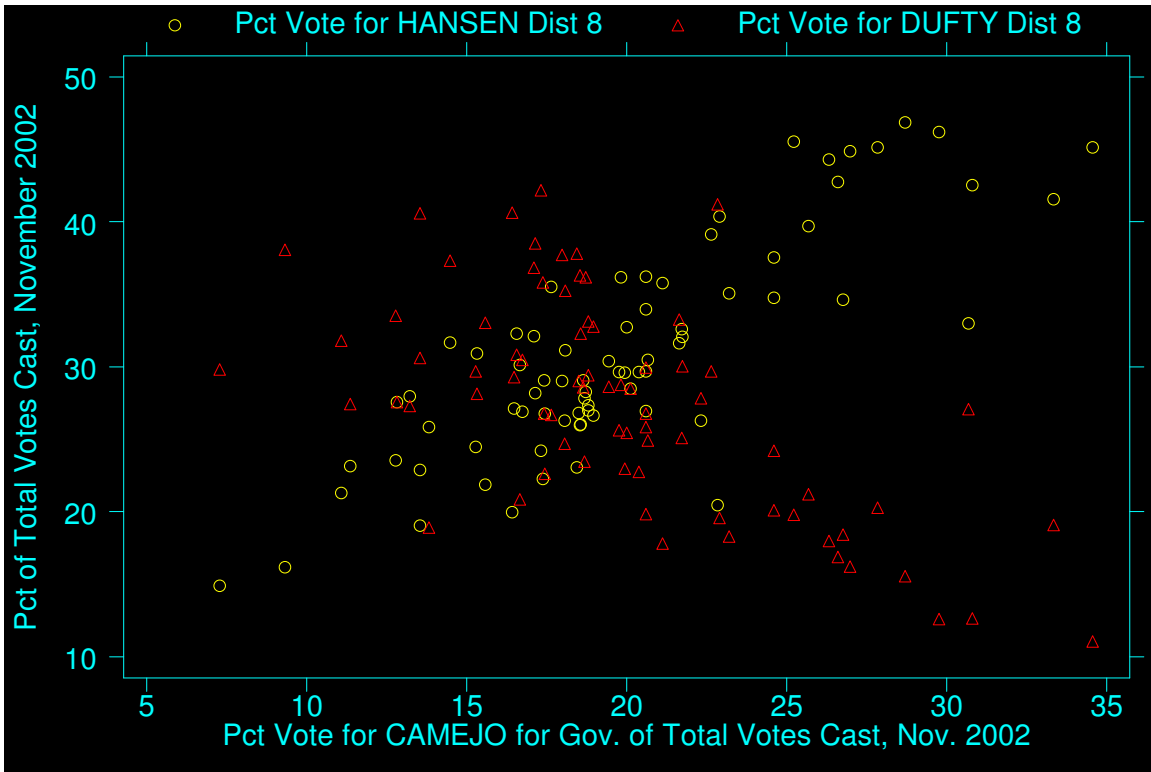


FIGURE 20: Plot of % vote for Hansen and % vote for Dufty vs. % vote for Camejo for Governor.

