in its recount order as an example of arbitrariness.

Immediately after Gore conceded, the election to Bush, The Miami Herald began to evaluate what might have happened if the U.S. Supreme Court had not stopped the recount of undervotes.

Florida is one of the few states that permit members of the public to examine ballots after they’ve been cast. The Miami Herald and the BDO Seidman accounting firm began examining ballots on Dec. 18. USA TODAY joined the project in January. The last undervotes examined March 13.

Florida law requires that political parties be notified of ballot inspections. The Republican and Democratic parties took different approaches to the three months of ballot inspections.

The Democrats took a hands-off approach. They rarely showed up at election offices during the evaluation. “We want to see what you find. It’s not our role to be at the table with you,” Tony Welch spokesman for the Florida Democratic Party, said during the newspaper’s first inspection.

The party delayed cutting its post-election staff of field directors from 12 to 6 so it could staff the ballot inspections. Some Republicans took meticulous notes on the contents of the ballots. Others just watched. The Republican Party of Florida published a daily internal memo called “Reality Check,” which critiqued the media efforts to examine ballots.

In an interview before the results were released, Mark Wallace, a Republican lawyer assigned to critique the media inspections, said, “The media appear ready to offer unprecedented liberal standards for judging what is a vote. The appropriate legal standard is theRace of party affili-

The study shows that these errors were disproportionately common among Democratic counties. For example, in Escambia County, home of Orlando, Gore edged Bush 50%-48% in the election. But Gore won the undervotes by 61%-39%, giving him a net gain of 147 votes. That accounted for half of the 261 votes Gore gained in optical-scan counties, which Bush won overall by 53%-47%.

The study found that optical-scan counties, in which BDO Seidman examined undervotes, one third of 5,823 ballots had discernible votes.

The most common way a voter made an X or check mark, rather than filling in the mark appears pure black to the human eye. Other common errors included circling the candidate’s name or using a personal pencil or pen that couldn’t be read by the machine. Black ink that contains even a trace of red will not register on many vote-counting machines, even when the mark appears pure black to the human eye.

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The study found that optical-scan counties are the only places where Gore actually picked up more votes than Bush: 1,036 to 775 for Bush.

In the punch-card counties, where Gore had placed his hopes, his chances of winning a hand count were washed away. On dimples alone, Bush gained 1,186 votes. When all the punch-card communities, including chads, clean punch Bush outdid Gore by 8,302 to 6,559.

USA TODAY’s analysis is based on act-

Mr. FILNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, recently the administration made the decision to set aside years of work of people from all over the world to deal with the problem of global climate change. All around the United States we have seen the evidence of changes in a global climate. We have seen conditions of excessive heat in the South. We have seen tornadoes occur where they never occurred before. We have seen floods occur, 100-year floods occurring, every few decades and even more frequent than anyone could ever imagine.

We need to come together as a Nation and as a world to address the issue of global climate change. Man-made activities are forming and affecting our global climate, and we owe it to ourselves and to our children and to future generations to start now to do something about bringing down CO2 levels and to do something about addressing global climate change.

It is a reality. We have to start preparing for the future, and we must make sure that the future is one in which all the people of the world can survive.