# A Study in Futility: Why Perpetually Losing Voters Keep Coming Back on Election Day 

A Thesis Presented By

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#### Abstract

Whereas many studies of political participation have focused on voter behavior, none have addressed the effect that winning and losing has on turnout. In this study I investigate why chronic losers continue to participate in elections despite the fact that they have little to no chance of their candidate winning. A series of tests based on data gathered from the 2004 National Annenberg Election Survey and my own survey administered through the Amazon Mechanical Turk system will form the basis for analysis for this study. In this research I find that there is reason to believe that perpetual losers participate in elections for different reasons than people who are chronic winners or who live within highly competitive Congressional Districts. This is accomplished through reviewing several motivations and beliefs that have been posited to influence voting behavior. I find that a false sense of competition, habitual voting behaviors, and strength of partisanship are significant contributors to the political participation of chronic losers.


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## Preface

During the week leading up to the Presidential election of 2008, my wife and I were discussing politics and I asked her whom she planned to vote for in the election. She just laughed at me and then proceeded to tell me that she had no intention of voting because it was a waste of time. At first I thought she was crazy because voting, to me, is one of the most important things in my life. Then, as I began to think about what she said, I realized that our Congressman, Senator, and Governor were from the opposite party of the one with which we identify. As a matter of fact, our party had not held a single major office other than President for the eight years we had lived in our house. I thought, "[w]ell, at least we've won the presidential election," but we hadn't. Our state had given its electoral votes to the same party for eight years as well. This is when I began to ponder why it is that some people who are never able to experience victory at the polls continue to vote while others choose not to. When I began to study political science in college I was introduced to Anthony Downs' theory regarding rational voters. I knew immediately that the theory was flawed, even before I understood the calculus, because people like me existed. According to Downs I should not be participating in elections. From that point until the writing of this paper I have been looking for the answer to why I still feel the desire to vote in elections. With any luck this paper will answer that question for myself and others who still show up on Election Day, despite the insurmountable odds against us.

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## I

## Introduction

Many electoral districts in the United States (U.S.) show a pattern of one party winning the majority of elections by sizeable margins. In fact, since 1982, thirty-six Congressional Districts have experienced landslide elections (elections won by a margin greater than twenty percent) in more than fifty percent of their elections. ${ }^{1}$ After the election, the winning candidate assumes a position in government while the supporters develop into either "individuals who belong to the political majority-the political 'winners'... [or the] political minority-that is, the 'losers'" (Anderson and Tverdova 2001, 322). According to rational theories of voting behavior, we would expect this recurring pattern of one-sided victories to provide little incentive for supporters on either side to continue voting. These theories also suggest that extended periods of one-sided losses would depress voter turnout due to a sense of futility on the part of losing voters and a lack of competition for the winners. Psychological accounts of behavior lead us to expect such recurring defeats to be emotionally dispiriting and motivate a withdrawal from political life. At the very least, it is likely that perpetual losers would be better served placing their energy in political activities outside the realm of voting. ${ }^{2}$

However, despite all of this, many chronic losers continue to vote. Why, then, do citizens who support the persistently losing party in their district continue to vote in elections? Scholars have failed to investigate this question to date. Research on voters who have no prospect of winning in elections is important for the American notion of democracy because it will enrich

[^0]the understanding of what it is that makes people take time out of their busy lives and participate in the election. Furthermore, for political scientists this not only means a new area of exploration, but also suggests other potentially promising avenues of future research on voting behavior. What if other groups in society also participate in elections for different reasons or in different ways than modern theories or one-size-fits-all empirical studies have suggested? Also, political campaigns will be better equipped to motivate chronic losers to participate in elections if they understand what motivates these voters. If they succeed, then voter turnout may be increased and a previously unheard from segment of society will have a voice in elections. After all, if this country is to truly be a representative democracy then all of its people should make their opinions known so that representation does not favor any one type of citizen but instead stands for all citizens.

I expect that the motivations that cause perpetual losers to participate on Election Day are markedly different from the motivations of both voters in competitive districts and perpetually winning voters. I will test this expectation by examining what role several hypothesized factors-civic duty, social networks, mobilization, habit, and expressive desires-play in motivating citizens to vote across these different groups. In addition, I posit that the multi-level nature of U.S. elections-federal, state, and local-can provide an alternative motivation to vote even when prospects of victory are grim at one or two levels of electoral competition.

## II

## Political Losers

Until now there have been no studies specifically to evaluate the voting decisions of electoral losers in particular. However, there has been some work done on how losing affects a person's sense of political efficacy. Christopher Anderson and Yuliya Tverdova (2001) describe political efficacy as "the feeling that individual political action does have, or can have, an impact upon the political process...the feeling that political and social change is possible, and that the individual citizen can play a part in bringing about this change" (325). Efficacy can be broken down into two different types: internal efficacy and external efficacy, or political trust. "Internal efficacy...is based upon people's beliefs about how much say they personally have in politics and about their ability to understand politics," while external efficacy "is defined in terms of people's beliefs about legislators' interest in their views and whether legislators maintain contact with their constituents" (Lambert et al. 1986, 706). "When we look at the differences between winners and losers...we find that there is very little difference in their levels of...efficacy" (Anderson and Tverdova 2001, 330). Thus, in a comparative study of democracies, they conclude that winning or losing does not substantially affect a person's level of political efficacy. Anderson and Tverdova go on to show that "on average, the internal efficacy gap between those in the majority and those in the minority is a negligible 1.3 percent" (330).

However, in an analysis of the effects of winning and losing on political trust, or external efficacy, Christopher Anderson and Andrew LoTempio (2002) suggest that voters behave differently depending on the type and quantity of wins and losses they experience. They divide participants into four groups based on the elections voters won and lost. If the voter won in one type of the election but lost in the other, they were identified as partial winners and then further
segregated as "partial presidential winners" or "partial congressional winners" depending on which election it was their candidate won (344). ${ }^{3}$ However, if their voting resulted in winning both the presidential and congressional elections they were labeled "double winners" and, conversely, if voters lost in both elections they were cast as "double losers" (344). Anderson and LoTempio found that, on the issue of political trust, what mattered most to a person was whether or not their presidential candidate won. If this is the case, then we would expect that any voter who experienced a presidential loss, or a presidential loss in conjunction with multiple other losses, would experience a decrease in political trust. This directly contradicts Anderson and Tverdova who said that neither internal nor external efficacy are greatly affected by a voter's wins or losses in the election.

Thus, while there is a small literature on how electoral losses affect voters, it suffers from at least three weaknesses in addressing the question of this study. First, prior studies have examined the impact of losses on feelings of efficacy and system legitimacy, but not on political participation. Second, the findings with regard to efficacy are contradictory. Third, prior studies only consider the immediate impact of one round of electoral losses, not the impact of persistent losses over a period of years or decades. This underscores the necessity for greater understanding of the role losing has on voters and what it means for their long-term participation in elections. A starting point for thinking about such research is in the modern theories regarding political participation and especially efforts to explain voter turnout. Through these theories it may be possible to identify ways in which chronic losers differ from other voters.

[^1]
## III <br> The Theories

While research directly examining the impact of repeated electoral losses on participation is limited, a substantial body of work dedicated to the study of mass voting behavior may help to shed light on factors that shape the decision of chronic losers to participate or not. There are three types of theories regarding voter turnout: rational, resource, and social. Rational theories believe that the act of turning out at the polls on Election Day is a calculable equation and that for every member of society the equation is solved in the same way. Resource models, while less strict in their mathematics, emphasize the relatively fixed or slow-changing attributes of a person's socioeconomic standing in predicting what they will do on Election Day. The most flexible of these models are the social models. These take account of the wider variety of individual experiences, beliefs, and motivations that can cause a person to be more or less likely to participate on Election Day. We can begin with rational theories.

Anthony Downs (1957) stated that every decision we make, including the decision to vote, is made by calculation. If the benefits of the decision outweigh the costs we go ahead, if not we don't. In regards to the decision to vote, Downs supplies us with the formula $V=p B-C$ where $V$ is the decision to vote, $B$ is the benefits a person receives from voting, $C$ is any associated costs of voting, and $p$ is the probability that the voter will cast the decisive vote in the election. However, this calculus fails to model actual voter participation well. The difficulty lies with the variable $p$. Because elections are collective decisions and the expected benefits are also collective, a person's decision to vote hinges on the anticipated size of those benefits only to the extent the person expects his or her vote to affect the outcome (i.e., break a tie). Since this probability reduces the value of $B$ to near zero as the number of voters grows, any costs
associated with the act of voting outweigh the small value of $p B$, leaving the conclusion that nobody is expected to vote.

In an effort to overcome the weakness of this model, William Riker and Peter Ordeshook (1968) added a new variable to the Downsian calculus. The new formula is $V=p B-C+D$, in which D represents the five satisfying elements that voters receive from their participation in elections. These include "the satisfaction from compliance with the ethic of voting," "the satisfaction from affirming allegiance to the political system," "the satisfaction from affirming a partisan preference," "the satisfaction of deciding, going to the polls, etc.," and "the satisfaction of affirming one's efficacy in the political system" (Riker and Ordeshook 1968, 28). While this does resolve the problem with the Downsian model that practically eliminates all voters from participating in elections, it does not address the root problem. All Riker and Ordeshook did was allow the values $p B$ and $C$ to continue to cancel each other out and allow D to be the entire determinant to whether a person votes or not. In other words, any number of individual or situational factors-a grandmother's admonition, the social camaraderie of going to the polls with friends, a rainy day - can tip the scales between voting and not (Aldrich 1993; Rosenstone 1982; Schlozman et al. 1995; Schier 2000). What this points out, then, is that while trying to explain voting behavior as a rational decision, Downs, Riker, and Ordeshook show that it is actually the psychological motivations that play the largest role in voters deciding to participate in elections. With this in mind, we can move onto resource theories.

Resource theories suggest that it is the things like education, income, age, and geographic location that impact a person's decision to vote. Raymond Wolfinger and Steven Rosenstone (1980) stated that a person's resources are one way to identify the reason some people vote while others do not. The resources that were used for the "classification of people is limited to
demographic characteristics (age, income, place of residence, and so forth) and to some contextual variables (such as voter registration laws)" (Wolfinger and Rosenstone 1980, 1). Of these characteristics, only a few have a significant impact on a person's decision to vote. The most important trait was the level of education a person possesses. Wolfinger and Rosenstone's study suggested, "education increases one's capacity for understanding complex and intangible subjects such as politics, as well as encouraging the ethic of civic responsibility" (102). This finding is supported in multiple studies regarding the importance of education on voter turnout (Krupnikov 2009; Wattenberg 2002). In addition, Steven Finkel (1987) shows that "younger, more highly educated and more left-wing individuals are more likely to participate aggressively in politics" (458). These studies seem to make it clear that education is, in fact, important to determining whether or not a person will vote, but why?
D. Sunshine Hillygus (2005) not only confirmed that education is an exceptional indicator of a person's likelihood of voting, but also expanded on the idea. First, by examining the effects of high scores on the SAT, "there appears no evidence that general intelligence influences political activity" (36). Instead, it is a person's educational exposure to studies in the social sciences that "has a consistent, positive and statistically significant effect" on measures of participation (37). These results imply that there is a correlation between exposure to an education that develops civic interest and skills and a person's likelihood to vote. Therefore, as in the case of rational theory, we are left with the suggestion that it is mainly one's sense of civic duty that encourages voter participation. However, the relationship between education and participation is not infinite. The amount by which education makes a person more likely to vote seems to stop as soon as the level of education becomes higher than the average education of the other people around the voter, suggesting a role for social networks and selective mobilization,
topics to which we shall turn momentarily (Nie et al. 1996). Since both rational and resource theories point to the importance of civic duty let us move on to social theories by first examining civic duty.

Because of Riker and Ordeshook, civic duty is often associated with rational voting theories. For instance, Robert Salisbury (1975) suggests, "it is quite rational for people to vote out of a strong sense of civic duty despite a lack of effective policy alternatives, so long as the personal value derived from fulfilling civic duty looms larger than whatever costs the voting act entails" (333). However, where rational and resource theories suggest possible reasons that people are able to vote, social theories seek to explain why it is that people would want to vote (Verba et al. 1995). In short, they focus on motivations. Many campaigns use advertising to increase the public's feeling of civic duty, which in turn should make it more likely that viewers of the advertisement participate on Election Day (Geys 2006). Cindy Kam (2007) studied the ways in which citizens reacted to appeals of citizen duty from the candidates. The study's goal was to "determine the extent to which a call to citizen duty in campaign discourse can encourage citizens to devote more cognitive effort to thinking about politics" (19). Kam found that "on average, subjects in the citizen-duty condition learned more, thought more, and sought information in a more open-minded way" (26). This conclusion, taken in tandem with the idea that the more information a voter is exposed to in a campaign, the more likely they are to vote, suggest an indirect means by which duty may prompt losers to continue to participate in elections, as well as the direct motivation to adhere to the social norm that suggests good citizens vote. Furthermore, one study suggests that high levels of civic duty had the ability to get voters to the polls despite explicit negative costs such as rainstorms on Election Day (Knack 1994).

In addition to civic duty, scholars of social, or psychological, voting behavior suggest other potential contributing characteristics that have a measurable impact on a person's decision to participate in elections. One of these is a person's social network and the enticements and pressures it creates to please others. "In an ABC-Harvard poll conducted in 1983 (Alderman 1983), $37 \%$ of respondents-including $41 \%$ of voters-cited as a reason for voting the statement 'My friends and relatives almost always vote and I'd feel uncomfortable telling them I hadn't voted'" (Knack 1992, 137). Furthermore, Hahrie Han (2009) found that "citizens are more likely to participate in politics, and more likely to intend to participate in the future, the more they talk to other people" (283). The social network theory of voting behavior suggests that it is due to social discussion that voters are motivated to vote (LeDuc et al. 2002). One of the things that increase a person's ability to engage in social discussion is close relationships within a person's neighborhood (Wattenberg 2002). The idea is that these relationships "provide external encouragement to vote, as well an enhanced sense of an election's meaningfulness" (Teixeria 1992, 36-37). In addition, social groups provide voters with information that they may not have had access to within their own means which assists them in being more informed about the election and therefore more likely to participate (McClurg 2003).

Some scholars have suggested that as voters age their propensity to turnout increases due to their habit of participating on Election Day. The data from one paper suggests, "a mobilization campaign that stimulates 1000 people to vote in the current election produces an additional 887 votes in elections that follow" (Gerber et al. 2003, 549). John Aldrich et al. (2011) ran a series of tests in which strong levels of habit were able to affect the impact that traditional resource and social factors had on voter participation. This suggests chronic losers may continue voting, while opposition seems to be insurmountable, because it is habitual. After all, if a voter were
encouraged to participate in elections when their district was competitive, and habit is a legitimate factor in determining a person's propensity to vote, we would expect that individual to continue voting even after their district has become less competitive. However, it has also been argued that participating in the election and losing to the majority party "may frustrate citizens such that they will become ever more politicized and involved in the process with the aim of bringing about change in a system that appears stacked against them-that is, losers may make their voice heard" (Anderson 2005, 51). Therefore, let us turn to information regarding expressive voting.

A further motivation that may explain perpetual losers choosing to participate despite the odds is to use their vote to communicate a message to other people. In one study of expressive voting, Thomas Piketty (1999) suggests that some voters use their electoral voice in order to communicate something to people about elections to come in the future. Piketty (1999) submits that there are at least three different channels through which 'communicative voting' can influence future elections:

1. Voters expect mainstream parties to move towards their expressed views;
2. Voters want to learn the strength of each candidate so as to better coordinate their future votes;
3. Voters try to influence others' opinions by expressing their political beliefs (169).

However, in addition to Piketty, Geoffrey Brennan and Loren Lomasky (1993) point out that expressive voting may have nothing to do with long-term impact. Instead they show that occasionally people may participate "from a desire to express feelings and desires simply for the sake of the expression itself and without any necessary implication that the desired outcome will be brought about thereby" (33). While this type of voting is probably most commonly associated
with supporters of third parties that hold very little hope of achieving national prominence, it could also be a factor in members of the Democratic and Republican parties when they are geographically located in areas where their political opinions are not represented. One reason may be that, even in these areas, chronic losers are still actively pursued by election campaigns. This pursuit is characterized by what Steven Rosenstone and John Hansen (1993) referred to as mobilization.

Rosenstone and Hansen suggest that various political forces actively mobilize voters. These can include candidates running for election, mobilization from one's own political party, or exposure to politically driven issues. In addition, mobilizing agents may be dependent on the very people they hope to motivate. Sidney Verba (1967) suggests that voters must not only be exposed to the things that affect their decision to vote, but when "messages are sent...they may or may not be received and acted upon. Much depends on the people to whom the messages are sent" (66). Verba goes on to show that the responsiveness of a voter can be characterized by their resources, motivation, structural conduciveness, and cultural conduciveness (67). If a voter is politically dependent for their job, for instance, they have a high likelihood of accepting mobilizing messages.

Furthermore, according to some survey data, it appears that when a minority of Democrats are living within a majority district of Republicans they tend be more mobilized than Republicans in a Democratically dominated area (Gimpel et al. 2004). In fact, "different studies on different elections at different times using different methods have all found that political mobilization-variously labeled voter contact, get-out-the-vote (GOTV), or the voter canvassmatters" (Goldstein and Ridout 2002, 3). This concludes the reflection on the five common
motivational factors typically considered by social voter models. However, I would like to propose one more possible motivation before moving on to my own research.

In addition to characteristics of voters themselves, the election process itself may also be capable of mobilizing voters on Election Day. To begin with, elections are not held in isolation from each other and so each election is "oftentimes influenced by more than one electoral context" (Gilliam 1985, 348). Some of these contexts may be local ballot proposals, a close friend running for public office, or the way voters attach importance to particular elections. Though turnout rates suggest that voters are more attracted to "major" races such as presidential, gubernatorial, and congressional elections, some voters may be more deeply engaged with local and state affairs.

Furthermore, one particular aspect of context is that, in each election year, candidates at every level of government, from sheriff to president, contribute large sums of money on campaign advertising. Because of this the average voter is barraged daily with reminders to vote for someone, or something, on Election Day. The district attorney may have yard signs while the city mayor purchases a billboard. Then while watching prime time television an ad spot supporting a particular presidential candidate may come on. Voters may find mailers from candidates for the House of Representatives or Senate. While each of these items only represent one particular candidate or ballot proposal, they do not exist independently from one another. Instead, I believe that each of them increase the likelihood that a person will choose to participate on Election Day.