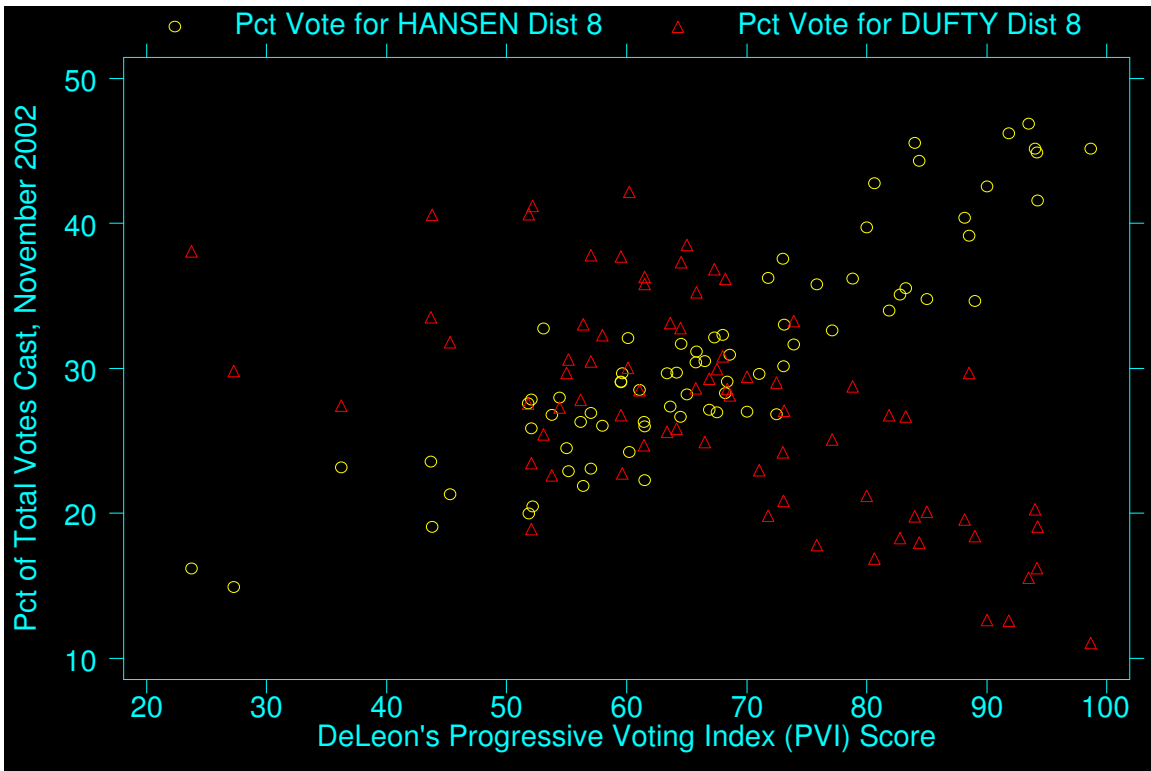


FIGURE 21: Plot of % vote for Hansen and % vote for Dufty vs. Progressive Voting Index (PVI) Score.

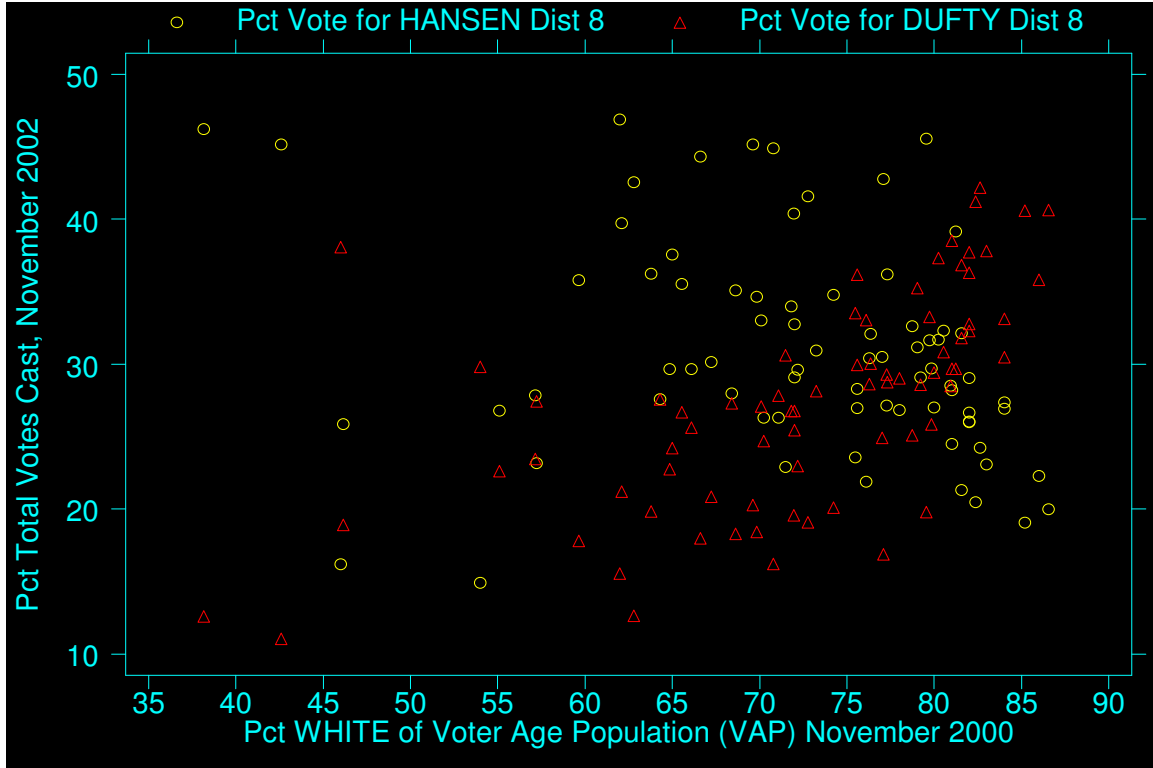


FIGURE 22: Plot of % vote for Hansen and % vote for Dufty vs. % WHITE of Voter Age Population (VAP) November 2000.

DISTRICT 4 GRAPHS:

