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Embargoed for Release at 8:00pm EST:

## **Exit Poll Results Show Major Defeat for Chavez**

New York, August 15, 2004, 7:30pm EST – With Venezuela's voting set to end at 8:00pm EST according to election officials, final exit poll results from Penn, Schoen & Berland Associates, an independent New York-based polling firm, show a major victory for the "Yes" movement, defeating Chavez in the Venezuelan presidential recall referendum.

With more than 8 million Venezuelans having cast their ballots so far, the results of a national exit poll show that Chavez has been ousted by referendum.

**The Penn, Schoen & Berland Associates exit poll shows 59% in favor of recalling Chavez (the "Si" or "Yes", anti-Chavez vote) and 41% against recalling Chavez (the "No", pro-Chavez vote).**

The poll results referred to in this release are based on an exit poll just concluded in Venezuela. This is a national exit poll conducted in **267 voting centers** throughout the country. The centers were selected to be broadly representative of the national electorate in regional and demographic terms.

In these centers, **20,382 voters were interviewed**. Voters were selected at random but according to a strict demographic breakdown by age and gender to ensure a **representative mix reflective of the national electorate**. Those voters who were randomly selected to participate in this exit poll were asked to indicate only their vote ("Si" – for "Yes" – or "No") on a small ballot which they could then personally drop into a large envelope in order to maintain secrecy and anonymity. Data was sent by exit poll workers to a central facility in Caracas, Venezuela for processing and verification.

The margin of error for these final exit poll results referred to in this release is under +/-1%.