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(71) Applicant and  
(72) Inventor: KELLER, Paul [US/US]; 4585 Liberty Rd., South Euclid, OH 44121 (US).

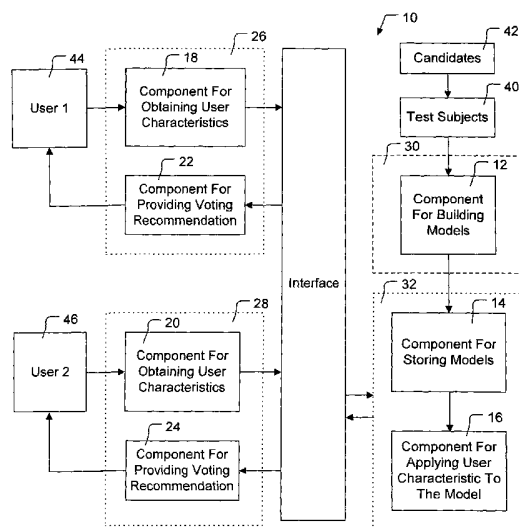
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(54) Title: VOTER ADVISORY SERVICE



(57) Abstract: One aspect of the present invention (Figure 1) relates to using data from test subjects to develop a model encoding a generalized relationship between user characteristics and candidate preferences. The test subjects can take extensive amounts of time to investigate candidates, whereby the model can relate user characteristics to informed candidate preferences. Another aspect of the invention relates to applying the model to provide users with voting recommendations, which relate to how the users would vote if the users were to undertake an extensive investigation of the candidates such as undertaken by the test subjects. According to a further aspect of the invention, users are divided based on their characteristics among clusters, which can be defined in such a way that cluster identity is highly predictive of candidate preferences. Clusters can be used to encourage block voting, form political parties, and to conduct political research.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
 IPC(7) :H04M 11/00  
 US CL :379/92.02  
 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**  
 Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
 U.S. : 379/92.02, 92.01, 92.03, 92.04; 705/12, 10; 455/2

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
 EAST

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X ---- Y	US 5,717,865 A (STRATMANN ET AL.) 10 February 1998, col. 1, lines 41-42, 46-48; col. 3, lines 24-67; col. 5, lines 12-14.	1-9, 12-15, 17-19, 21-36 ----- 10-11, 16, 20
Y	US 6,151,565 A (LOBLEY ET AL.) 21 November 2000, Abstract; col. 12, lines 1 - col. 14, line 56.	10-11, 16, 20
X	EP 0917333 A1 (BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS) 19 May 1999, col. 1, line 10; col. 5, lines 1-21.	37-38
X, P	US 6,260,019 B1 (COURTS) 10 JULY 2001, col. 12, lines 49-65.	37-38

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.  See patent family annex.

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"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Box PCT, Washington, D.C. 20231  
 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230  
 Authorized officer: Stella Wood (703) 305-4395  
*Kuzema Zogan*

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6,012,051 A (SAMMONS, JR. ET AL) 04 January 2000, col. 4, line 60 - col. 5, line 31; col. 15, lines 6-23.	1-36