ANALYSIS OF MA AND DUDUM PRECINCT VOTE

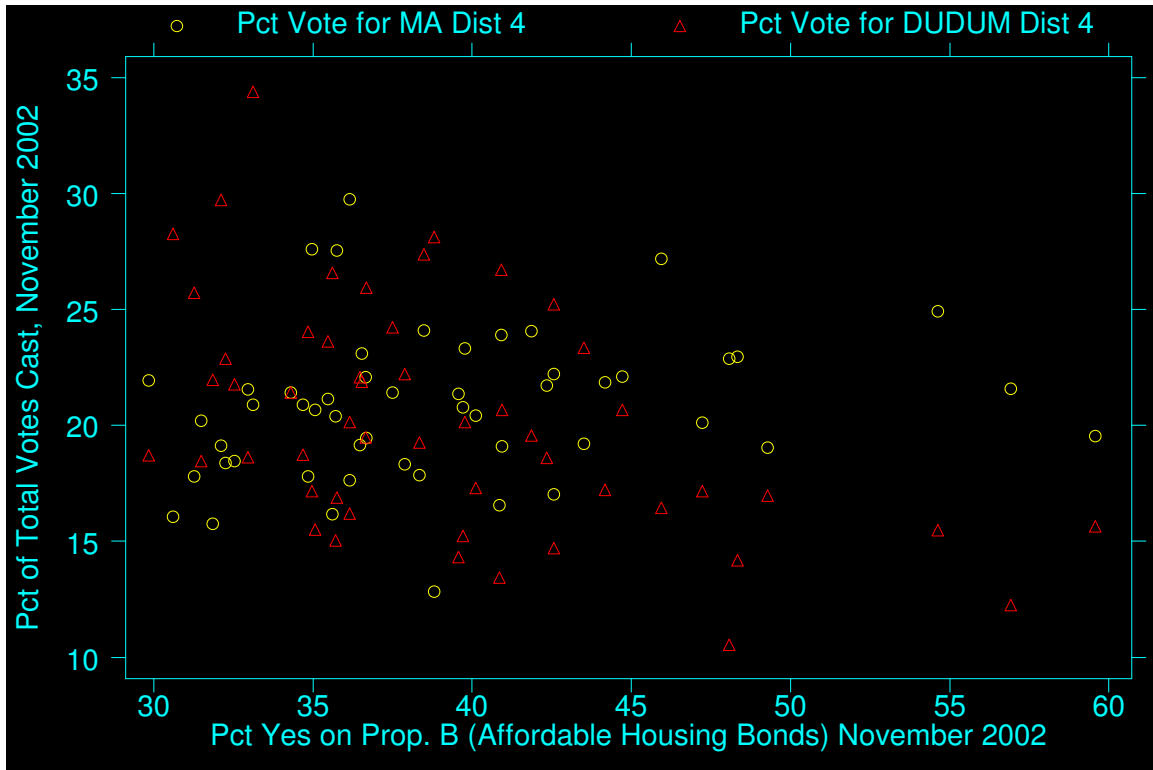


FIGURE 23: Plot of % vote for Ma (yellow) and % vote for Dudum (red) vs. % yes on Prop. B.

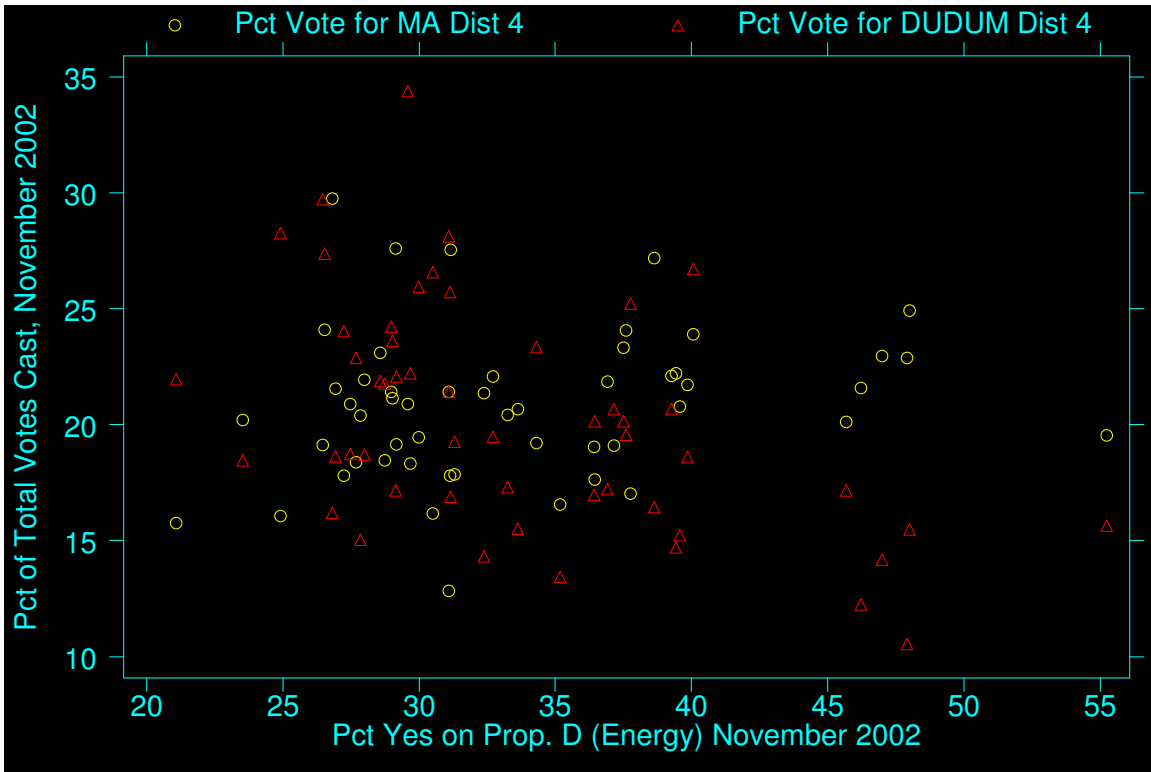


FIGURE 24: Plot of % vote for Ma and % vote for Dudum vs. % yes on Prop. D.