First, each interaction with political rhetoric is a reminder to participate. Additionally, in conjunction with my opinion that the multi-level nature of elections is what matters, each exposure increases the possibility that the voter will find something they believe is worth
showing up for on Election Day. One example of how one election can affect voter turnout in other elections is illuminated by the drop off in voter turnout in years other than presidential elections illustrated in Figure 1. ${ }^{4}$

Figure 1 Voter Turnout by Voter Eligible Population


[^2]
## IV <br> Research Design

In this study I compare the beliefs, motivations, and behavior of chronic losers to those residing in competitive districts and to those who perpetually win. In order to do this I first categorize voters into levels of competition. Next, I evaluated how these data speak to earlier contradictory results regarding the political efficacy of electoral losers. Then I will examine turnout patterns, to see if there is any validity to the expectations of rational and psychological theories that voter hopelessness drives down voting in districts where one party dominates. Finally, I will test hypotheses about the role of several motivational factors in sustaining voter participation, by examining both the presence of these motivations and their explanatory power through the lens of district partisan competitiveness. I will be analyzing each of these steps with data from the 2004 National Annenberg Election Survey (NAES) and an original survey administered through the Amazon Mechanical Turk (MTurk) system from March 2 through March 10, 2012.

Let us begin by establishing how voters are sorted into partisan competitiveness categories: chronic losers, chronic winners, and all others. Congressional Districts were classified using voter turnout data from the CQ Press Voting and Elections Collection. From this information, I created two tables: one table tracked how many losses a party experienced by a margin of twenty percent or more, and the other table recorded every loss regardless of margin. Each table marks whether Republicans or Democrats lost in each Presidential, Senatorial, House, and Gubernatorial election. Republican losses were then subtracted from the Democratic losses and divided by the total elections in that district. Therefore, a negative number identifies districts
where Republicans perpetually lose and a positive number indicates districts where Democrats perpetually lose.

Because the two surveys used in this study are from different periods of time, the time period used to determine chronic competitiveness for each is different. For the NAES survey, election data are from the period between 1982 and 2004. Meanwhile, the MTurk election data covers the period from 1982 through 2010. Finally, respondents were classified, according to their district's level of competition, into roughly equally sized groups. For instance, in the NAES table, group one includes approximately twenty percent of the respondents and represents districts where Democrats win the most. Similarly, group five also includes around twenty percent of the respondents, but identifies districts in which Republicans dominate elections. ${ }^{5}$

The NAES survey was selected from several other major potential surveys between 2000 and 2010 including those by the American National Election Studies, the General Social Survey, and the Cooperative Congressional Election Study. The 2004 NAES National Rolling Crosssection was administered to 81,422 respondents between October 2003 and November 2004. It was selected for this work because it covered current theories on voter participation fairly well and because its large sample size ensured dispersion of many voters across diverse Congressional Districts. The benefit of the NAES sample size is that, as the number of respondents rises, it becomes easier to observe even modest differences across voters and districts with greater confidence. However, there are also drawbacks to the 2004 NAES. The questions available on the 2004 NAES survey do not address any of the modern theories adequately and some of the most promising questions were asked only during a portion of the year, undercutting some of the benefits of sample size. Therefore, I will use the MTurk survey to

[^3]both check the results gained from the NAES survey and to improve the depth and scope of concepts measured.

MTurk is an online service in which Internet users (workers) are paid small fees to perform Human Intelligence Tasks (HIT's). Workers can be recruited to complete surveys programmed in Qualtrics in order to give random assignment to experimental conditions. The only requirements for respondents are a computer with Internet connection and to be at least 18 years old. Subjects received 40 cents for completion of my 12-minute survey. The MTurk system, available on Amazon.com, enables researchers access to a larger and often more diverse (e.g., educationally, geographically) pool of respondents than is normally available for the standard undergraduate surveys, which tend to be limited to university students. In addition, MTurk offers the ability to recruit a good number of respondents in a matter of days. ${ }^{6}$ A similar study on a university campus may provide half the number of respondents in a matter of weeks or even months. However, in comparison to an expensive study like the 2004 NAES, the number of respondents available and affordable through MTurk is much lower. Yet the latter provides an opportunity to improve the quality and suitability of the questions for this research. By doing so it is possible to collect data on respondents related to each of the theories of voting behavior. ${ }^{7}$

Both the NAES and the MTurk surveys were evaluated in a similar manner. First, in order to illuminate the effect that competition has on political efficacy and demonstrate that voter fatigue is not as high as expected by rational theories in districts dominated by a single party, individual questions will be analyzed based on district competitiveness. Then I will examine the

[^4]way in which the hypothesized factors affect political participation based on competition. Groups of questions will be arranged into a series of three linear regressions (one for big losers, one for big winners, and one for competitive districts).

## IV

## 2004 NAES findings

In this section I will analyze respondent's answers to a large national survey, through the lenses of modern voter theories, in order to focus in on the ways in which behaviors of chronic losers are different from other voters. ${ }^{8}$ However, as mentioned before, the 2004 NAES does have a few limitations when it comes to evaluating voter motivations, but its large sample size does hold the promise of greater analytical leverage over the elements it covers. Recall that Anderson and Tverdova (2001) stated that winning and losing had no effect on political efficacy and that Anderson and LoTempio (2002) showed that winning and losing did have an effect on political trust. The NAES offers three questions by which it is possible to evaluate theses two claims. All three are political efficacy questions with one being based on external efficacy, or political trust, and two based on internal efficacy. In Figure 2, the responses to these three questions are shown in three groups based on their electoral win-loss record. Because each of these questions is answered with either yes or no, the scale on the vertical axis represents the proportion of yes answers to each of the three questions. As the figure shows, Anderson and Tverdova's (2001) findings are supported by the 2004 NAES, as level of competition has almost no identifiable difference on the three questions. In fact, the largest spread between any of the competition categories is less than two percent.

[^5]Figure 5.1 Measures of Political Efficacy


Next, I used the 2004 NAES to determine whether winning and losing has an effect on voter participation. As mentioned before, modern theories of voting behavior suggest that over the course of time the perpetual winners and losers should both experience a measureable fatigue in their turnout behavior. In order to measure this, four measurements of political turnout will be used. For the sake of thoroughness both simple losses (those elections where the voters experienced a loss no matter what percentage the margin was) and big losses (elections that were lost by a spread of at least twenty percent) are used to show the proportion of voters that participated. Figures 3 through 6 illustrate the answers of the respondents to questions regarding political turnout, categorized by the level of competition in their districts, based on twenty-two years of election history.

Figure 5.2 Proportion of Respondents Registered


Figure 5.3 Proportion of Respondents who Intend to or Already did Vote in the Primary


Figure 5.4 Proportion of Respondents who Intend to Vote in the 2004 General Election


Level of Competition (1=Democrat Dominated, 5=Republican Dominated)

Figure 5.5 Proportion of Respondents Voted in the 2004 General Election

Figure 4: 2004NAES Voted in General Election


Level of Competition (1=Democrat Dominated, 5=Republican Dominated)

Looking at these figures we should expect to find an inverse parabola of voter turnout according to both rational and psychological theories of turnout. An inverse parabola would demonstrate that voter fatigue occurs at both the level of perpetual winner and perpetual loser while turnout in competitive districts remains higher than both. However, what we find in the NAES is quite different than this expectation. Instead, where there is a change in voter turn out, levels of voter participation show a linear fatigue where the highest levels occur where the voters party dominates the district and, where a voters party is dominated, participation is lower. This occurs in all but one instance. The greatest range in voter turnout occurs among Democrats in Figure 2. In this case participation drops from $67 \%$ where Democrats dominate elections to 58\% where Republicans control the district. ${ }^{9}$ Meanwhile, in the question regarding a voters intention to vote in the general election Republicans showed no change in turnout across all three categories of competition in both the simple loser and big loser scale. Therefore, while in most of the cases there is a slight drop off in participation in districts where the party is dominated, in none of the examples do the perpetual winners show any sign of fatigue. While this does not bode well for previous theories, for our purposes it is good news. Not only are chronic losers continuing to vote in the face of staggering opposition, they are doing so at levels near or at those of competitive districts. Now let us try to determine why.

Therefore, we move to examining the ways in which the six theories of voter participation are reflected in the respondents to the NAES. By doing so this study may show what it is that motivates voters to participate regardless of the level of competitiveness in their district. In order to evaluate resource and social theories of participation, let us examine six dependent measures of voter turnout. These measures include the same four used to evaluate

[^6]rational theories (registered, intend to or already did vote in the primary election, intend to vote in the general election, voted in the general election) plus chance of voting in the primary election and chance of voting in the general election.

Independent variables, referred to in Tables one through six as key variables, are constructed in four different ways. Attend religious service, ideological extremity, and social exposure at work place are taken from single questions. Both attendance of religious services and social exposure at work are being used in this test to account for a persons social influences by measuring how often that person is in contact with potential political interactions. Meanwhile, ideological extremity, along with strength of partisanship, is interpreted as a measure of a person's expressive character.

Strength of partisanship and percent life at residence were both constructed using the answers to multiple questions. Strength of partisanship is built by combining the responses to three individual questions about the respondent's party identification to create a seven-point scale with strong republican on one end and strong democrat on the other. The party identification scale was then folded to create a four-point scale ranging from no party identification (independent) to strong party identification. This scale is what is represented in the term strength of partisanship. Percent life at residence is a simple calculation of a person's age response divided by their response to a question asking how long the person had been living in their residence. The purpose of this variable is to try to evaluate how connected the respondent feels to their community.

Finally, the variables discussed politics in social circle ( $\boldsymbol{\alpha}=0.71$ ) and feelings about candidates $(\boldsymbol{\alpha}=0.35)$ represent averages of the responses to multiple questions. Discussed politics in social circle combined responses to three questions asking how many days in the last
week the respondent had discussed politics with a) friends or family, b) workmates, and c) people online. The intention of including this question is to capture the respondents mobilizing agents, but could also be seen as groups within a person's social network. Feelings about candidates combines two questions that are nearly identical. Each question asked how favorably the survey taker felt about a) George W. Bush and b) John Kerry. This variable is interpreted to reflect the respondent's attitude towards the multi-level nature of elections. In other words, regardless of the issues, does a person's attitude about a candidate's character encourage them to participate on Election Day.

Table 5.1 Determinants of Voter Registration (2004 NAES Survey)

|  | Competition Category |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Big Loser | Competitive | Big Winner |
| Key Explanatory Variables |  |  |  |
| Feelings About Candidates | $\begin{aligned} & 0.042^{* *} \\ & (0.011) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.034^{* *} \\ & (0.005) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.041^{* *} \\ & (0.009) \end{aligned}$ |
| Strength of Partisanship | $\begin{aligned} & 0.097 \text { ** } \\ & (0.011) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.053^{* *} \\ & (0.005) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.088^{* *} \\ (0.008) \end{gathered}$ |
| Ideological Extremity | $\begin{aligned} & -0.004 \\ & (0.010) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.003 \\ & (0.004) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.009 \\ & (0.007) \end{aligned}$ |
| Discussed Politics in Social Circle | $\begin{aligned} & 0.128 * * \\ & (0.016) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.105^{* *} \\ & (0.008) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.099^{* *} \\ & (0.012) \end{aligned}$ |
| Percent Life At Residence | $\begin{aligned} & 0.123^{* *} \\ & (0.016) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.104^{* *} \\ & (0.007) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.133 * * \\ & (0.012) \end{aligned}$ |
| Social Exposure at Workplace | $\begin{aligned} & 0.030^{* *} \\ & (0.008) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.022 * * \\ & (0.004) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.021^{* *} \\ & (0.006) \end{aligned}$ |
| Religious Attendance | $\begin{aligned} & 0.061^{* *} \\ & (0.010) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.047 * * \\ & (0.005) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.037 * * \\ & (0.007) \end{aligned}$ |
| Control |  |  |  |
| Age | $\begin{aligned} & 0.373 * * \\ & (0.024) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.344 * * \\ & (0.012) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.354 * * \\ & (0.019) \end{aligned}$ |
| Sex | $\begin{aligned} & 0.016^{* *} \\ & (0.006) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.017 * * \\ & (0.003) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.018 * * \\ & (0.005) \end{aligned}$ |
| Education | $\begin{aligned} & 0.147 * * \\ & (0.013) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.127^{* *} \\ & (0.006) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.141^{* *} \\ & (0.010) \end{aligned}$ |
| Income | $\begin{aligned} & 0.121^{* *} \\ & (0.016) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.068^{* *} \\ & (0.008) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.075^{* *} \\ & (0.012) \end{aligned}$ |
| Married | $\begin{aligned} & 0.034^{* *} \\ & (0.007) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.024^{* *} \\ & (0.003) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.025^{* *} \\ & (0.005) \end{aligned}$ |
| Black | $\begin{gathered} 0.009 \\ (0.013) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.002 \\ & (0.006) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.016^{*} \\ (0.008) \end{gathered}$ |
| Minority | $\begin{aligned} & -0.053^{* *} \\ & (0.014) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.050^{* *} \\ & (0.007) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.050^{* *} \\ & (0.010) \end{aligned}$ |
| Hispanic | $\begin{aligned} & -0.033 * * \\ & (0.015) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.026^{* *} \\ & (0.007) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.040^{* *} \\ & (0.011) \end{aligned}$ |
| Adj R-squared | 0.1297 | 0.0994 | 0.114 |
| $N$ | 8753 | 31118 | 13113 |

Coeff., (Std. Err.), ^ = p < .10, * p < .05, ** p < . 01

Table 5.2 Determinants of Intend to or Already Voted in Primary Election (2004 NAES Survey)

|  | Competition Category |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Big Loser | Competitive | Big Winner |
| Key Explanatory Variables |  |  |  |
| Feelings About Candidates | $\begin{gathered} 0.008 \\ (0.018) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.019 * \\ (0.009) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.027^{\wedge} \\ (0.014) \end{gathered}$ |
| Strength of Partisanship | $\begin{aligned} & 0.230^{* *} \\ & (0.017) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.198 * * \\ (0.008) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.193 * * \\ & (0.014) \end{aligned}$ |
| Ideological Extremity | $\begin{aligned} & -0.004 \\ & (0.015) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.005 \\ (0.008) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.008 \\ (0.012) \end{gathered}$ |
| Discussed Politics in Social Circle | $\begin{aligned} & 0.173 * * \\ & (0.026) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.129 * * \\ & (0.013) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.158^{* *} \\ & (0.020) \end{aligned}$ |
| Percent Life At Residence | $\begin{aligned} & 0.125 * * \\ & (0.025) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.104 * * \\ & (0.013) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.129 * * \\ & (0.019) \end{aligned}$ |
| Social Exposure at Workplace | $\begin{aligned} & -0.000 \\ & (0.013) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.021^{* *} \\ & (0.007) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.002 \\ (0.011) \end{gathered}$ |
| Religious Attendance | $\begin{aligned} & 0.113 * * \\ & (0.015) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.096 * * \\ (0.008) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.062 * * \\ & (0.012) \end{aligned}$ |
| Control |  |  |  |
| Age | $\begin{gathered} 0.522 * * \\ (0.038) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.540 * * \\ & (0.020) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.559 * * \\ & (0.030) \end{aligned}$ |
| Sex | $\begin{gathered} 0.020^{*} \\ (0.010) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.029 * * \\ & (0.005) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.031 * * \\ & (0.008) \end{aligned}$ |
| Education | $\begin{aligned} & 0.057 * * \\ & (0.020) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.044 * * \\ & (0.010) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.083^{* *} \\ & (0.016) \end{aligned}$ |
| Income | $\begin{gathered} 0.013 \\ (0.025) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.054 * * \\ & (0.013) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.056^{* *} \\ & (0.020) \end{aligned}$ |
| Married | $\begin{gathered} 0.041^{* *} \\ (0.011) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.026^{* *} \\ & (0.006) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.006 \\ (0.009) \end{gathered}$ |
| Black | $\begin{gathered} 0.051 * \\ (0.021) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.081^{* *} \\ & (0.010) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.102 * * \\ & (0.013) \end{aligned}$ |
| Minority | $\begin{aligned} & -0.019 \\ & (0.022) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.003 \\ (0.011) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.035 * \\ (0.017) \end{gathered}$ |
| Hispanic | $\begin{gathered} 0.011 \\ (0.023) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.032 * * \\ & (0.012) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.025 \\ (0.019) \end{gathered}$ |
| Adj R-squared | 0.0876 | 0.0779 | 0.084 |
| $N$ | 8508 | 30263 | 12750 |

Coeff., (Std. Err.), ${ }^{\wedge}=\mathrm{p}<.10, *$ p < .05, ** p < . 01

Table 5.3 Determinants of Chance of Voting in Primary Election (2004 NAES Survey)

|  | Competition Category |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Big Loser | Competitive | Big Winner |
| Key Explanatory Variables |  |  |  |
| Feelings About Candidates | $\begin{gathered} 0.060 \\ (0.038) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.098 * * \\ (0.021) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.082 * * \\ & (0.031) \end{aligned}$ |
| Strength of Partisanship | $\begin{aligned} & 0.365^{* *} \\ & (0.037) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.244 * * \\ & (0.019) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.231^{* *} \\ & (0.031) \end{aligned}$ |
| Ideological Extremity | $\begin{aligned} & -0.032 \\ & (0.034) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.032^{\wedge} \\ & (0.018) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.020 \\ & (0.027) \end{aligned}$ |
| Discussed Politics in Social Circle | $\begin{gathered} 0.209 * * \\ (0.062) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.194^{* *} \\ & (0.033) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.268 * * \\ & (0.049) \end{aligned}$ |
| Percent Life At Residence | $\begin{gathered} 0.133 * \\ (0.057) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.061 * \\ (0.029) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.125^{* *} \\ & (0.044) \end{aligned}$ |
| Social Exposure at Workplace | $\begin{gathered} 0.013 \\ (0.031) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.003 \\ & (0.016) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.001 \\ (0.023) \end{gathered}$ |
| Religious Attendance | $\begin{aligned} & 0.164^{* *} \\ & (0.034) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.113 * * \\ & (0.018) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.058^{*} \\ (0.027) \end{gathered}$ |
| Control |  |  |  |
| Age | $\begin{aligned} & 0.246 * * \\ & (0.088) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.316^{* *} \\ & (0.045) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.402 * * \\ & (0.067) \end{aligned}$ |
| Sex | $\begin{aligned} & 0.085 * * \\ & (0.022) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.087 * * \\ & (0.012) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.090^{* *} \\ & (0.018) \end{aligned}$ |
| Education | $\begin{aligned} & -0.038 \\ & (0.045) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.040^{\wedge} \\ & (0.024) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.036 \\ & (0.036) \end{aligned}$ |
| Income | $\begin{gathered} 0.040 \\ (0.056) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.055^{\wedge} \\ (0.030) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.028 \\ (0.044) \end{gathered}$ |
| Married | $\begin{gathered} 0.048^{\wedge} \\ (0.025) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.005 \\ (0.013) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.023 \\ (0.020) \end{gathered}$ |
| Black | $\begin{gathered} 0.104^{*} \\ (0.046) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.125^{* *} \\ & (0.024) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.141^{* *} \\ & (0.028) \end{aligned}$ |
| Minority | $\begin{gathered} 0.000 \\ (0.053) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.029 \\ & (0.027) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.116^{* *} \\ & (0.042) \end{aligned}$ |
| Hispanic | $\begin{gathered} 0.067 \\ (0.059) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.080^{* *} \\ & (0.029) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.093 * \\ (0.044) \end{gathered}$ |
| Adj R-squared | 0.1394 | 0.1133 | 0.1263 |
| $N$ | 1402 | 4632 | 1986 |

