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## AP to feed networks election tallies

By Jennifer Harper  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The old Voter News Service that caused such a ruckus in the 2000 presidential election has been reinvented.

Five television networks have signed agreements with the Associated Press to provide vote-tabulation services starting with the 2004 presidential primaries, AP announced yesterday.

"ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN and Fox News Channel said AP will provide continuous running election-night returns on presidential, gubernatorial and congressional races, as well as selected statewide ballot propositions, under contracts that run through 2008," AP said in a statement.

Until the 2000 presidential election, most Americans had never heard of Voter News Service, a polling and voter-analysis group originally founded as Voter Research & Surveys in 1990 by veteran pollster Warren Mitofsky and four networks. Their goal was to save time and money by pooling resources.

The group became Voter News Service three years later.

The foundations were sound enough. Mr. Mitofsky more or less invented the exit-poll genre while working for CBS News back in 1967. These preliminary voter

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