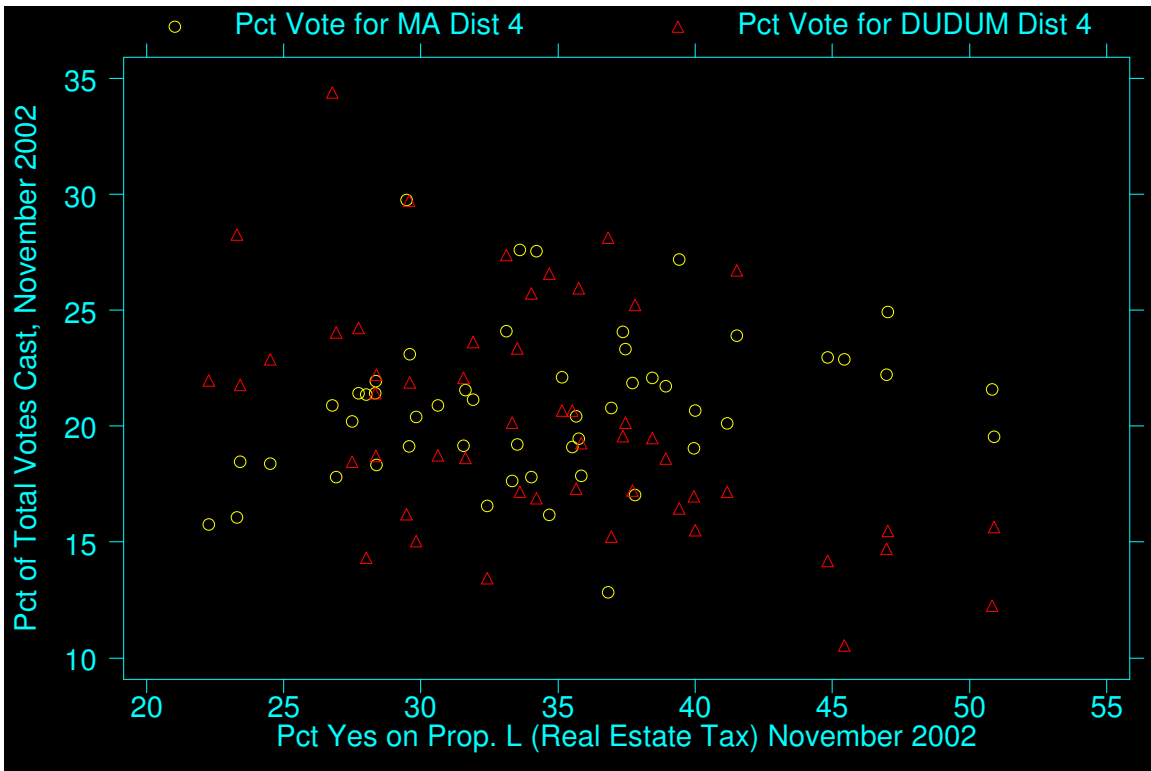


FIGURE 25: Plot of % vote for Ma and % vote for Dudum vs. % yes on Prop. L.