Coeff., (Std. Err.), $\wedge=$ p $<.10, *$ p $<.05,{ }^{* *}$ p $<.01$

Table 5.4 Determinants of Intend to Vote in General Election (2004 NAES Survey)

|  | Competition Category |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Big Loser | Competitive | Big Winner |
| Key Explanatory Variables |  |  |  |
|  | $\begin{gathered} 0.013 \\ (0.012) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.031 * * \\ & (0.006) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.028 * * \\ & (0.008) \end{aligned}$ |
| Strength of Partisanship | $\begin{aligned} & 0.077 * * \\ & (0.011) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.044 * * \\ & (0.005) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.047^{* *} \\ & (0.008) \end{aligned}$ |
| Ideological Extremity | $\begin{aligned} & -0.003 \\ & (0.010) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.012 * * \\ & (0.004) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.000 \\ (0.006) \end{gathered}$ |
| Discussed Politics in Social Circle | $\begin{aligned} & 0.084^{* *} \\ & (0.016) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.059 * * \\ & (0.007) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.061 * * \\ & (0.011) \end{aligned}$ |
| Percent Life At Residence | $\begin{gathered} 0.018 \\ (0.016) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.009 \\ (0.007) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.033 * * \\ & (0.011) \end{aligned}$ |
| Social Exposure at Workplace | $\begin{gathered} 0.007 \\ (0.008) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.005 \\ (0.004) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.012^{\wedge} \\ (0.006) \end{gathered}$ |
| Religious Attendance | $\begin{gathered} 0.011 \\ (0.010) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.026 * * \\ & (0.004) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.017 * \\ (0.007) \end{gathered}$ |
| Control |  |  |  |
| Age | $\begin{aligned} & 0.161^{* *} \\ & (0.025) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.073 * * \\ & (0.011) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.099 * * \\ & (0.017) \end{aligned}$ |
| Sex | $\begin{gathered} 0.008 \\ (0.006) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.006^{*} \\ (0.003) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.005 \\ (0.004) \end{gathered}$ |
| Education | $\begin{aligned} & 0.076 * * \\ & (0.013) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.066^{* *} \\ & (0.006) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.067 * * \\ & (0.009) \end{aligned}$ |
| Income | $\begin{aligned} & 0.067 * * \\ & (0.017) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.020^{*} \\ (0.007) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.030^{* *} \\ & (0.011) \end{aligned}$ |
| Married | $\begin{gathered} 0.000 \\ (0.007) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.006^{\wedge} \\ (0.003) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.007 \\ (0.005) \end{gathered}$ |
| Black | $\begin{gathered} 0.025^{\wedge} \\ (0.014) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.011^{\wedge} \\ (0.006) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.009 \\ & (0.007) \end{aligned}$ |
| Minority | $\begin{aligned} & -0.017 \\ & (0.015) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.031^{* *} \\ & (0.006) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.006 \\ & (0.009) \end{aligned}$ |
| Hispanic | $\begin{aligned} & -0.002 \\ & (0.015) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.004 \\ & (0.006) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.006 \\ (0.011) \end{gathered}$ |
| Adj R-squared | 0.0704 | 0.0454 | 0.0559 |
| $N$ | 3632 | 12997 | 5390 |

Coeff., (Std. Err.), $\wedge=p<.10, * p<.05, * * p<.01$

Table 5.5 Determinants of Chance of Voting in General Election (2004 NAES
Survey)

|  | Competition Category |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Big Loser | Competitive | Big Winner |
| Key Explanatory Variables |  |  |  |
| Feelings About Candidates | $\begin{aligned} & 0.047 * * \\ & (0.013) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.058 * * \\ & (0.006) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.055 * * \\ (0.009) \end{gathered}$ |
| Strength of Partisanship | $\begin{aligned} & 0.088^{* *} \\ & (0.011) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.056^{* *} \\ & (0.005) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.057 * * \\ & (0.008) \end{aligned}$ |
| Ideological Extremity | $\begin{aligned} & -0.005 \\ & (0.010) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.010^{*} \\ & (0.005) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.007 \\ (0.007) \end{gathered}$ |
| Discussed Politics in Social Circle | $\begin{aligned} & 0.112 * * \\ & (0.017) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.092 * * \\ & (0.008) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.090^{* *} \\ (0.011) \end{gathered}$ |
| Percent Life At Residence | $\begin{gathered} 0.029^{\wedge} \\ (0.017) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.012 \\ (0.008) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.035^{* *} \\ & (0.011) \end{aligned}$ |
| Social Exposure at Workplace | $\begin{gathered} 0.005 \\ (0.009) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.010^{*} \\ (0.004) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.012^{\wedge} \\ (0.006) \end{gathered}$ |
| Religious Attendance | $\begin{gathered} 0.025^{*} \\ (0.010) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.032 * * \\ & (0.005) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.018 * \\ (0.007) \end{gathered}$ |
| Control |  |  |  |
| Age | $\begin{aligned} & 0.205^{* *} \\ & (0.026) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.135 * * \\ & (0.012) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.152 * * \\ (0.018) \end{gathered}$ |
| Sex | $\begin{gathered} 0.007 \\ (0.007) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.010^{* *} \\ & (0.003) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.011^{*} \\ (0.004) \end{gathered}$ |
| Education | $\begin{aligned} & 0.095^{* *} \\ & (0.013) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.081 * * \\ & (0.006) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.084^{* *} \\ & (0.009) \end{aligned}$ |
| Income | $\begin{aligned} & 0.093 * * \\ & (0.017) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.037 * * \\ & (0.008) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.044^{* *} \\ & (0.012) \end{aligned}$ |
| Married | $\begin{gathered} 0.007 \\ (0.007) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.009 * \\ (0.003) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.009^{\wedge} \\ (0.005) \end{gathered}$ |
| Black | $\begin{gathered} 0.026^{\wedge} \\ (0.014) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.011^{\wedge} \\ (0.006) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.007 \\ & (0.007) \end{aligned}$ |
| Minority | $\begin{aligned} & -0.038^{*} \\ & (0.015) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.033^{* *} \\ & (0.007) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.016 \\ & (0.010) \end{aligned}$ |
| Hispanic | $\begin{aligned} & -0.018 \\ & (0.015) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.011 \\ & (0.007) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.001 \\ (0.012) \end{gathered}$ |
| Adj R-squared | 0.1161 | 0.0859 | 0.097 |
| $N$ | 3632 | 12995 | 5387 |

Coeff., (Std. Err.), $\wedge=p<.10, * p<.05, * * p<.01$

Table 5.6 Determinants of Voted in General Election (2004 NAES Survey)

|  | Competition Category |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Big Loser | Competitive | Big Winner |
| Key Explanatory Variables |  |  |  |
| Feelings About Candidates | $0.043^{*}$ | 0.034 | $0.042^{*}$ |
| Strength of Partisanship | $(0.085)$ | $(0.041)$ | $(0.076)$ |
|  | 0.098 | $0.054^{* *}$ | $0.088^{*}$ |
| Ideological Extremity | $(0.079)$ | $(0.035)$ | $(0.056)$ |
|  | -0.005 | -0.003 | -0.01 |
| Discussed Politics in Social Circle | $(0.068)$ | $(0.034)$ | $(0.052)$ |
|  | 0.128 | $0.106^{* *}$ | 0.099 |
| Percent Life At Residence | $(0.106)$ | $(0.049)$ | $(0.075)$ |
|  | 0.124 | $0.105^{*}$ | 0.134 |
| Social Exposure at Workplace | $(0.107)$ | $(0.054)$ | $(0.088)$ |
|  | 0.030 | 0.023 | 0.021 |
| Religious Attendance | $(0.058)$ | $(0.029)$ | $(0.041)$ |
|  | 0.061 | $0.048^{* *}$ | 0.037 |
| Control | $(0.071)$ | $(0.033)$ | $(0.053)$ |
| Age |  |  |  |
|  | $0.373^{*}$ | $0.345^{*}$ | $0.355^{*}$ |
| Sex | $(0.170)$ | $(0.086)$ | $(0.125)$ |
|  | $0.017^{\wedge}$ | $0.018^{\wedge}$ | 0.018 |
| Education | $(0.046)$ | $(0.022)$ | $(0.034)$ |
|  | 0.148 | $0.128^{* *}$ | $0.141^{\wedge}$ |
| Income | $(0.092)$ | $(0.045)$ | $(0.064)$ |
|  | $0.121^{*}$ | $0.069^{* *}$ | $0.075^{* *}$ |
| Married | $(0.107)$ | $(0.058)$ | $(0.080)$ |
| Black | 0.034 | 0.025 | 0.026 |
| Minority | $(0.050)$ | $(0.025)$ | $(0.037)$ |
| Hispanic | 0.010 | $-0.003^{*}$ | 0.017 |
|  | $(0.090)$ | $(0.047)$ | $(0.057)$ |
|  | $-0.054^{\wedge}$ | -0.051 | -0.051 |
|  | $(0.103)$ | $(0.045)$ | $(0.076)$ |
|  | -0.033 | -0.027 | -0.041 |
|  | $(0.125)$ | $(0.048)$ | $(0.080)$ |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | 0.1211 | 0.1817 | 0.1157 |
|  |  | 645 | 268 |

Coeff., (Std. Err.), ^ = p < .10, * p < .05, ** p < . 01

For each of these six measures of participation, it appears that many of the factors that explain voter participation are the same for big winners, losers, and competitive districts. Strength of partisanship seems to be the most consistent measure that distinguishes chronic losers from other groups. In five of the six measures of turnout strength of partisanship is statistically significant ( $99 \%$ confidence). For these five instances, voters are between three and ten percent more likely to participate in elections due to their strength of partisanship if they are big losers. This suggests that expressive desires may play a larger role in motivating chronic losers compared to other voters.

In addition, there is some evidence, albeit more mixed, that age and income are strong predictors for perpetually losing voters. Age being significant could hint at either habit or some sense of civic duty. However, it is not readily apparent why wealth would make more of a difference to a chronic loser than other voters. As the resource theories stated, it could be a matter of the voter's resources outweighing the negative costs of voting. However, making an educated guess at this juncture is premature for a few reasons.

To conclude this section, while a few variables show promise at identifying ways in which perpetual losers participate, this analysis does not offer the opportunity to make such a claim. To begin with, the questions that were used to evaluate respondents in these regressions were not written specifically for this study. Therefore, they do not address all of the concerns associated with why some voters participate in elections while others choose to stay home. Furthermore, the few questions that were usable from this survey provided weak measures for analysis. Consequently we must turn to a study designed specifically for the purpose of measuring why it is chronic losers continue to vote. For this purpose I have designed a survey
and administered it through the Amazon Mechanical Turk system. Let us now turn to the results of that survey.

## V <br> MTurk Findings

In this chapter I will build on findings from the 2004 NAES by first comparing the ways in which winning and losing create differences in people's behaviors. Then I will run a series of regression analyses in order to ascertain the factors that influence voter participation across competition groups. It is important to remember that while the questions asked in the MTurk survey are written specifically for this study, and therefore address this study's particular needs, the sample size is much smaller than that of the 2004 NAES. As a sample size increases, it offers greater power to detect differences of any size. The NAES also is more representative of the population. However, even with the small sample size, there is much that can be learned from the MTurk survey due to the improved depth and breadth of measurement of key concepts.

To begin, respondents were asked for their subjective perceptions of competitiveness and electoral success in their district. This was accomplished by asking participants to indicate, on a slider ranging from zero to one hundred percent, how often the candidates they preferred won. As Figure 6.1 illustrates, respondents located themselves all along the scale with the highest concentration of answers stating that the respondent's chosen candidates win between forty and sixty percent of the time.

Figure 6.1 Respondent's Measure of Competiveness in Their District


However, in Figure 6.2, when the respondents are broken down by groups of competition based on their district history, we find that the perception of the respondents does not correspond with the objective measure of partisan competitiveness. Instead, we find that chronic losers, perpetual winners, and people that reside in competitive districts all feel that their candidates win about the same amount of the time. This suggests that chronic losers may have a self-inflated sense of competition within their district. ${ }^{10}$ In addition, perpetual winners have a deflated sense of victory given that their preferred candidate wins by a landslide the majority of the time. If this is the case, then what we are seeing is that, for some reason, voters in landslide districts believe

[^7]that their district is competitive. This could be one reason why we did not see any strong differences between the three groups in the 2004 NAES data. After all, if all three groups believe themselves to reside in a competitive district, then all three would be expected to behave in a similar manner. Let us see if all three categories of competition behave the same way in this study as well.

Figure 6.2 Subjective Perceptions of Competitiveness by Objective Competition Category


This study again measured internal political efficacy in order to compare to earlier findings. Remember that the 2004 NAES results suggest that winning and losing had no significant impact across three measures of political efficacy. In this study, it appears that there may be some effect on efficacy after all. When respondents were asked to agree or disagree with the statement "I feel I have a pretty good understanding of the important issues facing our country" the distance between low and high is around five percent ( $\mathrm{p}<0.1$ ) between perpetual losers and winners. However, when asked to agree or disagree with the statement "[s]ometimes
politics and government seem so complicated that a person like me can't really understand what is going on" the spread is quite large. Perpetual losers were nearly nine percentage points higher ( $\mathrm{p}<.01$ ) in their average responses than people in competitive districts. Furthermore, the average responses of perpetual losers were four percent higher ( $\mathrm{p}>.1$ ) than perpetual winners. This implies that being in a lopsided district as opposed to a competitive district lowers one's sense of political efficacy and that effect is greater, although not significantly, for the losers in those onesided districts. If there is a difference in political efficacy between this study and the 2004 NAES, perhaps we will find a difference in voter turnout as well.

Figure 6.3 Measures of Political Efficacy


## Measures of Political Efficacy

Once again I have broken down the sample population into groups that represent the competitiveness and party dominance of Congressional Districts. Respondents have been grouped into either Republican dominated, competitive, or Democrat dominated districts. Again,
if voter fatigue occurs in the manner that rational and psychological theories suggest then we would expect to see an inverse parabola with the two non-competitive groups reporting significantly lower turnout levels than the competitive group. In five out of the twenty measurements we do find these inverse parabolas. One of these five measurements is turnout among Democrats (BL) in the 2008 general election. The other four occur among Republicans, including for voter registration (SL), intention to vote in the 2012 general election (SL), and turnout in the 2008 and 2010 general elections (BL). However, like the 2004 NAES results, most of the turnout results show minimal fluctuations between the three groups $(6.31 \%$ is the average distance between furthest points).

Figure 6.4 Proportion of Respondents Registered


Figure 6.5 Proportion of Respondents who Intend to Vote in 2012


Figure 6.6 Proportion of Respondents who Voted in 2008


Figure 6.7 Proportion of Respondents who Voted in 2010


Before moving on to a regression analysis examining the predictors of voter turnout, it may be useful to consider how, if at all, the motivations and perceptions of losers differ in the first place. For this purpose, Figure 6.8 illustrates five scales that are derived from thirteen questions in the MTurk survey. These scales are shown because they represent the instances where the answers of perpetual losers were significantly different (at least $\mathrm{p}<0.1$ ) from both chronic winners and people in competitive districts. ${ }^{11}$ The first scale measures the extent to which participants believe that elections matter $(\alpha=0.62) .{ }^{12}$ The next taps enjoyment from the act of voting itself, based on a single branched question asking how strongly respondents like or

[^8]dislike the process of voting. The next two scales measure the ways in which society can influence voter behavior. The social norms scale ( $\alpha=0.82$ ) taps into the general normative pressures a respondent may feel at having failed to live up to notions of civic duty or similar expectations. ${ }^{13}$ The scale of social pressures $(\alpha=0.59)$ measures the more personal and direct social pressures stemming from the desire to please (or not disappoint) someone the respondent knows. ${ }^{14}$ Finally, the last scale measures the desire to have one's voice counted ( $\alpha=0.74$ ), to capture at least one form of expressive voting behavior. ${ }^{15}$

Figure 6.8 shows the means of these five scales by competition category. For three of these scales, perpetual losers have a significantly lower ( $\mathrm{p}<.05$ ) average response than perpetual winners or respondents from competitive districts. ${ }^{16}$ Two of these scales relate to the benefits and costs associated with rational voter theory. According to rational voter theory since the perpetual losers benefit is lower and the cost reduction is lower (resulting in higher costs) the chronic loser is less likely to vote. Therefore, if rational voter theory holds for chronic losers then respondents beliefs that elections matter (benefit) and the extent to which they like the process of voter participation on Election Day (cost reduction) should show up as negative coefficients in the regression analysis. In addition to these two scales, Figure 6.8 reports that chronic losers stated that they have a lower desire to express their opinions than the other two groups. This may indicate recognition on the part of perpetual losers that it is unlikely that either their short term or

[^9]long term goals will come to fruition. In other words, there is a sense of giving up on the part of these respondents.

Finally, Figure 6.8 shows two measures of social influence on chronic losers. In the two variables regarding the influence of social networks the mean response of perpetual losers is even with that of competitive districts and statistically higher ( $\mathrm{p}<.05$ ) than the responses of perpetual winners. This means that chronic losers care more about the way their political behavior makes them look both to society as a whole and to their close social network (friends or family). However, whether or not this affects their decision to ultimately participate on Election Day is yet to be seen. It could be that chronic losers feel more guilty or more pressured by their social groups, but fail to do anything about it for some reason. Let us now turn to a different type of question that respondents encountered in this survey.

