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## Gore vs. Bush Illinois Wesleyan University Students Lean Towards "The Lesser of Two Evils"

Clint Sabin  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Kate Weber

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**Contacts:** Clint W. Sabin or Kate Weber, 309/556-3181

**Gore vs. Bush**  
**Illinois Wesleyan University Students**  
**Lean Towards "The Lesser of Two Evils"**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--According to the U.S. Census Bureau, only 32.4 percent of eligible 18-24 year olds exercised their right to vote in the 1996 presidential election, the lowest voter turnout of any age group. Turnout at the polls, however, does not mean that college-aged students do not have something to say about the upcoming presidential election.

Illinois Wesleyan's campus is charged with election hype as witnessed by the various political propaganda adorning the windows and walls of residence halls and public areas. Students clearly have something to say about the candidates' political and social stances, who is in a better position to appoint Supreme Court justices and which candidate will do a better job in the White House.

In an informal poll of 50 IWU students, nearly half of those students surveyed in a "man-on-the-street" interview favored Vice President Al Gore to fill the presidential office. Texas Gov. George W. Bush tallied with nearly half the number of votes as Gore, and a few students also voiced their preference for consumer-advocate Ralph Nader of the Green Party, who was IWU's 1998 commencement speaker.

"Gore is most likely to help education reform. I like what he says about education and loans and that sort of thing," said Blythe, a sociology major. "For that reason alone, I don't think a college student can afford to be anything but a Democrat. The more educated you are, the more liberal you become."

"Gore is a lot more concerned with the environment and education, two issues that are very important to me," said Christy, a biology major.

"Gore is for gun control, pro-choice, equal rights for everyone, and an aggressive tax system in addition to social services and education," said Mike a psychology and business major. "I trust Gore more than Bush with foreign policy. Bush clearly doesn't understand the intricacies of foreign policy."

Though a greater number of students support Gore and the Democratic party, many are loyal to Bush and the Republicans.

"George W. Bush is a dependable leader and has solid experience," said John, a public-accounting major. "I like his stance on tax and health-care policies. He has visions for the future."

"I'm definitely pro-life and I am very concerned that the next president will be appointing several Supreme Court justices who will be a major factor in influencing such important issues," said

Alex, an English major. "Furthermore, I don't trust Gore or anyone associated with the Clinton presidency."

"Bush is going to give the money back to the people. He doesn't support big government policies. He has confidence in the people and doesn't feel the government needs to make all of the decisions. Gore, on the other hand plans to decide for the people. His plans and policies make the government more involved," said John an English major.

Many favor one political candidate over another because they find the candidate the "lesser of two evils."

"I support Ralph Nader," said Jason an English and art double major, "But if Nader weren't a choice, I'd choose Gore simply because he's the lesser of two evils. He's competent enough, he's been vice president for the past eight years and he knows how things run."

"My gut just doesn't trust Bush," said Katy, a psychology major.

"I'm voting for Gore, primarily because I refuse to vote for Bush. Bush is way too inexperienced and I'm upset with the number of innocent people who have been put to death in Texas because of Bush. I agree there must be a death penalty, but there needs to be solid evidence of a crime before a person can be put to death," said Paul, a music-education major. "Gore's kind of robotic, but at least he knows what he's doing."

Even those who agreed with several of the policies of both of the Democratic and Republican candidates tended to ultimately side with Vice President Gore.

"Gore is the lesser of two evils. Although it's difficult to make a decision because I agree with a few policies of both primary candidates," Nikki, a biology and English double major said.

"I'm voting for Al Gore," said Josh, an English major. "I do agree with Bush on a lot of his principle beliefs, on his core Republican values, but not what he's going to do with it. I agree with his social values, that's not what is going to make the laws. Gore specializes in areas I care about that concern the government and how it is run."

Those who planned to vote for Nader solidly oppose both the governor of Texas and the vice president.

"I'm voting for Nader not only because I support his position on the environment, but also because I feel the Republican and Democratic parties are starting to seem like one party instead of two. Their policies are starting to look the same, especially concerning the economy, health care and welfare," said Laura, a vocal performance and political science double major.

"My vote for Nader is only to show that the Democrats are not reaching the constituents they need to," said John, another English major. "The Democrats are becoming too moderate for the people they are supposed to represent. The two-party system has become more of a fulcrum than a single point."

### **About IWU**

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls more than 2,000 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and individual schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art and Nursing. Since 1994, these facilities have been added to the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletics and recreation center, a \$25 million science center, a \$6.8 million residence hall, a \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts and a \$1.65 million baseball stadium. A \$26 million library and a \$6 million student center are under construction.