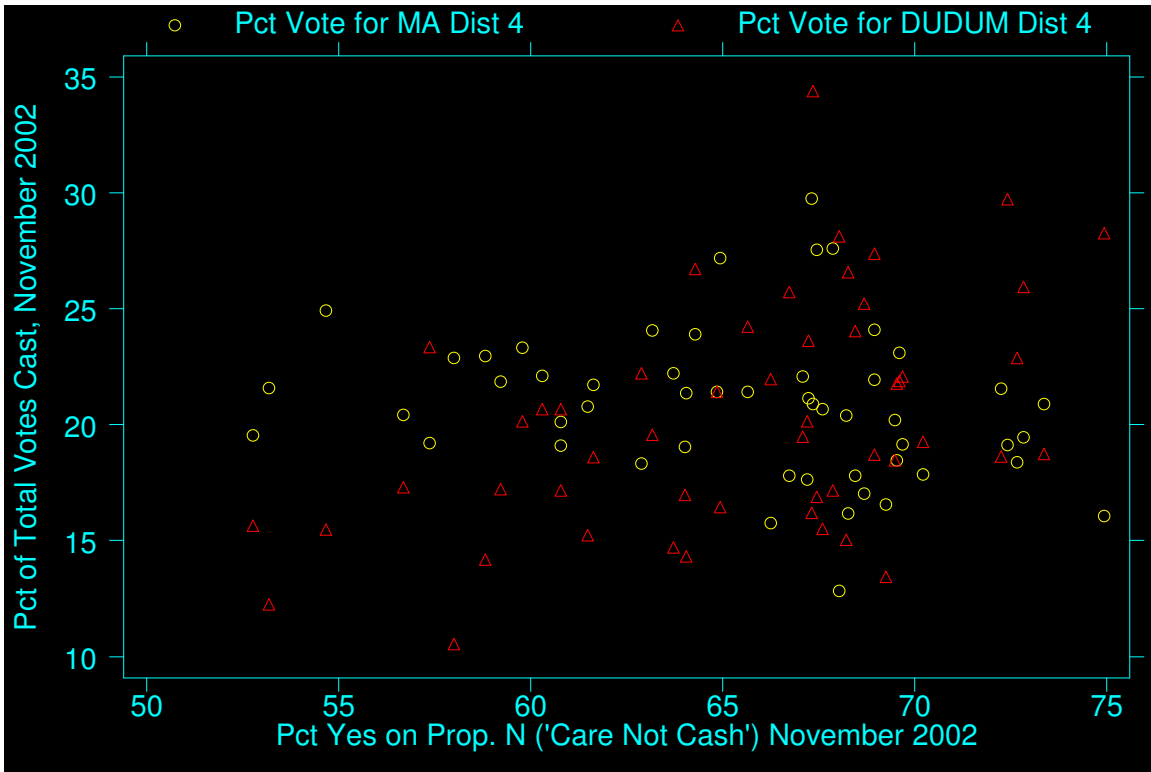


FIGURE 26: Plot of % vote for Ma and % vote for Dudum vs. % yes on Prop. N.

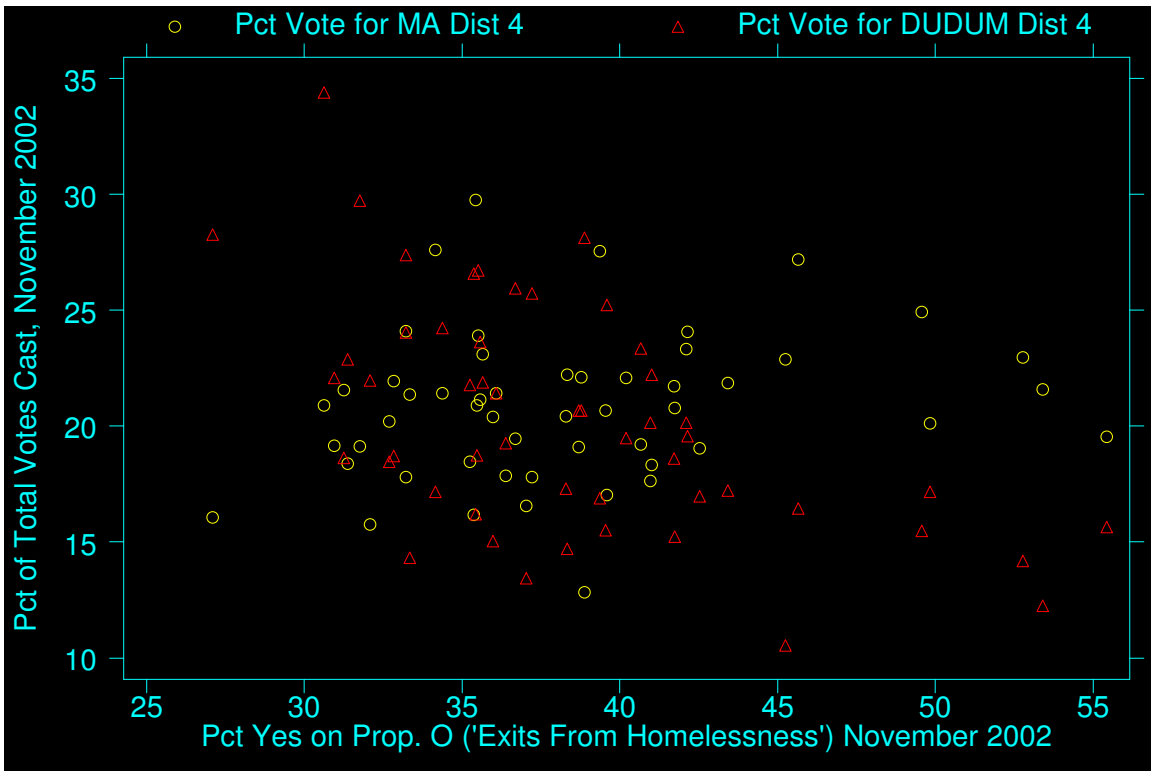


FIGURE 27: Plot of % vote for Ma and % vote for Dudum vs. % yes on Prop. O.