In order to further examine what is important to people at different levels of competition, the MTurk survey included a ranking question. In this question (see Table 6.1), respondents were asked to rank nine statements based on which considerations are more or less important when they decide whether they will turn out to vote. It is striking that all three groups ranked the options nearly identically with the exception of one selection. Thinking back to respondents' subjective perceptions of how often their own candidates won and how chronic losers identified their districts as competitive, it is interesting to see that chronic losers rank highest, out of the three groups, on the consideration of whether their vote will determine the outcome of the election. It appears that the group's perception that their district is competitive is strong enough to impact their factors for voting. After all, they represent voters that lose the most by margins of twenty percent or more and yet they perceive their district to be competitive and they report that they vote because they believe that their vote will determine the outcome of the election.

Figure 6.8 Mean of Voter Belief and Motivation Scales by Objective Competition Level


Table 6.1 Mean Subjective Ranking of Motivation Importance by Objective Competition Level

| Big Loser |  | Competitive |  | Big Winner |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Express support for a candidate or cause | $\begin{gathered} \hline 0.800 \\ (0.21) \end{gathered}$ | Express support for a candidate or cause | $\begin{gathered} \hline 0.816 \\ (0.21) \end{gathered}$ | Express support for a candidate or cause | $\begin{gathered} \hline 0.810 \\ (0.22) \end{gathered}$ |
| Believe the outcome of the election will affect you | $\begin{gathered} 0.759 \\ (0.24) \end{gathered}$ | Believe the outcome of the election will affect you | $\begin{gathered} 0.743 \\ (0.23) \end{gathered}$ | Believe the outcome of the election will affect you | $\begin{gathered} 0.721 \\ (0.22) \end{gathered}$ |
| Believe your vote will determine the outcome of the election | $\begin{gathered} 0.646 \\ (0.27) \end{gathered}$ | Desire to fulfill civic duty | $\begin{gathered} 0.655 \\ (0.27) \end{gathered}$ | Desire to fulfill civic duty | $\begin{gathered} 0.691 \\ (0.28) \end{gathered}$ |
| Desire to fulfill civic duty | $\begin{gathered} 0.622 \\ (0.28) \end{gathered}$ | Believe your vote will determine the outcome of the election | $\begin{gathered} 0.598 \\ (0.28) \end{gathered}$ | Believe your vote will determine the outcome of the election | $\begin{gathered} 0.587 \\ (0.26) \end{gathered}$ |
| Ease of participating in election | $\begin{gathered} 0.442 \\ (0.26) \end{gathered}$ | Party loyalty | $\begin{gathered} 0.472 \\ (0.29) \end{gathered}$ | Party loyalty | $\begin{gathered} 0.435 \\ (0.30) \end{gathered}$ |
| Party loyalty | $\begin{gathered} 0.417 \\ (0.29) \end{gathered}$ | Ease of participating in election | $\begin{gathered} 0.423 \\ (0.27) \end{gathered}$ | Ease of participating in election | $\begin{gathered} 0.416 \\ (0.27) \end{gathered}$ |
| Participate because I am encouraged by someone | $\begin{gathered} 0.301 \\ (0.24) \end{gathered}$ | Participate because I am encouraged by someone | $\begin{gathered} 0.292 \\ (0.23) \end{gathered}$ | Participate because I am encouraged by someone | $\begin{gathered} 0.314 \\ (0.23) \end{gathered}$ |
| Participate to make family or friends happy | $\begin{array}{r} 0.257 \\ (0.25) \end{array}$ | I derives pleasure from the election process | $\begin{gathered} 0.254 \\ (0.26) \end{gathered}$ | I derives pleasure from the election process | $\begin{gathered} 0.269 \\ (0.25) \end{gathered}$ |
| I derives pleasure from the election process | $\begin{gathered} 0.255 \\ (0.24) \end{gathered}$ | Participate to make family or friends happy | $\begin{gathered} 0.246 \\ (0.24) \end{gathered}$ | Participate to make family or friends happy | $\begin{gathered} 0.258 \\ (0.26) \end{gathered}$ |

Now that we have examined the ways in which respondents answered the survey questions we can now turn to the regression analysis of four measures of voter participation from the MTurk survey, in order to see more objectively what factors predict electoral involvement in each competition category. In this analysis, we will examine fifteen key independent variables, and seven control variables. Many of the variables are scales derived from multiple questions on the MTurk survey. ${ }^{17}$ Rather than include every question in the survey as a variable in these regressions, scales were created to improve the efficiency of the regressions and provide more robust measurement of the concepts of interest. The four dependent measures include voter registration, intention of participating in the 2012 election, perceived chance of participating in the 2012 election ( 0 to $100 \%$ ), and past voter turnout $(\alpha=0.84) .{ }^{18}$

[^10]Table 6.2 Determinants of Voter Registration (2012 MTurk Survey)

|  | Competition Category |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Big Loser | Competitive | Big Winner |
| Key Explanatory Variables |  |  |  |
| Index of Mobilization | 0.001 |  | 0.027 |
|  | (0.030) | (0.023) | (0.022) |
| Elections Matter | 0.045 | 0.145 | 0.241 |
|  | (0.215) | (0.204) | (0.151) |
| Scale of Costs | 0.251 | 0.003 | -0.322* |
|  | (0.203) | (0.192) | (0.159) |
| Scale of Local Elections | -0.035 | 0.076 | -0.060 |
|  | (0.245) | (0.214) | (0.208) |
| Political Discussion | 0.139 | 0.252 | 0.027 |
|  | (0.261) | (0.250) | (0.227) |
| Impact of Liking the Process of Voting | -0.006 | 0.049 | -0.137 |
|  | (0.159) | (0.162) | (0.130) |
| Scale of Civic Duty | 0.201 | 0.074 | 0.014 |
|  | (0.143) | (0.116) | (0.108) |
| Scale of Social Norms | 0.177 | 0.172 | 0.043 |
|  | (0.311) | (0.254) | (0.233) |
| Habit | 0.730** | 0.218 | $0.242^{\wedge}$ |
|  | (0.202) | (0.150) | (0.127) |
| Index of Expressive Activity | -0.065 | -0.049 | -0.139 |
|  | (0.149) | (0.118) | (0.112) |
| Scale of Partisan Commitment | -0.067 | -0.050 | -0.187 |
|  | (0.173) | (0.153) | (0.137) |
| Respondent Voice Counts | 0.083 | 0.253 | 0.432** |
|  | (0.176) | (0.175) | (0.157) |
| Scale of Social Pressures | 0.379 | -0.228 | 0.623** |
|  | (0.279) | (0.216) | (0.230) |
| Voting with Friends and Family is Fun | 0.188 | $-0.198$ | 0.444** |
|  | (0.164) | (0.137) | (0.114) |
| Control |  |  |  |
| Percent of Life Spent at Current Address | -0.074 | 0.157 | -0.209 |
|  | (0.241) | (0.178) | (0.207) |
| Age | 0.017 | -0.021 | $0.021^{\wedge}$ |
|  | (0.017) | (0.015) | (0.012) |
| Sex | -0.035 | -0.062 | -0.062 |
|  | (0.075) | (0.066) | (0.057) |
| Education | 0.221 | 0.431** | 0.347* |
|  | (0.177) | (0.149) | (0.145) |
| Income | 0.044 | 0.109 | -0.149 |
|  | (0.140) | (0.138) | (0.106) |
| Minority | 0.030 | -0.067 | -0.237** |
|  | (0.082) | (0.082) | (0.080) |
| Unemployed | 0.054 | -0.019 | -0.040 |
|  | (0.105) | (0.097) | (0.073) |
| Adj R-squared | 0.2161 | 0.1674 | 0.324 |
| $N$ | 135 | 155 | 153 |

Coeff., (Std. Err.), ^ = p < .10, * p < .05, ** p < . 01

Table 6.3 Determinants of Intention to Vote in 2012 Election (2012 MTurk Survey)
Competition Category

|  | Big Loser | Competitive | Big Winner |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Key Explanatory Variables |  |  |  |
| Index of Mobilization | 0.035 | 0.025 | 0.026 |
|  | (0.025) | (0.019) | (0.019) |
| Elections Matter | 0.534** | 0.182 | 0.219^ |
|  | (0.176) | (0.169) | (0.127) |
| Scale of Costs | -0.168 | 0.088 | -0.084 |
|  | (0.166) | (0.159) | (0.134) |
| Scale of Local Elections | -0.120 | 0.040 | 0.036 |
|  | (0.201) | (0.178) | (0.174) |
| Political Discussion | 0.272 | 0.263 | 0.461* |
|  | (0.213) | (0.208) | (0.190) |
| Impact of Liking the Process of Voting | $0.230^{\wedge}$ | -0.039 | -0.151 |
|  | (0.130) | (0.134) | (0.109) |
| Scale of Civic Duty | -0.017 | 0.124 | 0.076 |
|  | (0.119) | (0.096) | (0.091) |
| Scale of Social Norms | -0.310 | 0.034 | -0.200 |
|  | (0.256) | (0.211) | (0.196) |
| Habit | 0.371* | 0.068 | -0.261* |
|  | (0.165) | (0.125) | (0.107) |
| Index of Expressive Activity | 0.120 | -0.163^ | -0.099 |
|  | (0.127) | (0.098) | (0.094) |
| Scale of Partisan Commitment | -0.088 | 0.209 | 0.027 |
|  | (0.142) | (0.127) | (0.115) |
| Respondent Voice Counts | 0.182 | 0.558** | 0.478** |
|  | (0.144) | (0.146) | (0.132) |
| Scale of Social Pressures | -0.062 | 0.037 | 0.513** |
|  | (0.228) | (0.179) | (0.193) |
| Voting with Friends and Family is Fun | 0.084 | 0.027 | 0.196* |
|  | (0.135) | (0.113) | (0.096) |
| Control (0.13) |  |  |  |
| Percent of Life Spent at Current Address | -0.521** | 0.129 | 0.250 |
|  | (0.197) | (0.148) | (0.174) |
| Age | -0.008 | -0.004 | 0.004 |
|  | (0.014) | (0.012) | (0.010) |
| Sex | $-0.121^{\wedge}$ | -0.048 | -0.067 |
|  | (0.061) | (0.055) | (0.048) |
| Education | -0.070 | 0.061 | 0.408** |
|  | (0.145) | (0.123) | (0.122) |
| Income | -0.043 | 0.081 | -0.174^ |
|  | (0.115) | (0.115) | (0.089) |
| Minority | 0.057 | -0.013 | -0.046 |
|  | (0.067) | (0.068) | (0.067) |
| Unemployed | 0.296** | -0.039 | 0.045 |
|  | (0.085) | (0.081) | (0.061) |
| Adj R-squared | 0.3585 | 0.2748 | 0.344 |
| $N$ | 134 | 155 | 153 |

Coeff., (Std. Err.), ^ = p < .10, * p < .05, ** p < . 01

Table 6.4 Determinants of Chance of Voting in 2012 Election (2012 MTurk Survey)

|  | Competition Category |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Big Loser | Competitive | Big Winner |
| Key Explanatory Variables |  |  |  |
| Index of Mobilization | 0.030 | 0.010 | 0.021 |
|  | (0.020) | (0.018) | (0.018) |
| Elections Matter | 0.431** | 0.203 | 0.247* |
|  | (0.145) | (0.155) | (0.122) |
| Scale of Costs | -0.129 | -0.041 | -0.042 |
|  | (0.136) | (0.145) | (0.133) |
| Scale of Local Elections | -0.046 | 0.137 | 0.081 |
|  | (0.169) | (0.163) | (0.170) |
| Political Discussion | 0.258 | 0.249 | 0.444* |
|  | (0.182) | (0.190) | (0.182) |
| Impact of Liking the Process of Voting | 0.128 | -0.046 | -0.134 |
|  | (0.107) | (0.123) | (0.104) |
| Scale of Civic Duty | 0.023 | $0.172^{\wedge}$ | 0.092 |
|  | (0.099) | (0.088) | (0.088) |
| Scale of Social Norms | -0.340 | 0.019 | -0.173 |
|  | (0.209) | (0.193) | (0.186) |
| Habit | 0.411** | 0.153 | -0.024 |
|  | (0.136) | (0.114) | (0.102) |
| Index of Expressive Activity | 0.135 | -0.104 | -0.086 |
|  | (0.104) | (0.090) | (0.090) |
| Scale of Partisan Commitment | -0.011 | $0.204 \wedge$ | 0.082 |
|  | (0.118) | (0.116) | (0.110) |
| Respondent Voice Counts | 0.348** | 0.457** | 0.429** |
|  | (0.118) | (0.133) | (0.126) |
| Scale of Social Pressures | -0.121 | 0.028 | 0.383* |
|  | (0.187) | (0.164) | (0.184) |
| Voting with Friends and Family is Fun | 0.070 | -0.011 | 0.211* |
|  | (0.110) | (0.104) | (0.092) |
| Control |  |  |  |
| Percent of Life Spent at Current Address | -0.402* | 0.109 | 0.038 |
|  | (0.161) | (0.135) | (0.168) |
| Age | -0.003 | -0.003 | 0.002 |
|  | (0.012) | (0.011) | (0.010) |
| Sex | -0.048 | -0.041 | -0.053 |
|  | (0.050) | (0.050) | (0.047) |
| Education | 0.019 | 0.059 | 0.402** |
|  | (0.119) | (0.113) | (0.117) |
| Income | -0.005 | 0.149 | -0.169^ |
|  | (0.095) | (0.105) | (0.086) |
| Minority | 0.074 | -0.013 | -0.066 |
|  | (0.056) | (0.062) | (0.064) |
| Unemployed | 0.213** | -0.058 | 0.080 |
|  | (0.070) | (0.074) | (0.060) |
| Adj R-squared | 0.5367 | 0.3855 | 0.4053 |
| $N$ | 133 | 155 | 150 |

Coeff., (Std. Err.), ^ $=\mathrm{p}<.10$, * p < .05, ** p < . 01

Table 6.5 Determinants of Past Voter Turnout (2012 MTurk Survey)

|  | Competition Category |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Big Loser | Competitive | Big Winner |
| Key Explanatory Variables |  |  |  |
| Index of Mobilization | 0.006 | 0.018 | 0.038* |
|  | (0.020) | (0.016) | (0.018) |
| Elections Matter | 0.136 | 0.325* | $0.228{ }^{\wedge}$ |
|  | (0.139) | (0.144) | (0.124) |
| Scale of Costs | -0.112 | -0.125 | -0.051 |
|  | (0.129) | (0.135) | (0.130) |
| Scale of Local Elections | 0.353* | 0.312* | 0.101 |
|  | (0.156) | (0.151) | (0.169) |
| Political Discussion | 0.013 | 0.251 | 0.295 |
|  | (0.166) | (0.176) | (0.184) |
| Impact of Liking the Process of Voting | -0.025 | 0.042 | -0.032 |
|  | (0.102) | (0.114) | (0.106) |
| Scale of Civic Duty | 0.087 | 0.225** | $0.147 \wedge$ |
|  | (0.095) | (0.082) | (0.088) |
| Scale of Social Norms | 0.114 | 0.028 | -0.026 |
|  | (0.198) | (0.179) | (0.190) |
| Habit | 0.464** | 0.227* | 0.489** |
|  | (0.131) | (0.106) | (0.104) |
| Index of Expressive Activity | 0.068 | 0.043 | -0.055 |
|  | (0.096) | (0.083) | (0.091) |
| Scale of Partisan Commitment | -0.059 | -0.043 | -0.160 |
|  | (0.112) | (0.108) | (0.112) |
| Respondent Voice Counts | 0.498** | 0.097 | 0.317* |
|  | (0.113) | (0.124) | (0.128) |
| Scale of Social Pressures | 0.062 | -0.215 | 0.159 |
|  | (0.178) | (0.152) | (0.187) |
| Voting with Friends and Family is Fun | -0.212* | 0.006 | 0.093 |
|  | (0.105) | (0.096) | (0.093) |
| Control |  |  |  |
| Percent of Life Spent at Current Address | -0.208 | -0.038 | 0.034 |
|  | (0.154) | (0.126) | (0.168) |
| Age | 0.002 | 0.010 | 0.018^ |
|  | (0.011) | (0.010) | (0.010) |
| Sex | 0.034 | 0.032 | -0.016 |
|  | (0.048) | (0.047) | (0.047) |
| Education | 0.400** | 0.342** | 0.386** |
|  | (0.113) | (0.105) | (0.119) |
| Income | 0.042 | -0.055 | $-0.270^{* *}$ |
|  | (0.090) | (0.097) | (0.086) |
| Minority | -0.083 | 0.038 | -0.175** |
|  | (0.053) | (0.058) | (0.065) |
| Unemployed | 0.022 | 0.042 | 0.042 |
|  | (0.067) | (0.069) | (0.059) |
| Adj R-squared | 0.6241 | 0.5423 | 0.5205 |
| N | 134 | 155 | 152 |

Coeff., (Std. Err.), ^ = p < .10, * p < .05, ** p < . 01

The strongest predictor across all four measurements of voter participation is habit. The variable habit ( $\alpha=0.64$ ) is a combination of the questions asking how much respondents agree or disagree with the following statements: (1) "every time a new election comes around, it feels like I have to figure out where to go and what to do, almost like it's my first time"; (2) "the process of going to the polls and filling out a ballot is so familiar to me, I feel like I could do it in my sleep." For perpetual losers we find that habit is statistically significant (for three outcomes, p < .01 , and the fourth, $\mathrm{p}<.05$ ) in each case and has a coefficient more than twice as large as competitive districts and chronic winners in three of the four tables. However, these habitually voting chronic losers were not born habitual voters. At one time they had to vote for non-habitual reasons. They could have lived in another district that was competitive and then moved into their one sided district. This theory is supported by the strong ( $\mathrm{p}<.05$ and $\mathrm{p}<.01$ ) negative impact that the percent of ones life in their home has on voter participation in two of the tests. Also these habitual voters could be remnants from a time when the district was more competitive and therefore established their pattern of voting before becoming a chronic loser. However, there is one other variable that, while it makes a weaker showing in the analysis, may contribute to perpetual losers participating and, thus, implementing a habit of involvement.

