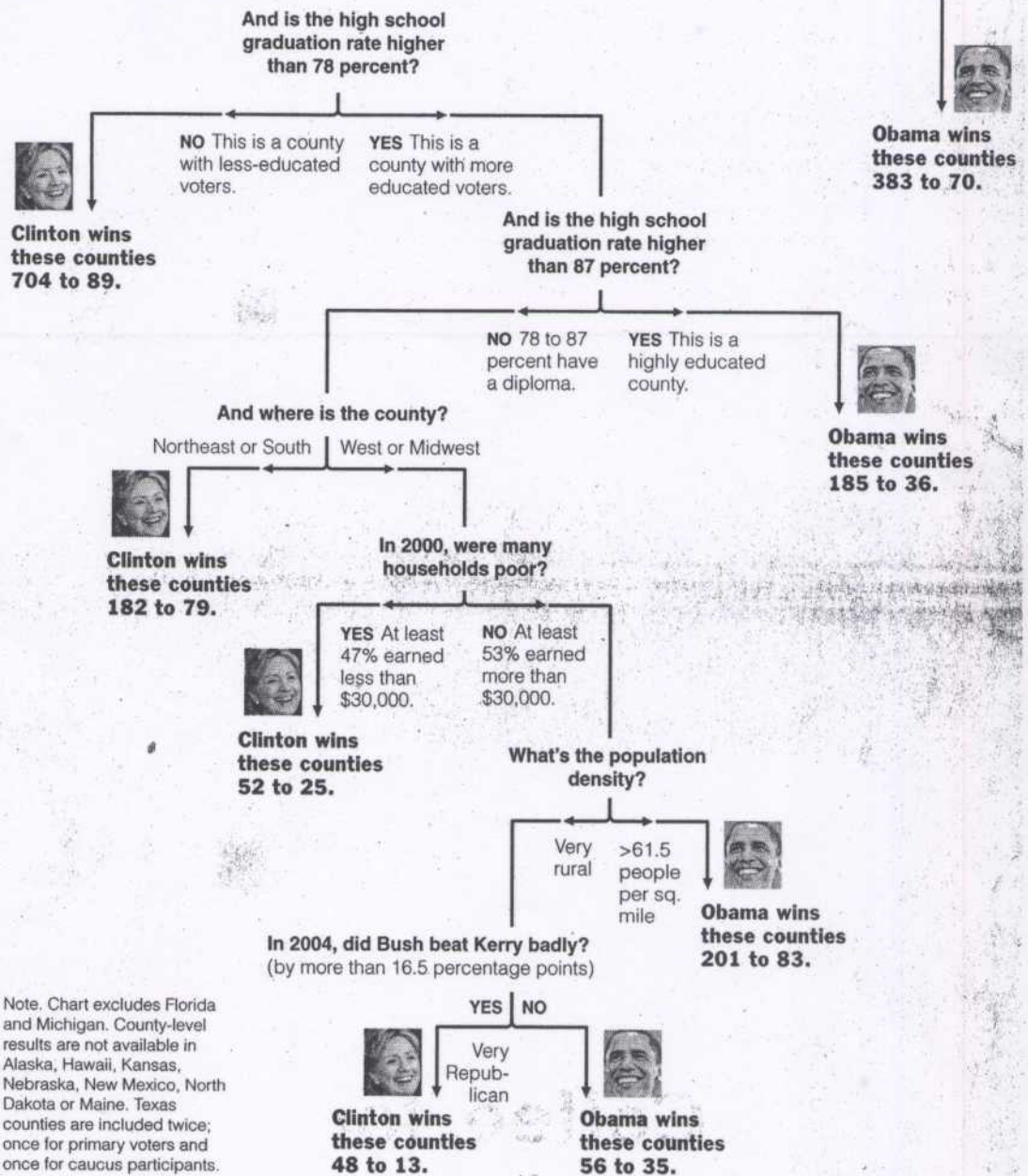


Decision Tree: The Obama, Clinton Divide

In the nominating contests so far, Senator Barack Obama has won the vast majority of counties with large black or highly educated populations. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton has a commanding lead in less-educated counties dominated by whites. Follow the arrows for a more detailed split.



Note. Chart excludes Florida and Michigan. County-level results are not available in Alaska, Hawaii, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota or Maine. Texas counties are included twice; once for primary voters and once for caucus participants.

Sources: Election results via The Associated Press; Census Bureau; Dave Leip's Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections

AMANDA COX/
THE NEW YORK TIMES

whether Mr. Obama could weather a Republican onslaught in the fall, should he win the presidential nomination.

In Pennsylvania, as well as coming primaries in Indiana and North Carolina, did Mr. Obama provide another excuse for white voters to voice qualms about his candidacy without acknowledging that it is his race that troubles them? If he defeats Mrs. Clinton, will accusations of elitism dog him as they have previous Democratic nominees? Does Senator John McCain, the presumptive Republican nominee, suddenly have an issue that will resonate for the next six months?

It is the criticism from Republicans, though, that worries many Democrats. A senior adviser to Mr. McCain, Steve Schmidt, told reporters on Tuesday that Mr. Obama's comments were "condescending and elitist" and that they would keep up the criticism "for the duration of Senator Obama's candidacy."

Mrs. Clinton and Mr. Obama seemed to back away from criticizing each other in their respective campaign appearances Tuesday, after days of intense and personal confrontations. Again and again, Mrs. Clinton had branded Mr. Obama as an elitist, while Mr. Obama had mocked Mrs. Clinton as "talking like she is Annie Oakley," after she waxed nostalgically about shooting guns.

Yet television commercials from both candidates continued to broadcast the charges, ensuring that the debate will almost certainly flare until the primary on Tuesday. It also offered Mrs. Clinton a fresh rationale to make to superdelegates that Mr. Obama is a flawed general-election candidate.

That, however, is precisely what troubles many voters in Pennsylvania and beyond.

"I wish they would just go into a corner and figure it out and quit fighting," said Dave Davis, 52, an electrical worker from Oregon, who heard Mr. Obama speak at a union rally on Tuesday but is undecided between the candidates. "Taking shots at each other isn't doing anybody any good. It will only help Republicans in the end."

POLITICAL MEMO

Inner Journalist, and a Second Firestorm Erupts

Huffington founded OffTheBus, says they anticipated this kind of problem arising when they de-

gave \$500 to Fred Thompson, the former senator from Tennessee, even though he is a Republican.

events closed to the media." And, he added, there is not much a campaign can do about it.

standards of journalism on the Internet," she said. "I'm always second-guessing myself. Is this