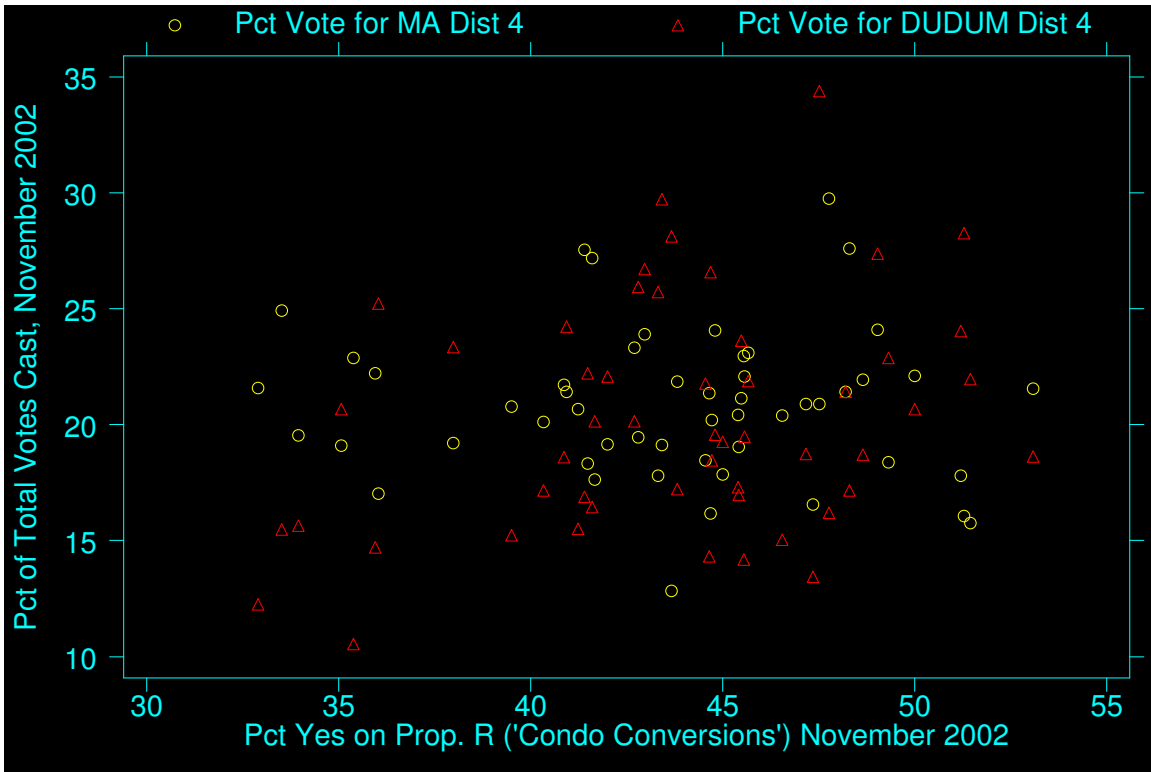


FIGURE 28: Plot of % vote for Ma and % vote for Dudum vs. % yes on Prop. R.