In two of the four measures of participation the importance of elections is significantly higher for chronic losers than for the other two groups ( $\mathrm{p}<.01$ ). Recall that, as seen in Figure 6.8, the mean level of such beliefs was lower among chronic losers than among perpetual winners and people in competitive districts. However, it appears that these beliefs may be more important in influencing chronic loser participation. This suggests that, for some reason, perpetual losers perceive a benefit associated with their participation. Behavior like this implies rational voting tendencies. However, in order to accept this, given the trouble that rational voter
theory has encountered, it is important to recall what we learned about the effects of winning and losing on chronic losers perception of competition. Recall that the $p$ value in Downs' theory represented the likelihood that the voter will cast the decisive vote. Therefore, the more competitive the voter perceives their district to be the higher $p$ will become. Given that chronic losers still perceive their districts as competitive, multiplied by the perceived benefit that chronic losers believe the election will provide them, it is possible that the costs associated with voting will be overcome and the chronic loser will vote.

Finally, I would like to point out a few variables that show some signs of being significant, but are consistent for all three groups of competition. Age and education both are two such measurements of voter participation. In addition, they exemplify why it is important to include control measurements in addition to hypothesized key measurements. Furthermore, the desire to have one's voice heard as a measure of political participation is significant in at least one competition category in all four of the voter turnout categories. Many of the measures of the MTurk analysis are still weak in the same way they were for the 2004 NAES. However, there is some reason to believe that should the large sample from the 2004 NAES be combined with the subject specific variables from the MTurk survey differences between chronic losers and other people would be demonstrated more robustly.

## VIII <br> Conclusions and Discussion

Throughout this study I have been trying to identify ways in which long-term winning and losing affects voting behavior. Although neither of the two test studies was optimal, I was able to leverage the strengths of each to arrive at some interesting implications that merit further study. First, doubt continues over whether losing has an effect on political efficacy. Because the measures of efficacy in the 2004 NAES were some of the items sufficiently written and the sample is more representative than the MTurk study I would tend to trust the results of that test more. Similarly, since the measures of voter turnout have no reason to be suspect, I stand by the argument that long-term one-sided districts create minimal drop-offs in voter turnout, contrary to what rational and psychological theories would lead one to expect.

I believe that part of this is due to the fact that regardless of what the reality is, most voters believe that their candidate has a fair chance of winning. After all, why should a decline in voter participation occur if nobody believes that they are winning or losing most of the time? Finally, there is evidence to suggest that habitual voting and strong partisan relationships contribute more to chronic losers participating in elections. It may be possible that the reason these are stronger predictors of turnout for perpetual losers is because they do not require chronic losers to acknowledge the reality of competition within their district.

Possible strings of research that could come from these findings are investigations into the development of false impressions of competition and the ways in which these impressions create habitual voting practices. Furthermore, it would be exciting to see the ways that other groups within the mass population differ in behaviors that affect voter participation. I think it is time that political scientists stop trying to identify predictors of voting behavior for voters as one
body and, instead, acknowledge that there are different groups that exist within the eligible population that participate for different reasons. Perhaps by examining these groups it will be possible to better encourage everyone to vote on Election Day and begin to tackle the extremely low voter participation rate in the United States.

## Appendix A

| NAES District | $\underline{\text { Big Loser \% }}$ | NAES District | Big Loser \% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Alabama District 1 | 0.276 | California District 21 | 0.345 |
| Alabama District 2 | 0.241 | California District 22 | 0.207 |
| Alabama District 3 | -0.241 | California District 23 | -0.103 |
| Alabama District 4 | -0.207 | California District 24 | -0.207 |
| Alabama District 5 | -0.345 | California District 25 | 0.000 |
| Alabama District 6 | 0.034 | California District 26 | -0.310 |
| Alabama District 7 | -0.379 | California District 27 | -0.207 |
| Arizona District 1 | 0.433 | California District 28 | -0.138 |
| Arizona District 2 | -0.100 | California District 29 | -0.414 |
| Arizona District 3 | 0.533 | California District 30 | -0.345 |
| Arizona District 4 | 0.500 | California District 31 | -0.379 |
| Arizona District 5 | 0.467 | California District 32 | -0.379 |
| Arizona District 6 | 0.320 | California District 33 | -0.069 |
| Arizona District 7 | 0.250 | California District 34 | -0.345 |
| Arizona District 8 | 0.350 | California District 35 | -0.069 |
| Arkansas District 1 | -0.400 | California District 36 | -0.069 |
| Arkansas District 2 | -0.267 | California District 37 | -0.103 |
| Arkansas District 3 | 0.200 | California District 38 | 0.000 |
| Arkansas District 4 | -0.267 | California District 39 | 0.276 |
| California District 1 | -0.241 | California District 40 | 0.345 |
| California District 2 | 0.276 | California District 41 | 0.276 |
| California District 3 | -0.172 | California District 42 | 0.138 |
| California District 4 | 0.000 | California District 43 | 0.103 |
| California District 5 | -0.379 | California District 44 | -0.069 |
| California District 6 | -0.379 | California District 45 | 0.310 |
| California District 7 | -0.414 | California District 46 | 0.000 |
| California District 8 | -0.379 | California District 47 | 0.125 |
| California District 9 | -0.379 | California District 48 | 0.208 |
| California District 10 | -0.207 | California District 49 | 0.000 |
| California District 11 | 0.000 | California District 50 | -0.208 |
| California District 12 | -0.103 | California District 51 | 0.167 |
| California District 13 | -0.414 | California District 52 | 0.167 |
| California District 14 | -0.069 | California District 53 | -0.105 |
| California District 15 | -0.207 | Colorado District 1 | -0.276 |
| California District 16 | -0.414 | Colorado District 2 | -0.103 |
| California District 17 | -0.103 | Colorado District 3 | 0.172 |
| California District 18 | -0.379 | Colorado District 4 | 0.276 |
| California District 19 | 0.207 | Colorado District 5 | 0.414 |
| California District 20 | 0.034 | Colorado District 6 | 0.379 |

NAES District
Colorado District 7
Connecticut District 1
Connecticut District 2
Connecticut District 3
Connecticut District 4
Connecticut District 5
Deleware District 1
Florida District 1
Florida District 2
Florida District 3
Florida District 4
Florida District 5
Florida District 6
Florida District 7
Florida District 8
Florida District 9
Florida District 10
Florida District 11
Florida District 12
Florida District 13
Florida District 14
Florida District 15
Florida District 16
Florida District 17
Florida District 18
Florida District 19
Florida District 20
Florida District 21
Florida District 22
Florida District 23
Florida District 24
Florida District 25
Georgia District 1
Georgia District 2
Georgia District 3
Georgia District 4
Georgia District 5
Georgia District 6
Georgia District 7

Big Loser \%
0.105
-0.448 Georgia District 9
-0.207 Georgia District 10
$-0.379$
0.172
-0.034
-0.067
0.036
-0.321
-0.185
0.071
0.000
0.107
0.000
0.357
0.286
0.286
$-0.250$
0.259
0.321
0.107
$0.214 \quad$ Illinois District $14 \quad 0.310$
$0.074 \quad$ Illinois District $15 \quad 0.241$
0.107 Illinois District $17 \quad-0.172$
-0.357 Illinois District $18 \quad 0.207$
-0.217 Illinois District $19 \quad-0.241$
$0.261 \quad$ Indiana District $1 \quad-0.143$
$0.174 \quad$ Indiana District $2 \quad 0.179$
-0.261 Indiana District $3 \quad 0.214$
$0.056 \quad$ Indiana District $4 \quad 0.357$
0.100 Iowa District $2 \quad 0.207$

NAES District
Georgia District 8
Big Loser \%
-0.267
-0.067
-0.100
-0.040
-0.100
-0.100
0.414

$$
0.379
$$

$$
-0.414
$$

-0.393 Illinois District $16 \quad 0.207$
$0.056 \quad$ Indiana District $5 \quad 0.429$
-0.067 Indiana District $6 \quad 0.571$
-0.333 Indiana District $7 \quad 0.464$
-0.100 Indiana District $8 \quad 0.148$
-0.233 Indiana District $9 \quad-0.036$
-0.433 Iowa District $1 \quad 0.379$
-0.167 Iowa District $3 \quad 0.069$
-0.414
$-0.379$
-0.207
$-0.345$
0.310
-0.414
$-0.069$
-0.414
0.276

$$
-0.103
$$

-0.069





NAES District
Iowa District 4
Iowa District 5
Kansas District 1
Kansas District 2
Kansas District 3
Kansas District 4
Kentucky District 1
Kentucky District 2
Kentucky District 3
Kentucky District 4
Kentucky District 5
Kentucky District 6
Louisiana District 1
Louisiana District 2
Louisiana District 3
Louisiana District 4
Louisiana District 5
Louisiana District 6
Louisiana District 7
Maine District 1
Maine District 2
Maryland District 1
Maryland District 2
Maryland District 3
Maryland District 4
Maryland District 5
Maryland District 6
Maryland District 7
Maryland District 8
Massachusetts District 1
Massachusetts District 2
Massachusetts District 3
Massachusetts District 4
Massachusetts District 5
Massachusetts District 6
Massachusetts District 7
Massachusetts District 8
Massachusetts District 9
Massachusetts District 10

Big Loser \%
0.000
0.414
0.793
0.414
0.586
0.310
-0.276
-0.207
-0.276
0.069
0.241
0.069
0.207
-0.483
$-0.276$
-0.172
-0.167
0.138
-0.400
-0.100
0.100
-0.172
-0.034
-0.583
-0.448
$-0.586$
-0.310
-0.655
-0.138
-0.233
-0.633 Missouri District 3
-0.500 Missouri District 4
-0.600 Missouri District 5
-0.533 Missouri District $6 \quad 0.107$
-0.467 Missouri District $7 \quad 0.393$
-0.633 Missouri District $8 \quad 0.321$
-0.633 Missouri District $9 \quad 0.179$
-0.633 Montana District $1 \quad-0.143$
-0.533 Nebraska District 1

Big Loser \%
-0.267
0.267
0.133
0.300
-0.100
0.133
-0.067
-0.167

$$
0.033
$$

-0.033
0.167
-0.200
$-0.267$

$$
-0.367
$$

$-0.367$
-0.036
0.143
0.464
$-0.250$
-0.321
$-0.036$
-0.071
$-0.321$

$$
0.233
$$

$$
0.033
$$

$$
0.133
$$

0.100


#### Abstract

0.172


$-0.250$

$$
0.321
$$

$-0.107$
-0.214
-0.179

$$
0.179
$$

$$
-0.143
$$

0.516

NAES District
Nebraska District 2
Nebraska District 3
Nevada District 1
Nevada District 2
Nevada District 3
New Hampshire District 1
New Hampshire District 2
New Jersey District 1
New Jersey District 2
New Jersey District 3
New Jersey District 4
New Jersey District 5
New Jersey District 6
New Jersey District 7
New Jersey District 8
New Jersey District 9
New Jersey District 10
New Jersey District 11
New Jersey District 12
New Jersey District 13
New Mexico District 1
New Mexico District 2
New Mexico District 3
New York District 1
New York District 2
New York District 3
New York District 4
New York District 5
New York District 6
New York District 7
New York District 8
New York District 9
New York District 10
New York District 11
New York District 12
New York District 13
New York District 14
New York District 15
New York District 16

Big Loser \%
0.323
0.516
-0.069
0.276
0.105
0.382
0.324
$-0.345$

### 0.000

0.138
0.345
0.379
-0.241
0.172
$-0.276$
-0.276

## -0.379

0.276

### 0.207

-0.069
0.300
0.267
-0.233
-0.138
$-0.207$
-0.103
-0.034
-0.172
$-0.552$
$-0.517$
$-0.552$
-0.517
-0.552
$-0.552$
$-0.552$
-0.172
-0.207
-0.310
-0.552

NAES District
New York District 17
New York District 18
New York District 19
New York District 20
New York District 21
New York District 22
New York District 23
New York District 24
New York District 25
New York District 26
Big Loser \%
$-0.552$
-0.483
$-0.207$
-0.034
-0.207
0.069
-0.138
0.207

$$
0.069
$$

-0.034

$$
0.000
$$

$-0.379$

$$
-0.034
$$

$$
-0.357
$$

-0.179

$$
0.036
$$

$-0.071$

$$
0.143
$$


-0.214

$$
0.000
$$

$$
0.321
$$

$$
0.393
$$

$$
0.071
$$

-0.174
North Carolina District 12

$$
0.056
$$

North Carolina District 13

$$
-0.250
$$

Ohio District $1 \quad-0.069$
Ohio District $2 \quad 0.379$
Ohio District 3
-0.276
Ohio District $4 \quad 0.379$
Ohio District $5 \quad 0.345$
Ohio District $6 \quad 0.138$
Ohio District $7 \quad 0.345$
Ohio District $8 \quad 0.379$
Ohio District $9 \quad-0.310$
Ohio District $10 \quad 0.069$
Ohio District 11
-0.379
Ohio District 12
0.310
$\left.\begin{array}{lclr}\text { NAES District } & \text { Big Loser \% } & & \text { NAES District } \\ \text { Ohio District 13 } & \text { Loser \% } \\ \text { Ohio District 14 } & -0.345 & & \text { South Carolina District 3 }\end{array}\right) 0.1720 .276$

NAES District
Texas District 26
Texas District 27
Texas District 28
Texas District 29
Texas District 30
Texas District 31
Texas District 32
Utah District 1
Utah District 2
Utah District $3 \quad 0.607$
Vermont District $1 \quad 0.176$
Virginia District $1 \quad 0.345$
Virginia District 20.103
Virginia District $3 \quad 0.069$
Virginia District $4 \quad-0.138$
Virginia District $5 \quad-0.103$
Virginia District $6 \quad 0.241$
Virginia District $7 \quad 0.448$
Virginia District $8 \quad 0.034$
Virginia District $9 \quad-0.138$
Virginia District $10 \quad 0.483$
Virginia District $11 \quad 0.333$
Washington District 1
Washington District 2
Washington District 3
Washington District 4
Washington District 5
Washington District 6
Washington District 7
Washington District 8
Washington District 9
West Virginia District 1
West Virginia District 2
West Virginia District 3
Wisconsin District 1
Wisconsin District 2
Wisconsin District 3
Wisconsin District 4
Wisconsin District 5
Wisconsin District 6

Big Loser \%
0.500
-0.100
0.000
0.000
0.000
0.350
0.350
0.714
0.429

$$
0.241
$$

$$
0.448
$$

-0.036
-0.179
-0.214
0.214
$-0.214$

$$
-0.429
$$

-0.464
0.214
-0.217
$-0.586$

$$
-0.483
$$

$-0.621$
$-0.069$

$$
-0.034
$$

$$
0.034
$$

$$
-0.276
$$

-0.310
0.345

NAES District
Wisconsin District 7
Wisconsin District 8
Big Loser \%
-0.310
0.241

Wyoming District 1
0.367

NAES District
Alabama District 1
Alabama District 2
Alabama District 3
Alabama District 4
Alabama District 5
Alabama District 6
Alabama District 7
Arizona District 1
Arizona District 2
Arizona District 3
Arizona District 4
Arizona District 5
Arizona District 6
Arizona District 7
Arizona District 8
Arkansas District 1
Arkansas District 2
Arkansas District 3
Arkansas District 4
California District 1
California District 2
California District 3
California District 4
California District 5
California District 6
California District 7
California District 8
California District 9
California District 10
California District 11
California District 12
California District 13
California District 14
California District 15
California District 16
California District 17
California District 18
California District 19
California District 20

Simple Loser \% NAES District
$0.586 \quad$ California District 21
$0.586 \quad$ California District 22
$0.103 \quad$ California District 23
0.103 California District 24
-0.172 California District 25
0.241 California District 26
-0.172 California District 27
$0.600 \quad$ California District 28
$0.000 \quad$ California District 29
0.667 California District 30
$0.600 \quad$ California District 31
$0.600 \quad$ California District 32
$0.520 \quad$ California District 33
$0.400 \quad$ California District 34
$0.500 \quad$ California District 35
-0.600 California District 36
-0.533 California District 37
$0.133 \quad$ California District 38
-0.333 California District 39
-0.241 California District 40
$0.310 \quad$ California District $41 \quad 0.310$
-0.241 California District 42
-0.034 California District 43
-0.448 California District 44
-0.448 California District 45
-0.448 California District 46
-0.448 California District 47
-0.448 California District 48
-0.310 California District 49
-0.034 California District 50
-0.103 California District $51 \quad 0.083$
-0.448 California District $52 \quad 0.167$
-0.103 California District $53 \quad-0.158$
$-0.310 \quad$ Colorado District $1 \quad-0.241$
-0.448 Colorado District $2 \quad-0.241$
-0.172 Colorado District $3 \quad 0.241$
-0.448 Colorado District $4 \quad 0.517$
0.241 Colorado District $5 \quad 0.517$
-0.103 Colorado District $6 \quad 0.517$

Simple Loser \%
0.310
0.103
-0.103
-0.379
-0.034
-0.379
-0.172
-0.103
-0.448
$-0.448$
-0.448
-0.448
-0.103
-0.448
-0.103
-0.379
-0.103
0.172
0.241
0.310
-0.034
0.172
0.034
0.310
-0.083
0.083
0.167
0.000
-0.250

- 0.158

NAES District
Colorado District 7
Connecticut District 1
Connecticut District 2
Connecticut District 3
Connecticut District 4
Connecticut District 5
Deleware District 1
Florida District 1
Florida District 2
Florida District 3
Florida District 4
Florida District 5
Florida District 6
Florida District 7
Florida District 8
Florida District 9
Florida District 10
Florida District 11
Florida District 12
Florida District 13
Florida District 14
Florida District 15
Florida District 16
Florida District 17
Florida District 18
Florida District 19
Florida District 20
Florida District 21
Florida District 22
Florida District 23
Florida District 24
Florida District 25
Georgia District 1
Georgia District 2
Georgia District 3
Georgia District 4
Georgia District 5
Georgia District 6
Georgia District 7

