

Mapp leads in General Election. Will face Bryan or Donastorg in Runoff.

By John Boyd

Every election cycle, there are about 6 polls being run in the Virgin Islands. I have run polls over the past 35 years with good accuracy. My pinnacle was probably 2002 when I picked all 8 eight candidates in proper order and projected that Governor Turnbull would win without a run off. The chance of picking eight in order by a random guess is about one in forty thousand.

Now that I am retired, I have been working with Data Scientists on new polling methodology trying to improve on Statistical Methods based on the Central Limit Theorem, witch has been used since 1810 when news traveled slow and most Americans were illiterate. While Virgin Islands elections are a good place to start, inaccuracy in polling is now an American problem and big money wants to know with a certainty who is going to win. American poll results were exceptionally poor for the Trump-Clinton Campaigns and Fake news from the left and right dominated decision making by average Americans. The instant in time that a poll captures is getting shorter and shorter. In the future, different predictive tools will be used depending on the prior history of voting patterns and cumulative traditional sampling.

I have not done any work on developing new methods for selecting the winners of the St. Croix Senate race so the following table is based on traditional methods. A sidewalk intercept methodology was used to interview 306 people between September 15 and October 15. This is exactly the same Method used to interview St. Thomas resident to gather evidence for the Tutu well litigation which was challenged all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States and won the territory millions. The following table presents the Saint Croix Senate Race in the traditional manner.

St. Croix Senate Race	Votes	Percent	Margin of Error
1-2. Tie Allison DeGazon	164	54	5.6
1-2 . Tie Alicia Barnes	153	50	5.6
3. Kurt Vialet	131	43	5.5
4-5. Tie Michel Springer	109	36	5.4
4-5. Tie Novelle Francis	108	35	5.3
6 Kenneth Gittens	98	32	5.2
7. Wide open Battle			
Lilliana Belardo de Oneal	83	27	5.0
Javon James	79	26	4.9
Oakland Benta	74	24	4.8

There is an old joke that when the only tool you own is a hammer, every problem is a nail. The Central Limit Theorem is a very poor tool to use to select seven winners out of 22 candidates, when each of 15,000 voters can choose seven candidates. However, at this time it is the only tool available. However In all of my polling history, no one (including me has ever forecast all seven in proper order. To claim this is accurate to plus or minus 5.6% is obviously wrong and always has been. Even more counter intuitive, the lower the percentage, the lower margin of error. In my 35 years of polling, it has never happened that way.

In my analysis, I will say that the list is logical and I personally believe that any candidate not on the list above will not win.

DeGazon & Barnes are two lovely and popular women who have worked hard in party politics and government. They will bump, last election's dynamic duo of Violet & Francis down a notch or two. A probable reason is their votes on the sin tax and the tax targeting poorer seniors, veterans and homesteaders.

In forth place, Michael Springer is a popular businessman who has run for the Senate in the past. After Hovensa shut down, he decided to invest in creating two popular & successful businesses (The Bungalow and Nikki's Wings and things) in Christiansted when others were abandoning St. Croix. These successful operations seemed to have expanded his base of support.

Gittens and Belardo de ONeal are both former Senators with Gittens being the more recent one and thus a known entity. However, if Belardo is perceived as the only strong advocate for Hispanics with Hansen, O' Reilly and Sanes gone from the Senate, there could be a quiet army of support for her that I missed measuring. Benta is a popular former policeman and James is a young community activist.

Poll Percentages for the Governor's race

The Mathematical Model I am developing is more closely related to the "algorithms" used in data mining to choose the ads you will see on Google, ebay and Amazon. These ad choices are based on a large amount of constantly changing information and the desire of these companies is to develop a list without regard to margin of error or absolute percentages but just select the right order among a short list where number one is really the only important answer. In addition to using special programming languages such as R for data science, I also embrace parametric and non-parametric statistics.

I accept the results below as being consistent with my personal experiences, interview comments, and prior election history. After the Democratic Primary, there was a surge for Mapp, as Bryan and Roach were selected by less than 10% of all registered voters and neither had ever been elected to a territorial position in a General Election as a Democrat. It appears that about 20% of registered Democrats embraced the two and remained constant and loyal in a very disorganized Democratic Party.

Foncie and Chucky are both very well loved by their loyal fans on their respective islands and as a Democrat, Donastorg did quite well in two previous

Governor's races on both islands coming in second to Dejongh and Christensen. The team got a very slow start and did not break out until late September but signs and bumper stickers are popping up all over St. Croix.

Poll Percentages for the Governor's race

	St.Croix Before Labor day	St. Croix September	St. Croix October Up to 15th	St. Thomas 9/15 to 10/15	Projected Election Day
Mapp & Potter	32	39	39	29	34
Donastorg & Hansen	10	13	21	21	21
Coffett & Nicholson	3	2	2	3	2
Millen-Young & Bengoa	1	1	1	2	2
Bryan & Roach	22	22	20	22	21
Smith & Frederick	1	1	1	1	1
Mosler & Fonseca	10	6	4	7	6
undecided	21	16	12	15	13

The results predict a run off election between Governor Mapp and Donastorg or Bryan.