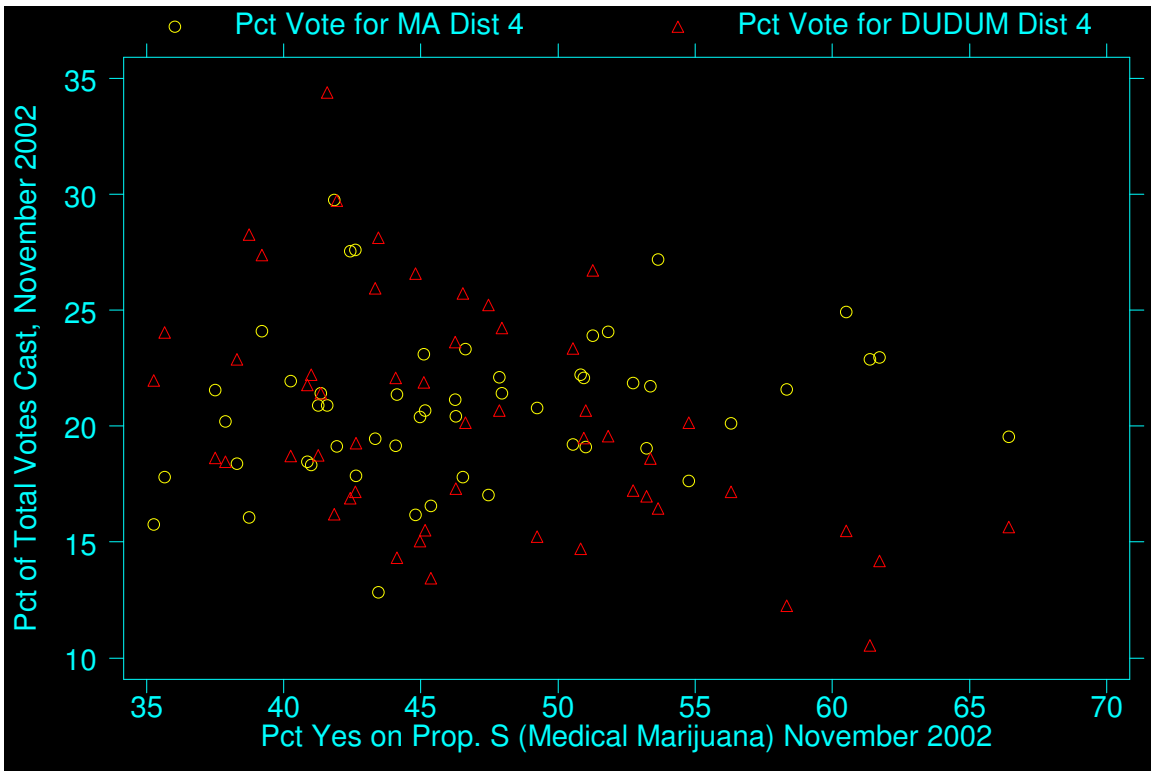


FIGURE 29: Plot of % vote for Ma and % vote for Dudum vs. % yes on Prop. S.

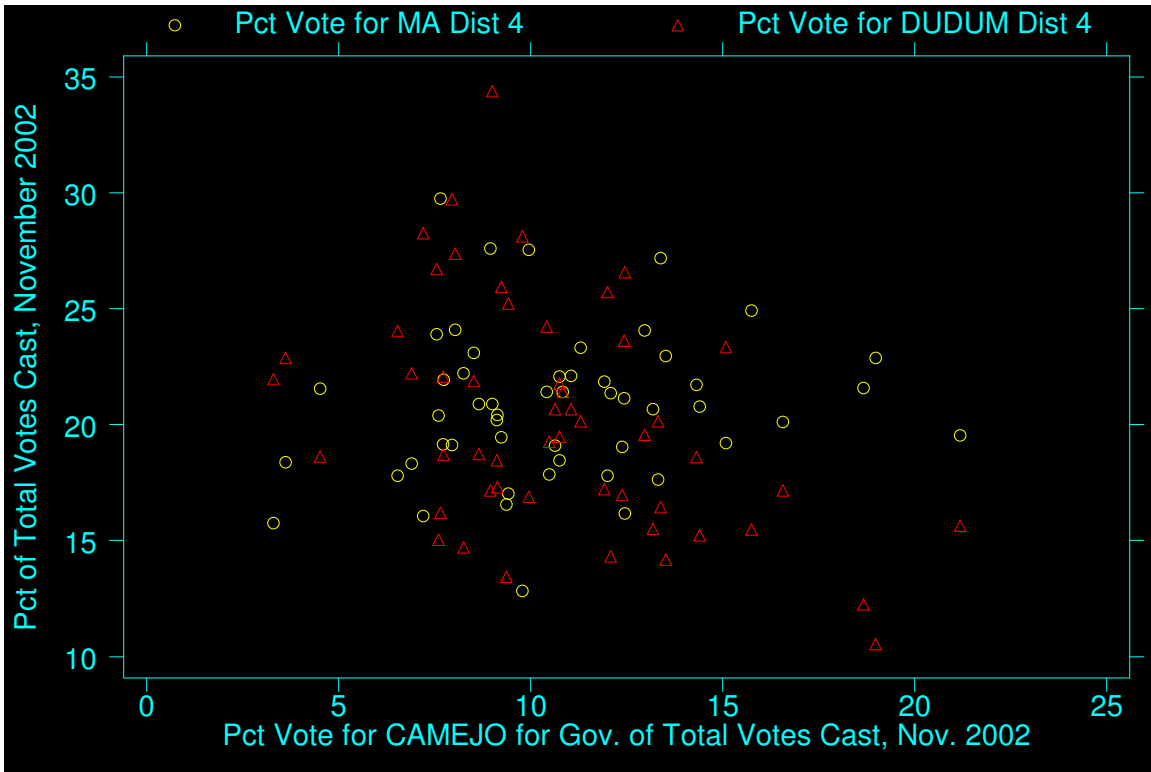


FIGURE 30: Plot of % vote for Ma and % vote for Dudum vs. % vote for Camejo for Governor.