Simple Loser \% NAES District
0.263 Georgia District 8
-0.517 Georgia District 9
-0.379 Georgia District 10
-0.517 Georgia District 11
$0.241 \quad$ Georgia District 12
-0.034 Georgia District 13
-0.133 Idaho District 1
-0.036 Idaho District 2
-0.393 Illinois District 1
-0.370 Illinois District 2
0.179 Illinois District 3
$0.036 \quad$ Illinois District 4
0.179 Illinois District 5
0.036 Illinois District 6
0.393 Illinois District 7
0.393 Illinois District 8
0.321 Illinois District 9
-0.393 Illinois District 10
$0.370 \quad$ Illinois District $11 \quad-0.103$
0.393 Illinois District 12
$0.036 \quad$ Illinois District $13 \quad 0.310$
$0.321 \quad$ Illinois District $14 \quad 0.310$
$0.074 \quad$ Illinois District $15 \quad 0.310$
-0.393 Illinois District $16 \quad 0.241$
0.107 Illinois District $17 \quad-0.448$
-0.393 Illinois District $18 \quad 0.310$
-0.261 Illinois District $19 \quad-0.310$
0.261 Indiana District $1 \quad-0.143$
0.261 Indiana District $2 \quad 0.214$
-0.261 Indiana District $3 \quad 0.214$
$0.056 \quad$ Indiana District $4 \quad 0.500$
$0.056 \quad$ Indiana District $5 \quad 0.429$
-0.067 Indiana District $6 \quad 0.643$
-0.467 Indiana District $7 \quad 0.571$
-0.133 Indiana District $8 \quad 0.259$
$-0.200 \quad$ Indiana District $9 \quad-0.143$
-0.467 Iowa District $1 \quad 0.310$
0.267 Iowa District $2 \quad 0.310$
-0.133 Iowa District $3 \quad-0.172$
-0.103
Simple Loser \%
-0.133
-0.200
-0.133
-0.040
-0.100
-0.200
0.655
0.517
-0.448
-0.448
-0.448
-0.241
-0.379
0.310
-0.448
-0.034
-0.448
0.310

NAES District
Iowa District 4
Iowa District 5
Kansas District 1
Kansas District 2
Kansas District 3
Kansas District 4
Kentucky District 1
Kentucky District 2
Kentucky District 3
Kentucky District 4
Kentucky District 5
Kentucky District 6
Louisiana District 1
Louisiana District 2
Louisiana District 3
Louisiana District 4
Louisiana District 5
Louisiana District 6
Louisiana District 7
Maine District 1
Maine District 2
Maryland District 1
Maryland District 2
Maryland District 3
Maryland District 4
Maryland District 5
Maryland District 6
Maryland District 7
Maryland District 8
Massachusetts District 1
Massachusetts District 2
Massachusetts District 3
Massachusetts District 4
Massachusetts District 5
Massachusetts District 6
Massachusetts District 7
Massachusetts District 8
Massachusetts District 9
Massachusetts District 10

Simple Loser \% NAES District
-0.103 Michigan District 1
0.241 Michigan District 2
0.793 Michigan District 3
$0.379 \quad$ Michigan District 4
0.586 Michigan District 5
$0.379 \quad$ Michigan District 6
-0.034 Michigan District 7
-0.034 Michigan District 8
-0.103 Michigan District 9
$0.172 \quad$ Michigan District 10
$0.379 \quad$ Michigan District 11
$0.172 \quad$ Michigan District 12
0.071 Michigan District 13
-0.643 Michigan District 14
-0.429 Michigan District 15
-0.286 Minnesota District 1
-0.286 Minnesota District $2 \quad 0.000$
$0.071 \quad$ Minnesota District 3
-0.586 Minnesota District $4 \quad-0.500$
-0.067 Minnesota District 5
0.133 Minnesota District 6
-0.310 Minnesota District 7
-0.172 Minnesota District 8
-0.793 Mississippi District $1 \quad 0.333$
-0.655 Mississippi District $2 \quad 0.133$
-0.793 Mississippi District $3 \quad 0.267$
-0.379 Mississippi District $4 \quad 0.067$
-0.793 Mississippi District $5 \quad 0.310$
-0.241 Missouri District $1 \quad-0.214$
-0.333 Missouri District $2 \quad 0.357$
-0.667 Missouri District $3 \quad-0.214$
-0.533 Missouri District $4 \quad-0.214$
-0.667 Missouri District $5 \quad-0.214$
-0.667 Missouri District $6 \quad 0.286$
-0.533 Missouri District $7 \quad 0.571$
-0.667 Missouri District $8 \quad 0.500$
-0.667 Missouri District $9 \quad 0.071$
-0.667 Montana District $1 \quad 0.000$
$\begin{array}{lll}-0.667 & \text { Nebraska District } 1 & 0.400\end{array}$
$-0.500$
Simple Loser \%
-0.600
0.133
-0.200
0.133
-0.267
-0.200
-0.200
-0.400
-0.200
-0.267
0.133
-0.600
-0.600
-0.600
-0.600
-0.143
0.286
-0.357
-0.214
-0.500

NAES District
Nebraska District 2
Nebraska District 3
Nevada District 1
Nevada District 2
Nevada District 3
New Hampshire District 1
New Hampshire District 2
New Jersey District 1
New Jersey District 2
New Jersey District 3
New Jersey District 4
New Jersey District 5
New Jersey District 6
New Jersey District 7
New Jersey District 8
New Jersey District 9
New Jersey District 10
New Jersey District 11
New Jersey District 12
New Jersey District 13
New Mexico District 1
New Mexico District 2
New Mexico District 3
New York District 1
New York District 2
New York District 3
New York District 4
New York District 5
New York District 6
New York District 7
New York District 8
New York District 9
New York District 10
New York District 11
New York District 12
New York District 13
New York District 14
New York District 15
New York District 16

Simple Loser \% NAES District
$0.200 \quad$ New York District 17
0.400 New York District 18
-0.379 New York District 19
0.241 New York District 20
-0.158 New York District 21
0.647 New York District 22
0.588 New York District 23
-0.655 New York District 24
-0.310 New York District 25
-0.241 New York District 26
0.103 New York District 270.172
0.103 New York District 28 -0.586
-0.655 New York District 29
0.103 North Carolina District 1
-0.586 North Carolina District 2
-0.655 North Carolina District 3
-0.655 North Carolina District 4
0.034 North Carolina District 5
-0.103 North Carolina District $6 \quad 0.571$
-0.310 North Carolina District $7 \quad-0.143$
$0.333 \quad$ North Carolina District $8 \quad 0.071$
0.333 North Carolina District $9 \quad 0.643$
-0.400 North Carolina District $10 \quad 0.643$
-0.172 North Carolina District $11 \quad 0.429$
-0.310 North Carolina District 12
-0.172 North Carolina District 13
-0.103 North Dakota District $1 \quad-0.429$
-0.241 Ohio District $1 \quad 0.034$
$-0.586 \quad$ Ohio District 20.448
-0.586 Ohio District $3 \quad-0.241$
$-0.586 \quad$ Ohio District $4 \quad 0.448$
$-0.586 \quad$ Ohio District $5 \quad 0.448$
-0.586 Ohio District $6 \quad 0.103$
$-0.586 \quad$ Ohio District $7 \quad 0.448$
-0.586 Ohio District $8 \quad 0.448$
-0.172 Ohio District $9 \quad-0.310$
-0.241 Ohio District $10 \quad 0.172$
-0.241 Ohio District $11 \quad-0.310$
$-0.586 \quad$ Ohio District $12 \quad 0.448$
0.333
-0.586
$-0.586$
-0.172
-0.034
-0.241
0.172
-0.172
-0.172

$$
0.214
$$

$$
0.571
$$

$$
-0.143
$$

0.043
0.103
-0.172
0.172
-0.143
-0.071

$$
0.214
$$

0.000






$$
0.448
$$

$$
-0.241
$$





| NAES District | Simple Loser \% | NAES District | Simple Loser \% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ohio District 13 | -0.310 | South Carolina District 3 | 0.241 |
| Ohio District 14 | -0.241 | South Carolina District 4 | 0.448 |
| Ohio District 15 | 0.448 | South Carolina District 5 | -0.103 |
| Ohio District 16 | 0.448 | South Carolina District 6 | -0.103 |
| Ohio District 17 | -0.241 | South Dakota District 1 | 0.172 |
| Ohio District 18 | 0.034 | Tennessee District 1 | 0.400 |
| Oklahoma District 1 | 0.517 | Tennessee District 2 | 0.400 |
| Oklahoma District 2 | 0.103 | Tennessee District 3 | 0.000 |
| Oklahoma District 3 | 0.172 | Tennessee District 4 | -0.067 |
| Oklahoma District 4 | 0.241 | Tennessee District 5 | -0.333 |
| Oklahoma District 5 | 0.655 | Tennessee District 6 | -0.333 |
| Oregon District 1 | -0.448 | Tennessee District 7 | 0.400 |
| Oregon District 2 | 0.310 | Tennessee District 8 | -0.333 |
| Oregon District 3 | -0.448 | Tennessee District 9 | -0.333 |
| Oregon District 4 | -0.448 | Texas District 1 | 0.000 |
| Oregon District 5 | -0.103 | Texas District 2 | 0.000 |
| Pennsylvania District 1 | -0.172 | Texas District 3 | 0.733 |
| Pennsylvania District 2 | -0.172 | Texas District 4 | 0.000 |
| Pennsylvania District 3 | -0.103 | Texas District 5 | 0.267 |
| Pennsylvania District 4 | -0.034 | Texas District 6 | 0.667 |
| Pennsylvania District 5 | 0.586 | Texas District 7 | 0.733 |
| Pennsylvania District 6 | -0.103 | Texas District 8 | 0.733 |
| Pennsylvania District 7 | 0.448 | Texas District 9 | 0.067 |
| Pennsylvania District 8 | 0.241 | Texas District 10 | 0.000 |
| Pennsylvania District 9 | 0.586 | Texas District 11 | 0.000 |
| Pennsylvania District 10 | 0.586 | Texas District 12 | 0.267 |
| Pennsylvania District 11 | -0.172 | Texas District 13 | 0.467 |
| Pennsylvania District 12 | -0.172 | Texas District 14 | 0.400 |
| Pennsylvania District 13 | 0.310 | Texas District 15 | 0.000 |
| Pennsylvania District 14 | -0.172 | Texas District 16 | 0.000 |
| Pennsylvania District 15 | 0.379 | Texas District 17 | 0.000 |
| Pennsylvania District 16 | 0.586 | Texas District 18 | 0.000 |
| Pennsylvania District 17 | 0.517 | Texas District 19 | 0.667 |
| Pennsylvania District 18 | 0.034 | Texas District 20 | 0.000 |
| Pennsylvania District 19 | 0.586 | Texas District 21 | 0.733 |
| Rhode Island District 1 | -0.152 | Texas District 22 | 0.733 |
| Rhode Island District 2 | -0.091 | Texas District 23 | 0.400 |
| South Carolina District 1 | 0.655 | Texas District 24 | 0.000 |
| South Carolina District 2 | 0.655 | Texas District 25 | 0.000 |

NAES District
Texas District 26
Texas District 27
Texas District 28
Texas District 29
Texas District 30
Texas District 31
Texas District 32
Utah District $1 \quad 1.000$
Utah District $2 \quad 0.571$
Utah District $3 \quad 0.786$
Vermont District $1 \quad 0.176$
Virginia District $1 \quad 0.655$
Virginia District 20.172
Virginia District $3 \quad 0.241$
Virginia District $4 \quad-0.034$
Virginia District $5 \quad-0.034$
Virginia District $6 \quad 0.310$
Virginia District $7 \quad 0.655$
Virginia District $8 \quad 0.172$
Virginia District $9 \quad-0.103$
Virginia District $10 \quad 0.655$
Virginia District $11 \quad 0.500$
Washington District $1 \quad-0.214$
Washington District $2 \quad-0.500$
Washington District $3 \quad-0.571$
Washington District $4 \quad 0.000$
Washington District $5 \quad-0.357$
Washington District $6 \quad-0.714$
Washington District $7 \quad-0.714$
Washington District $8 \quad 0.071$
Washington District $9 \quad-0.565$
West Virginia District $1 \quad-0.724$
West Virginia District $2 \quad-0.586$
West Virginia District $3 \quad-0.724$
Wisconsin District $1 \quad-0.241$
Wisconsin District $2 \quad-0.310$
Wisconsin District $3-0.103$
Wisconsin District $4-0.586$
Wisconsin District $5 \quad-0.517$
Wisconsin District $6 \quad 0.172$

Simple Loser \%
-0.586
0.103
0.733

## MTurk District

Alabama District 1
Alabama District 2
Alabama District 3
Alabama District 4
Alabama District 5
Alabama District 6
Alabama District 7
Alaska District 1
Arizona District 1
Arizona District 2
Arizona District 3
Arizona District 4
Arizona District 5
Arizona District 6
Arizona District 7
Arizona District 8
Arkansas District 1
Arkansas District 2
Arkansas District 3
Arkansas District 4
California District 1
California District 2
California District 3
California District 4
California District 5
California District 6
California District 7
California District 8
California District 9
California District 10
California District 11
California District 12
California District 13
California District 14
California District 15
California District 16
California District 17
California District 18
California District 19

Big Loser \%
0.405
0.351
-0.027
0.027
-0.216
0.216
-0.270
0.486
0.368
0.000
0.474
0.316
0.395
0.333
0.071
0.286

## -0.395

-0.263
0.237
$-0.263$
-0.351
0.189
-0.162
$-0.054$
-0.459
-0.459
-0.486
-0.459
$-0.459$
-0.324
-0.054
$-0.243$
-0.486
$-0.216$
-0.324
-0.486
$-0.243$
-0.459
0.162

MTurk District
California District 20
California District 21
California District 22
California District 23
California District 24
California District 25
California District 26
California District 27
California District 28
California District 29
California District 30
California District 31
California District 32
California District 33
California District 34
California District 35
California District 36
California District 37
California District 38
California District 39
California District 40
California District 41
California District 42
California District 43
California District 44
California District $45 \quad 0.216$
California District 46
California District 47
California District 48
California District 49
California District 50
California District 51
California District 52
California District $53 \quad-0.296$
Colorado District $1 \quad-0.306$
Colorado District $2 \quad-0.167$
Colorado District $3 \quad 0.083$
Colorado District 4
Colorado District 50.389
-0.031
-0.094
0.125
0.000
-0.219
-0.063
0.222

Big Loser \%
-0.108
0.270
0.162
-0.243
-0.189
-0.027
-0.297
-0.324
$-0.270$
-0.486
-0.432
-0.459
-0.459
$-0.162$
-0.432
$-0.216$
$-0.216$

$$
-0.243
$$

-0.162
0.054


#### Abstract

0.270


0.216

$$
0.108
$$


#### Abstract

-0.081


-0.081

0.094

## MTurk District

Colorado District 6
Colorado District 7
Connecticut District 1
Connecticut District 2
Connecticut District 3
Connecticut District 4
Connecticut District 5
Connecticut District 6
Deleware District 1
Florida District 1
Florida District 2
Florida District 3
Florida District 4
Florida District 5
Florida District 6
Florida District 7
Florida District 8
Florida District 9
Florida District 10
Florida District 11
Florida District 12
Florida District 13
Florida District 14
Florida District 15
Florida District 16
Florida District 17
Florida District 18
Florida District 19
Florida District 20
Florida District 21
Florida District 22
Florida District 23
Florida District 24
Florida District 25
Georgia District 1
Georgia District 2
Georgia District 3
Georgia District 4
Georgia District 5

| Big Loser \% |  | Mig Loser \% |
| :---: | :--- | :---: |
| 0.361 | Georgia District 6 | 0.179 |
| 0.038 | Georgia District 7 | -0.026 |
| -0.486 | Georgia District 8 | -0.154 |
| -0.243 | Georgia District 9 | 0.051 |
| -0.432 | Georgia District 10 | 0.026 |
| 0.081 | Georgia District 11 | 0.059 |
| -0.081 | Georgia District 12 | -0.069 |
| 0.061 | Georgia District 13 | -0.138 |
| -0.103 | Hawaii District 1 | -0.568 |
| 0.083 | Hawaii District 2 | -0.676 |
| -0.361 | Idaho District 1 | 0.459 |
| -0.257 | Idaho District 2 | 0.486 |
| 0.111 | Illinois District 1 | -0.486 |
| 0.028 | Illinois District 2 | -0.486 |
| 0.111 | Illinois District 3 | -0.459 |
| 0.028 | Illinois District 4 | -0.324 |
| 0.278 | Illinois District 5 | -0.432 |
| 0.250 | Illinois District 6 | 0.162 |
| 0.278 | Illinois District 7 | -0.486 |
| -0.306 | Illinois District 8 | -0.162 |
| 0.229 | Illinois District 9 | -0.486 |
| 0.222 | Illinois District 10 | 0.162 |
| 0.139 | Illinois District 11 | -0.189 |
| 0.167 | Illinois District 12 | -0.216 |
| 0.086 | Illinois District 13 | 0.189 |
| -0.417 | Illinois District 14 | 0.189 |
| 0.111 | Illinois District 15 | 0.162 |
| -0.361 | Illinois District 16 | 0.162 |
| -0.290 | Illinois District 17 | -0.270 |
| 0.194 | Illinois District 18 | 0.162 |
| 0.129 | Illinois District 19 | -0.189 |
| -0.290 | Illinois District 20 | -0.182 |
| 0.000 | Indiana District 1 | -0.162 |
| 0.000 | Indiana District 2 | 0.135 |
| 0.051 | Indiana District 3 | 0.216 |
| -0.308 | Indiana District 4 | 0.351 |
| -0.026 | Indiana District 5 | 0.432 |
| -0.231 | Indiana District 6 | 0.541 |
| -0.385 | Indiana District 7 | 0.351 |
|  |  |  |

Big Loser \%
0.361
0.038
-0.486
-0.243
-0.432
0.081
-0.081
0.061
0.083
-0.361
-0.257
0.111
0.028
0.028
0.278
0.250
0.278
-0.306
$0.229 \quad$ Illinois District 9
0.222 Illinois District 10

Illinois District 11
-0.216
0.086
-0.417 Illinois District $14 \quad 0.189$
0.111 Illinois District 150.162
-0.361 Illinois District $16 \quad 0.162$
-0.290 Illinois District $17 \quad-0.270$
$0.194 \quad$ Illinois District $18 \quad 0.162$
0.129 Illinois District 19 -0.189
-0.290 Illinois District $20 \quad-0.182$
0.000 Indiana District $1 \quad-0.162$
$0.000 \quad$ Indiana District $2 \quad 0.135$
0.051 Indiana District 3
0.216
0.432

Indiana District 6
0.351


Big Loser \%
0.083
-0.027
0.061
0.270
0.189
0.054
0.054
0.405
0.784
0.405
0.514
0.405

$$
-0.162
$$

$-0.135$
-0.189

0.270
0.000

-0.421
-0.243

-0.053
0.162
-0.263
-0.053
0.079
-0.135
-0.162
$-0.594$
-0.486
-0.595
-0.243
-0.649
-0.243
-0.395
$-0.711$
$-0.605$
-0.684

| MTurk District | Big Loser \% |
| :---: | :---: |
| Massachusetts District 5 | -0.632 |
| Massachusetts District 6 | -0.579 |
| Massachusetts District 7 | -0.711 |
| Massachusetts District 8 | -0.711 |
| Massachusetts District 9 | -0.711 |
| Massachusetts District 10 | -0.632 |
| Michigan District 1 | -0.316 |
| Michigan District 2 | 0.263 |
| Michigan District 3 | 0.158 |
| Michigan District 4 | 0.289 |
| Michigan District 5 | -0.184 |
| Michigan District 6 | 0.158 |
| Michigan District 7 | -0.053 |
| Michigan District 8 | -0.132 |
| Michigan District 9 | 0.000 |
| Michigan District 10 | 0.026 |
| Michigan District 11 | 0.105 |
| Michigan District 12 | -0.263 |
| Michigan District 13 | -0.316 |
| Michigan District 14 | -0.395 |
| Michigan District 15 | -0.395 |
| Michigan District 16 | -0.324 |
| Minnesota District 1 | -0.056 |
| Minnesota District 2 | 0.083 |
| Minnesota District 3 | 0.389 |
| Minnesota District 4 | -0.306 |
| Minnesota District 5 | -0.361 |
| Minnesota District 6 | -0.056 |
| Minnesota District 7 | -0.167 |
| Minnesota District 8 | -0.361 |
| Mississippi District 1 | 0.256 |
| Mississippi District 2 | 0.000 |
| Mississippi District 3 | 0.205 |
| Mississippi District 4 | 0.026 |
| Mississippi District 5 | 0.171 |
| Missouri District 1 | -0.270 |
| Missouri District 2 | 0.324 |
| Missouri District 3 | -0.135 |
| Missouri District 4 | -0.243 |


| MTurk District | Big Loser \% |
| :--- | ---: |
| Missouri District 5 | -0.189 |
| Missouri District 6 | 0.162 |
| Missouri District 7 | 0.378 |
| Missouri District 8 | 0.324 |
| Missouri District 9 | 0.189 |
| Montana District 1 | -0.054 |
| Nebraska District 1 | 0.462 |
| Nebraska District 2 | 0.308 |
| Nebraska District 3 | 0.487 |
| Nevada District 1 | -0.162 |
| Nevada District 2 | 0.216 |
| Nevada District 3 | 0.037 |
| New Hampshire District 1 | 0.295 |
| New Hampshire District 2 | 0.250 |
| New Jersey District 1 | -0.351 |
| New Jersey District 2 | 0.081 |
| New Jersey District 3 | 0.135 |
| New Jersey District 4 | 0.351 |
| New Jersey District 5 | 0.297 |
| New Jersey District 6 | -0.270 |
| New Jersey District 7 | 0.135 |
| New Jersey District 8 | -0.297 |
| New Jersey District 9 | -0.297 |
| New Jersey District 10 | -0.378 |
| New Jersey District 11 | 0.297 |
| New Jersey District 12 | 0.108 |
| New Jersey District 13 | -0.135 |
| New Mexico District 1 | 0.158 |
| New Mexico District 2 | 0.158 |
| New Mexico District 3 | -0.342 |
| New York District 1 | -0.243 |
| New York District 2 | -0.351 |
| New York District 3 | -0.135 |
| New York District 4 | -0.216 |
| New York District 5 | -0.324 |
| New York District 6 | -0.622 |
| New York District 7 | -0.595 |
| New York District 8 | -0.622 |
| New York District 9 | -0.595 |


| MTurk District | Big Loser \% | MTurk District | Big Loser \% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ohio District 4 | 0.324 | Pennsylvania District 13 | 0.081 |
| Ohio District 5 | 0.324 | Pennsylvania District 14 | -0.324 |
| Ohio District 6 | 0.027 | Pennsylvania District 15 | 0.081 |
| Ohio District 7 | 0.324 | Pennsylvania District 16 | 0.378 |
| Ohio District 8 | 0.378 | Pennsylvania District 17 | 0.216 |
| Ohio District 9 | -0.324 | Pennsylvania District 18 | 0.027 |
| Ohio District 10 | 0.000 | Pennsylvania District 19 | 0.405 |
| Ohio District 11 | -0.378 | Pennsylvania District 20 | -0.152 |
| Ohio District 12 | 0.270 | Pennsylvania District 21 | 0.273 |
| Ohio District 13 | -0.351 | Rhode Island District 1 | -0.439 |
| Ohio District 14 | -0.081 | Rhode Island District 2 | -0.390 |
| Ohio District 15 | 0.270 | South Carolina District 1 | 0.378 |
| Ohio District 16 | 0.297 | South Carolina District 2 | 0.297 |
| Ohio District 17 | -0.324 | South Carolina District 3 | 0.216 |
| Ohio District 18 | -0.081 | South Carolina District 4 | 0.297 |
| Ohio District 19 | -0.030 | South Carolina District 5 | -0.162 |
| Oklahoma District 1 | 0.270 | South Carolina District 6 | -0.270 |
| Oklahoma District 2 | -0.162 | South Dakota District 1 | 0.027 |
| Oklahoma District 3 | 0.054 | Tennessee District 1 | 0.316 |
| Oklahoma District 4 | 0.054 | Tennessee District 2 | 0.289 |
| Oklahoma District 5 | 0.432 | Tennessee District 3 | 0.079 |
| Oklahoma District 6 | 0.061 | Tennessee District 4 | -0.237 |
| Oregon District 1 | -0.216 | Tennessee District 5 | -0.395 |
| Oregon District 2 | 0.297 | Tennessee District 6 | -0.342 |
| Oregon District 3 | -0.378 | Tennessee District 7 | 0.289 |
| Oregon District 4 | -0.297 | Tennessee District 8 | -0.421 |
| Oregon District 5 | 0.000 | Tennessee District 9 | -0.395 |
| Pennsylvania District 1 | -0.324 | Texas District 1 | 0.132 |
| Pennsylvania District 2 | -0.324 | Texas District 2 | 0.158 |
| Pennsylvania District 3 | -0.108 | Texas District 3 | 0.579 |
| Pennsylvania District 4 | -0.081 | Texas District 4 | 0.105 |
| Pennsylvania District 5 | 0.378 | Texas District 5 | 0.184 |
| Pennsylvania District 6 | -0.108 | Texas District 6 | 0.474 |
| Pennsylvania District 7 | 0.297 | Texas District 7 | 0.553 |
| Pennsylvania District 8 | 0.189 | Texas District 8 | 0.553 |
| Pennsylvania District 9 | 0.432 | Texas District 9 | 0.026 |
| Pennsylvania District 10 | 0.324 | Texas District 10 | 0.000 |
| Pennsylvania District 11 | -0.216 | Texas District 11 | 0.132 |
| Pennsylvania District 12 | -0.297 | Texas District 12 | 0.184 |


| MTurk District | $\underline{\operatorname{Big} \text { Loser \% }}$ | MTurk District | Big Loser \% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Texas District 13 | 0.368 | Washington District 6 | -0.405 |
| Texas District 14 | 0.263 | Washington District 7 | -0.432 |
| Texas District 15 | -0.079 | Washington District 8 | 0.162 |
| Texas District 16 | -0.053 | Washington District 9 | -0.250 |
| Texas District 17 | 0.026 | West Virginia District 1 | -0.632 |
| Texas District 18 | -0.158 | West Virginia District 2 | -0.474 |
| Texas District 19 | 0.500 | West Virginia District 3 | -0.658 |
| Texas District 20 | -0.158 | Wisconsin District 1 | 0.000 |
| Texas District 21 | 0.579 | Wisconsin District 2 | -0.135 |
| Texas District 22 | 0.500 | Wisconsin District 3 | -0.054 |
| Texas District 23 | 0.289 | Wisconsin District 4 | -0.324 |
| Texas District 24 | 0.079 | Wisconsin District 5 | -0.189 |
| Texas District 25 | -0.026 | Wisconsin District 6 | 0.324 |
| Texas District 26 | 0.526 | Wisconsin District 7 | -0.351 |
| Texas District 27 | -0.079 | Wisconsin District 8 | 0.189 |
| Texas District 28 | -0.030 | Wisconsin District 9 | 0.273 |
| Texas District 29 | -0.030 | Wyoming District 1 | 0.395 |
| Texas District 30 | -0.030 |  |  |
| Texas District 31 | 0.429 |  |  |
| Texas District 32 | 0.321 |  |  |
| Utah District 1 | 0.757 |  |  |
| Utah District 2 | 0.405 |  |  |
| Utah District 3 | 0.676 |  |  |
| Vermont District 1 | 0.136 |  |  |
| Virginia District 1 | 0.297 |  |  |
| Virginia District 2 | 0.054 |  |  |
| Virginia District 3 | -0.054 |  |  |
| Virginia District 4 | -0.081 |  |  |
| Virginia District 5 | -0.081 |  |  |
| Virginia District 6 | 0.243 |  |  |
| Virginia District 7 | 0.405 |  |  |
| Virginia District 8 | -0.081 |  |  |
| Virginia District 9 | -0.216 |  |  |
| Virginia District 10 | 0.405 |  |  |
| Virginia District 11 | 0.250 |  |  |
| Washington District 1 | -0.108 |  |  |
| Washington District 2 | -0.216 |  |  |
| Washington District 3 | -0.243 |  |  |
| Washington District 4 | 0.216 |  |  |
| Washington District 5 | -0.135 |  |  |

## MTurk District

Alabama District 1
Alabama District 2
Alabama District 3
Alabama District 4
Alabama District 5
Alabama District 6
Alabama District 7
Alaska District 1
Arizona District 1
Arizona District 2
Arizona District 3
Arizona District 4
Arizona District 5
Arizona District 6
Arizona District 7
Arizona District 8
Arkansas District 1
Arkansas District 2
Arkansas District 3
Arkansas District 4
California District 1
California District 2
California District 3
California District 4
California District 5
California District 6
California District 7
California District 8
California District 9
California District 10
California District 11
California District 12
California District 13
California District 14
California District 15
California District 16
California District 17
California District 18
California District 19

Simple Loser \% MTurk District
$0.676 \quad$ California District 20
$0.676 \quad$ California District 21
$0.297 \quad$ California District 22
0.297 California District 23
-0.081 California District 24
$0.405 \quad$ California District 25
-0.081 California District 26
$0.676 \quad$ California District 27
$0.579 \quad$ California District 28
$0.158 \quad$ California District 29
$0.684 \quad$ California District 30
$0.474 \quad$ California District 31
$0.526 \quad$ California District 32
$0.576 \quad$ California District 33
$0.286 \quad$ California District 34
$0.429 \quad$ California District 35
-0.579 California District 36
-0.526 California District 37
$0.158 \quad$ California District 38
-0.351 California District 39
-0.351 California District 40
$0.243 \quad$ California District 41
-0.189 California District 42
California District $43 \quad-0.027$
-0.027 California District 43
-0.514 California District 44
-0.514 California District 45
-0.514 California District 46
-0.514 California District 47
-0.514 California District 48
-0.405 California District 49
-0.135 California District 50
-0.243 California District 51
-0.514 California District 52
-0.243 California District 53
-0.405 Colorado District $1 \quad-0.333$
-0.514 Colorado District $2 \quad-0.333$
-0.297 Colorado District $3 \quad 0.056$
-0.514 Colorado District $4 \quad 0.389$
0.189 Colorado District 5

Simple Loser \%
-0.243
0.243
0.081
-0.243
-0.297
-0.027
-0.297
-0.297
-0.243
-0.514
$-0.514$
$-0.514$
-0.514
-0.189
$-0.514$
-0.243
-0.459
-0.243
-0.027
0.027
0.243
0.243
-0.027
0.027
0.243
-0.063
-0.125
0.125
0.000
-0.188
-0.125
0.125
-0.333
0.444

MTurk District
Colorado District 6
Colorado District 7
Connecticut District 1
Connecticut District 2
Connecticut District 3
Connecticut District 4
Connecticut District 5
Connecticut District 6
Deleware District 1
Florida District 1
Florida District 2
Florida District 3
Florida District 4
Florida District 5
Florida District 6
Florida District 7
Florida District 8
Florida District 9
Florida District 10
Florida District 11
Florida District 12
Florida District 13
Florida District 14
Florida District 15
Florida District 16
Florida District 17
Florida District 18
Florida District 19
Florida District 20
Florida District 21
Florida District 22
Florida District 23
Florida District 24
Florida District 25
Georgia District 1
Georgia District 2
Georgia District 3
Georgia District 4
Georgia District 5

Simple Loser \% MTurk District
$0.444 \quad$ Georgia District 6
$0.077 \quad$ Georgia District 7
-0.568 Georgia District 8
-0.405 Georgia District $9 \quad 0.079$
-0.568 Georgia District $10 \quad 0.132$
$0.135 \quad$ Georgia District $11 \quad 0.242$
-0.135 Georgia District $12 \quad 0.036$
0.091 Georgia District 13
-0.036
-0.179 Hawaii District $1 \quad-0.730$
0.083 Hawaii District $2 \quad-0.838$
-0.361 Idaho District $1 \quad 0.676$
-0.343 Idaho District $2 \quad 0.622$
$0.250 \quad$ Illinois District $1 \quad-0.568$
0.139 Illinois District $2 \quad-0.568$
$0.250 \quad$ Illinois District $3 \quad-0.568$
$0.114 \quad$ Illinois District $4 \quad-0.405$
0.361 Illinois District 5
-0.514
0.417 Illinois District 6


#### Abstract

0.189


$$
-0.568
$$

$0.361 \quad$ Illinois District 7
$-0.243$
$0.400 \quad$ Illinois District 9
-0.568
$0.417 \quad$ Illinois District 10

$$
0.189
$$

0.139 Illinois District 11
-0.189
$0.361 \quad$ Illinois District $12 \quad-0.297$
0.114 Illinois District 13
0.189
-0.361 Illinois District $14 \quad 0.135$
$0.194 \quad$ Illinois District 15

$$
0.189
$$

-0.343 Illinois District $16 \quad 0.135$
-0.258 Illinois District $17 \quad-0.568$
0.323 Illinois District $18 \quad 0.189$
$0.194 \quad$ Illinois District $19 \quad-0.297$
-0.233 Illinois District $20 \quad-0.294$
$0.080 \quad$ Indiana District $1 \quad-0.135$
$0.160 \quad$ Indiana District $2 \quad 0.189$
0.184 Indiana District $3 \quad 0.297$
-0.289 Indiana District $4 \quad 0.514$
$0.079 \quad$ Indiana District $5 \quad 0.459$
-0.079 Indiana District $6 \quad 0.622$
-0.289 Indiana District $7 \quad 0.405$
Simple Loser \%
0.447
0.132
0.026
-0.03

$$
0.022
$$

$$
0.568
$$



| MTurk District | Simple Loser \% | MTurk District | Simple Loser \% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Indiana District 8 | 0.222 | Massachusetts District 5 | -0.737 |
| Indiana District 9 | -0.081 | Massachusetts District 6 | -0.632 |
| Indiana District 10 | -0.030 | Massachusetts District 7 | -0.737 |
| Iowa District 1 | 0.189 | Massachusetts District 8 | -0.737 |
| Iowa District 2 | 0.189 | Massachusetts District 9 | -0.737 |
| Iowa District 3 | -0.243 | Massachusetts District 10 | -0.737 |
| Iowa District 4 | -0.027 | Michigan District 1 | -0.684 |
| Iowa District 5 | 0.243 | Michigan District 2 | 0.053 |
| Kansas District 1 | 0.784 | Michigan District 3 | -0.211 |
| Kansas District 2 | 0.405 | Michigan District 4 | 0.053 |
| Kansas District 3 | 0.459 | Michigan District 5 | -0.421 |
| Kansas District 4 | 0.459 | Michigan District 6 | -0.211 |
| Kentucky District 1 | 0.135 | Michigan District 7 | -0.263 |
| Kentucky District 2 | 0.135 | Michigan District 8 | -0.368 |
| Kentucky District 3 | -0.027 | Michigan District 9 | -0.263 |
| Kentucky District 4 | 0.297 | Michigan District 10 | -0.263 |
| Kentucky District 5 | 0.459 | Michigan District 11 | 0.053 |
| Kentucky District 6 | 0.135 | Michigan District 12 | -0.684 |
| Louisiana District 1 | 0.222 | Michigan District 13 | -0.684 |
| Louisiana District 2 | -0.432 | Michigan District 14 | -0.684 |
| Louisiana District 3 | -0.333 | Michigan District 15 | -0.684 |
| Louisiana District 4 | -0.056 | Michigan District 16 | -0.647 |
| Louisiana District 5 | -0.056 | Minnesota District 1 | -0.222 |
| Louisiana District 6 | 0.222 | Minnesota District 2 | 0.000 |
| Louisiana District 7 | -0.297 | Minnesota District 3 | 0.222 |
| Maine District 1 | -0.158 | Minnesota District 4 | -0.556 |
| Maine District 2 | 0.000 | Minnesota District 5 | -0.556 |
| Maryland District 1 | -0.351 | Minnesota District 6 | -0.278 |
| Maryland District 2 | -0.351 | Minnesota District 7 | -0.333 |
| Maryland District 3 | -0.838 | Minnesota District 8 | -0.556 |
| Maryland District 4 | -0.730 | Mississippi District 1 | 0.447 |
| Maryland District 5 | -0.838 | Mississippi District 2 | 0.184 |
| Maryland District 6 | -0.351 | Mississippi District 3 | 0.447 |
| Maryland District 7 | -0.838 | Mississippi District 4 | 0.132 |
| Maryland District 8 | -0.405 | Mississippi District 5 | 0.441 |
| Massachusetts District 1 | -0.474 | Missouri District 1 | -0.189 |
| Massachusetts District 2 | -0.737 | Missouri District 2 | 0.405 |
| Massachusetts District 3 | -0.632 | Missouri District 3 | -0.189 |
| Massachusetts District 4 | -0.737 | Missouri District 4 | -0.189 |