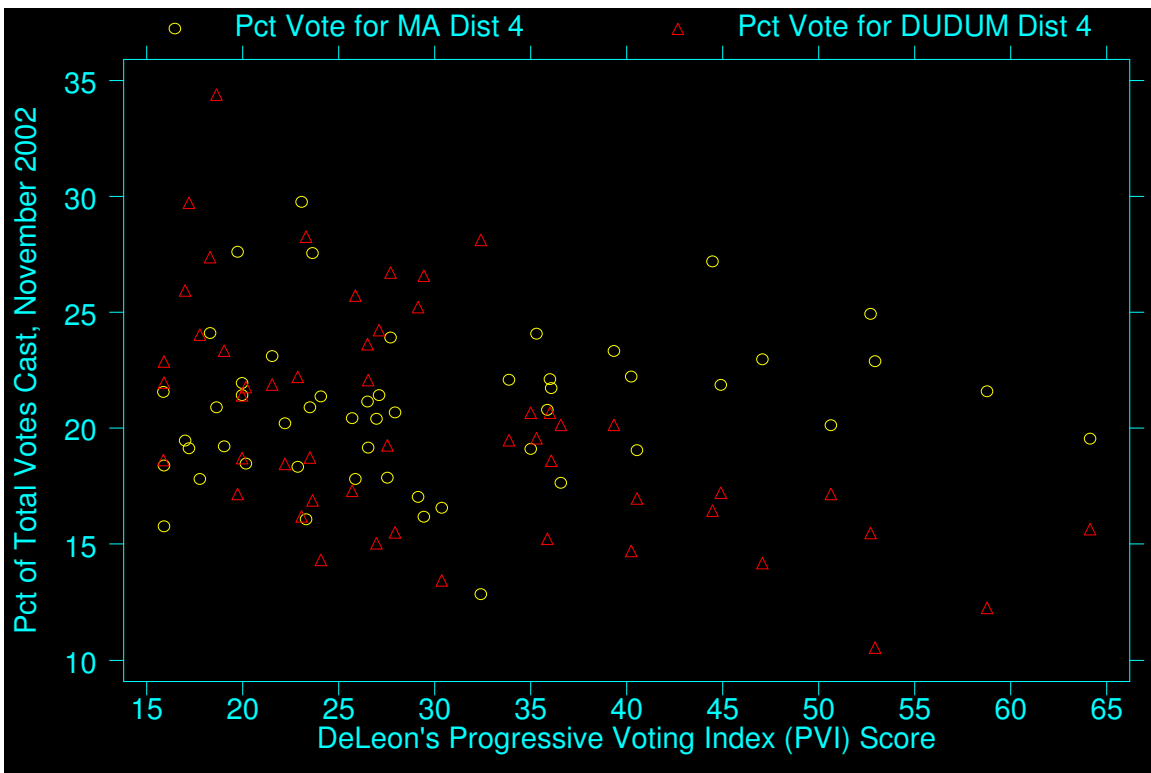


FIGURE 31: Plot of % vote for Ma and % vote for Dudum vs. Progressive Voting Index (PVI) Score.

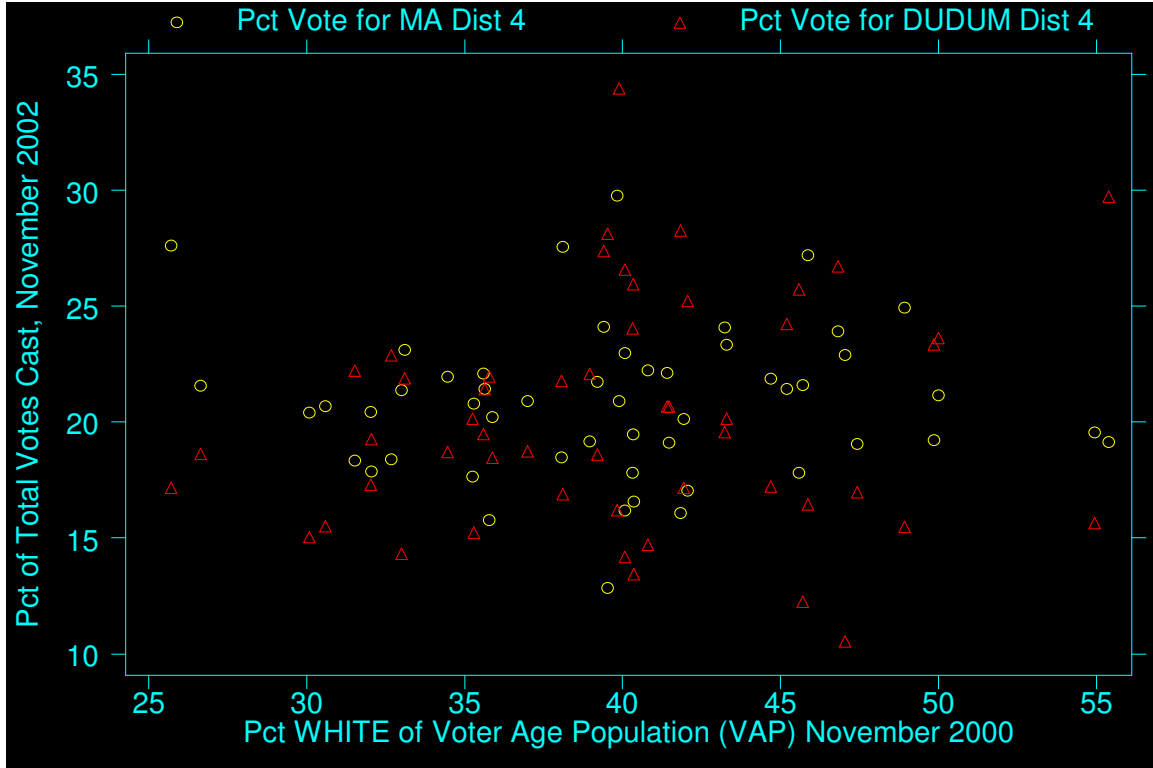


FIGURE 32: Plot of % vote for Ma and % vote for Dudum vs. % WHITE of Voter Age Population (VAP) November 2000.