| MTurk District | Simple Loser \% |  | MTurk District | Simple Loser \% |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Missouri District 5 | -0.189 |  | New York District 10 | -0.676 |
| Missouri District 6 | 0.351 | New York District 11 | -0.676 |  |
| Missouri District 7 | 0.568 | New York District 12 | -0.676 |  |
| Missouri District 8 | 0.514 | New York District 13 | -0.243 |  |
| Missouri District 9 | 0.189 | New York District 14 | -0.405 |  |
| Montana District 1 | 0.027 | New York District 15 | -0.405 |  |
| Nebraska District 1 | 0.474 | New York District 16 | -0.676 |  |
| Nebraska District 2 | 0.316 | New York District 17 | -0.676 |  |
| Nebraska District 3 | 0.474 | New York District 18 | -0.676 |  |
| Nevada District 1 | -0.351 | New York District 19 | -0.297 |  |
| Nevada District 2 | 0.297 | New York District 20 | -0.189 |  |
| Nevada District 3 | -0.037 | New York District 21 | -0.405 |  |
| New Hampshire District 1 | 0.364 | New York District 22 | -0.135 |  |
| New Hampshire District 2 | 0.318 | New York District 23 | -0.189 |  |
| New Jersey District 1 | -0.730 | New York District 24 | -0.027 |  |
| New Jersey District 2 | -0.297 | New York District 25 | 0.027 |  |
| New Jersey District 3 | -0.297 | New York District 26 | -0.189 |  |
| New Jersey District 4 | 0.027 | New York District 27 | -0.081 |  |
| New Jersey District 5 | 0.027 | New York District 28 | -0.676 |  |
| New Jersey District 6 | -0.730 | New York District 29 | -0.243 |  |
| New Jersey District 7 | 0.027 | New York District 30 | -0.212 |  |
| New Jersey District 8 | -0.676 | New York District 31 | -0.030 |  |
| New Jersey District 9 | -0.730 | North Carolina District 1 | -0.243 |  |
| New Jersey District 10 | -0.730 | North Carolina District 2 | -0.189 |  |
| New Jersey District 11 | -0.027 | North Carolina District 3 | 0.189 |  |
| New Jersey District 12 | -0.297 | North Carolina District 4 | -0.135 |  |
| New Jersey District 13 | -0.459 | North Carolina District 5 | 0.189 |  |
| New Mexico District 1 | 0.211 | North Carolina District 6 | 0.459 |  |
| New Mexico District 2 | 0.211 | North Carolina District 7 | -0.243 |  |
| New Mexico District 3 | -0.474 | North Carolina District 8 | 0.027 |  |
| New York District 1 | -0.351 | North Carolina District 9 | 0.514 |  |
| New York District 2 | -0.459 | North Carolina District 10 | 0.514 |  |
| New York District 3 | -0.189 | North Carolina District 11 | 0.243 |  |
| New York District 4 | -0.297 | North Carolina District 12 | -0.125 |  |
| New York District 5 | -0.405 | North Carolina District 13 | 0.037 |  |
| New York District 6 | -0.676 | North Dakota District 1 | -0.351 |  |
| New York District 7 | -0.676 | Ohio District 1 | 0.027 |  |
| New York District 8 | -0.676 | Ohio District 2 | 0.405 |  |
| New York District 9 | -0.676 | Ohio District 3 | -0.135 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| N |  |  | N | N |


| MTurk District | Simple Loser \% | MTurk District | Simple Loser \% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ohio District 4 | 0.405 | Pennsylvania District 13 | 0.081 |
| Ohio District 5 | 0.405 | Pennsylvania District 14 | -0.297 |
| Ohio District 6 | -0.027 | Pennsylvania District 15 | 0.297 |
| Ohio District 7 | 0.405 | Pennsylvania District 16 | 0.459 |
| Ohio District 8 | 0.405 | Pennsylvania District 17 | 0.243 |
| Ohio District 9 | -0.351 | Pennsylvania District 18 | 0.027 |
| Ohio District 10 | 0.027 | Pennsylvania District 19 | 0.459 |
| Ohio District 11 | -0.351 | Pennsylvania District 20 | -0.212 |
| Ohio District 12 | 0.405 | Pennsylvania District 21 | 0.394 |
| Ohio District 13 | -0.351 | Rhode Island District 1 | -0.268 |
| Ohio District 14 | -0.135 | Rhode Island District 2 | -0.220 |
| Ohio District 15 | 0.351 | South Carolina District 1 | 0.730 |
| Ohio District 16 | 0.351 | South Carolina District 2 | 0.730 |
| Ohio District 17 | -0.297 | South Carolina District 3 | 0.405 |
| Ohio District 18 | -0.027 | South Carolina District 4 | 0.568 |
| Ohio District 19 | -0.030 | South Carolina District 5 | -0.027 |
| Oklahoma District 1 | 0.568 | South Carolina District 6 | -0.027 |
| Oklahoma District 2 | 0.081 | South Dakota District 1 | 0.135 |
| Oklahoma District 3 | 0.297 | Tennessee District 1 | 0.474 |
| Oklahoma District 4 | 0.351 | Tennessee District 2 | 0.474 |
| Oklahoma District 5 | 0.676 | Tennessee District 3 | 0.158 |
| Oklahoma District 6 | 0.273 | Tennessee District 4 | -0.053 |
| Oregon District 1 | -0.568 | Tennessee District 5 | -0.263 |
| Oregon District 2 | 0.189 | Tennessee District 6 | -0.263 |
| Oregon District 3 | -0.568 | Tennessee District 7 | 0.474 |
| Oregon District 4 | -0.568 | Tennessee District 8 | -0.263 |
| Oregon District 5 | -0.297 | Tennessee District 9 | -0.263 |
| Pennsylvania District 1 | -0.297 | Texas District 1 | 0.211 |
| Pennsylvania District 2 | -0.297 | Texas District 2 | 0.211 |
| Pennsylvania District 3 | -0.135 | Texas District 3 | 0.789 |
| Pennsylvania District 4 | -0.135 | Texas District 4 | 0.211 |
| Pennsylvania District 5 | 0.459 | Texas District 5 | 0.421 |
| Pennsylvania District 6 | -0.081 | Texas District 6 | 0.737 |
| Pennsylvania District 7 | 0.243 | Texas District 7 | 0.789 |
| Pennsylvania District 8 | 0.081 | Texas District 8 | 0.789 |
| Pennsylvania District 9 | 0.459 | Texas District 9 | 0.105 |
| Pennsylvania District 10 | 0.351 | Texas District 10 | 0.211 |
| Pennsylvania District 11 | -0.297 | Texas District 11 | 0.211 |
| Pennsylvania District 12 | -0.297 | Texas District 12 | 0.421 |

$\begin{array}{lclc}\text { MTurk District } & \text { Simple Loser \% } & & \text { MTurk District } \\ \text { Mimple Loser \% } \\$\cline { 1 - 2 } Texas District 13 \& 0.579 \& \& Washington District 6\end{array}$]-0.778$

| Group | $\underline{\text { NAES Simple Loser \% Range }}$ | $\underline{\text { Percent of Respondents }}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | -0.7931034 through -.03571429 | $19.99 \%$ |
| 2 | -0.3333333 through -0.1333333 | $18.98 \%$ |
| 3 | -0.1034483 through 0.1071429 | $21.33 \%$ |
| 4 | 0.1333333 through 0.3793103 | $19.62 \%$ |
| 5 | 0.3928571 through 1.0000000 | $20.08 \%$ |


| Group | $\underline{\text { NAES Big Loser \% Range }}$ | $\underline{\text { Percent of Respondents }}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | -0.6551724 through -0.2666667 | $20.63 \%$ |
| 2 | -0.2608696 though -0.1034483 | $18.00 \%$ |
| 3 | -0.1000000 through 0.1000000 | $22.21 \%$ |
| 4 | 0.1034483 through 0.3000000 | $18.68 \%$ |
| 5 | 0.3103448 through 0.7931034 | $20.48 \%$ |


| Group | MTurk Simple Loser \% Range | $\underline{\text { Percent of Respondents }}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | -0.8378378 through -0.2580645 | $33.65 \%$ |
| 2 | -0.2432432 through 0.1842105 | $30.78 \%$ |
| 3 | 0.1891892 through 1.0000000 | $35.57 \%$ |


| Group | $\underline{\text { MTurk Big Loser \% Range }}$ | Percent of Respondents |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | -0.7105263 through -0.166667 | $32.38 \%$ |
| 2 | -0.0 .1621622 through 0.1578947 | $33.65 \%$ |
| 3 | 0.1621622 through 0.7837838 | $33.97 \%$ |

## Appendix B

|  | NAES |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Variable | Variable | Range | Description |
| Register | cra01x | 0-1 | Registered to Vote |
| IntendorVotedPrimary | crb0311x | 0-1 | Intend to or Actually Voted in Primary |
| IntendGeneral | crc0128x | 0-1 | Intend to vote in general election |
| ChanceGeneral | crc0228x | 0-1 | Chance of voting in general election |
| ChancePrimary | crb0304x | 0-1 | Chance of Voting among those who have not already |
| VotedGeneral | crc28xx | 0-1 | Actual turnout in general election |
| FeelCandidates | caaab01x | 0-1 | Strong feelings about candidates |
| Ideology | cma06x | 0-4 | Ideology (Very Liberal) |
| Partisanship | cma123x | 0-6 | Partisanship (Strong Democrat) |
| StrengthPartisanship | cma123xx | 0-1 | Strength of Partisanship |
| IdeologicalExtremity | cma06xx | 0-1 | Ideological Extremity |
| ImportantVote | cre0204x | 0-1 | Importance attached to voting |
| EnjoyVote | cre05x | 0-1 | Enjoy Voting |
| StateImportant | ckb0204xs | 0-1 | Motivated by State Politics |
| LocalImportant | ckb0204xl | 0-1 | Motivated by Local Politics <br> Discussed Politics With Family, Friends, at Work, or Online in Past |
| DiscussedPolitics | ckb135x | 0-1 | Week |
| AttentionPolitics | cea56713212223x | 0-1 | Attention to Politics |
| FollowPolitics | cka01x | 0-1 | Follow Politics |
| PoliticalKnowledge | cme1357x | 0-1 | Political Knowledge |
| PoliticalTrust | cmb0102x | 0-1 | Trust in Government |
| PoliticsComplicated | cmb10x | 0-1 | Politics Too Complicated |
| NoSayInGovt | cmb11x | 0-1 | People Like Me Have No Say in Government |
| PercentLifeAtResidence | cwc07x | 0-1 | Years at Present Address |
|  |  |  | Age |
| Age | cwa02x | 0-1 | Age |
| Sex | cwa01x | 0-1 | Sex (Female) |


| Education | cwa03x | $0-1$ | Education |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Income | cwa04x | $0-1$ | Household Income |
| Income_mr |  | $0-1$ | Houshold Income (with mean) |
| Unemployed | cwb01xu | $0-1$ | Employment Status (Unemployed) |
| Retired | cwb01xr | $0-1$ | Employment Status (Retired) |
| Student | cwb01xs | $0-1$ | Employment Status (Student) |
| Worklife | cwb01xw | $0-1$ | Employment Status (Worklife) |
| ReligiousAttendance | cwd01x | $0-1$ | Attend Religious Services |
| Married | cwf07x | $0-1$ | Marital Status |
| Black | cwc03xb | $0-1$ | Race (Black) |
| Minority | cwc03xom | $0-1$ | Race (Other Minority) |
| Hispanic | cwc01x | $0-1$ | Race (Hispanic) |
| Citizenship | cwc0405x | $0-1$ | Citizenship |
| bigloser | bigloser | $0-1$ | Big Loser |
| bigwinner | bigwinner | $0-1$ | Big Winner |
| bigcompete | bigcompete | $0-1$ | Big Competitive |
| simloser | simloser | $0-1$ | Simple Loser |
| simwinner | simwinner | $0-1$ | Simple Winner |
| simcompete | simcompete | $0-1$ | Simple Competitive |

## Appendix C

## UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN <br> eResearch.umich.edu

Health Sciences and Behavioral Sciences Institutional Review Board • 540 East Liberty Street, Suite 202, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2210 • phone (734) 936-0933• fax (734) 998-9171• irbhsbs@umich.edu

To: Patrick Cherry

From:

Richard
Redman
Cc:

Patrick
Cherry
Ted Brader

Subject: Notice of Exemption for [HUM00061627]

SUBMISSION INFORMATION: Title: A Study in Futility Full Study Title (if applicable): A Study in Futility: Perpetually Losing Voters in American Elections Study eResearch ID: HUM00061627 Date of this Notification from IRB: 2/28/2012 Date of IRB Exempt Determination: 2/28/2012 UM Federalwide Assurance: FWA00004969 expiring on 6/13/2014 OHRP IRB Registration Number(s): IRB00000246

IRB EXEMPTION STATUS: The IRB HSBS has reviewed the study referenced above and determined that, as currently described, it is exempt from ongoing IRB review, per the following federal exemption category:

EXEMPTION \#2 of the 45 CFR 46.101.(b): Research involving the use of educational tests
(cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, achievement), survey procedures, interview procedures or observation of public behavior, unless: (i) information obtained is recorded in such a manner that human subjects can be identified, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects; and (ii) any disclosure of the human subjects' responses outside the research could reasonably place the subjects at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to the subjects' financial standing, employability, or reputation.

Note that the study is considered exempt as long as any changes to the use of human subjects (including their data) remain within the scope of the exemption category above. Any proposed changes that may exceed the scope of this category, or the approval conditions of any other nonIRB reviewing committees, must be submitted as an amendment through eResearch.

Although an exemption determination eliminates the need for ongoing IRB review and approval, you still have an obligation to understand and abide by generally accepted principles of responsible and ethical conduct of research. Examples of these principles can be found in the Belmont Report as well as in guidance from professional societies and scientific organizations.

SUBMITTING AMENDMENTS VIA RESEARCH: You can access the online forms for amendments in the eResearch workspace for this exempt study, referenced above.

ACCESSING EXEMPT STUDIES IN RESEARCH: Click the "Exempt and Not Regulated" tab in your eResearch home workspace to access this exempt study.
Richard w Schwa

Richard Redman
Chair, IRB HSBS

## Introduction

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this survey. We will ask you questions about current issues in politics and are especially interested in your thoughts and experiences related to elections and voting. The survey takes roughly 12 minutes, on average, to complete. Please note that you cannot go back to a previous page once you have left it, so please make sure you provide your final answer before advancing the page. If you wish to participate in this survey, please proceed now to the first page.

## Trigger 1

Taking into consideration all of the elections that occur in your area, from the presidential to local school board elections (and everything in between), how often do the candidates you prefer win? You may not know the exact percentage, but what's your best guess from 0 to 100 percent?
(Move the slider below to indicate any number between 0 and 100, for example 0 means your candidates never win, 25 means they win about one time in four, 50 means they win about half of the time, and so on, up to 100, which means they win every time.)


Timing
This page timer will not be displayed to the recipient.
First Click: 0 seconds.
Last Click: 0 seconds.
Page Submit: 0 seconds.
Click Count: 0 clicks.

## Question Block

These days, many people are so busy they cannot find time to register to vote, or they move around so often they do not get a chance to re-register. Are you currently registered to vote in your precinct or election district, or haven't you been able to register so far?
$\bigcirc$ Registered
O Not Registered

- Don't know

Do you intend to vote in the November election later this year?
$\bigcirc$ Yes
O No

What is the percent chance that you will vote in the elections this coming November? The percent chance can be thought of as the number of chances out of 100 . You can use any number between 0 and 100 . For example, numbers like 2 and 5 percent may be "almost no chance," 20 percent or so may mean "not much chance," a 45- or 55 -percent chance may be a "pretty even chance," 80 percent or so may mean a "very good chance," and a 95- or 98-percent chance may be "almost certain."

Please move the slider to indicate the percent chance you will vote in November.

| Percent |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| What is the <br> percent chance <br> you will vote this <br> coming <br> November? |

In 2008, you may remember that Barack Obama ran for President on the Democratic ticket against John McCain for the Republicans. Do you remember for sure whether or not you voted in that election?
$\bigcirc$ Yes, I voted
O No, I did not vote
O No, I was not eligible to vote in that election

- Don't remember

In talking to people about elections, we often find that a lot of people were not able to vote because they weren't registered, they were sick, or they just didn't have time. Which of the following statements best describes you:
O I did not vote in the 2010 Election
I thought about voting in the 2010 Election-but didn't
I usually vote, but didn't in the 2010 Election
O I am sure I voted in the 2010 Election
I was not eligible to vote in that election
O I don't remember

In most places around the United States, elections of one sort or another take place nearly every year, sometimes more than once per year. Thinking about all of the elections (including primaries, caucuses, special and recall elections, as well as regular elections) that have been held where you live in the last five years (and in which you were eligible to vote), in about how many of these elections did you vote?
O I did not vote in any election
O I voted in less than half of the elections
O I voted in about half of the elections
I voted in more than half of the elections
O I voted in every election

How often do you personally follow what is happening in government and politics at each of these three levels?

|  | Never | Sometimes | About half of <br> the time | Most of the <br> time | Always |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Local elections | 0 | 0 | 0 | $O$ | $\bigcirc$ |
| State elections | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| National elections | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |

Some people believe that who wins an election has a big impact on policies and conditions in the country Other people believe that, in the end, it doesn't matter much who wins the election, because very little of importance changes. In your opinion, how much do election outcomes usually affect what actually happens on the issues you care the most about?
Not at all

O A little

- A moderate amount
$\bigcirc \mathrm{A}$ lot
○ A great deal

How often have you thought your own vote would make the difference in who wins or loses an election? O

Never

- Sometimes

About half of the time
O Most of the time
O Always

Typically, how difficult is it for you to find the time and transportation to get to your polling locations to vote?

Not at all difficult
$\bigcirc$ Slightly difficult
O Moderately difficult
$\bigcirc$ Very difficult
Extremely difficult

Thinking back to the 2010 elections, did anyone from one of the political parties or the candidates' campaigns get in touch with you and encourage you to vote?
$\bigcirc$ Yes
O No

Did anyone besides the parties or candidates encourage you to vote in 2010 ?
O Yes
○ No

Now how about this year, has anyone from one of the political parties or the candidates' campaigns been in touch with you and encouraged you to vote in this year's elections?
$\bigcirc$ Yes
O No

Has anyone besides the parties or candidates encouraged you to vote in this year's elections?
$\bigcirc$ Yes
○ No

How likely are you to participate in this year's election campaigns, by working to help one of the candidate's campaigns, by donating money to a campaign, or by attending a campaign event of some kind?

For each type of political campaign below, please indicate your likelihood of participating in one or more of these ways.
(If you believe there is no such election where you live this year, or are unsure, just leave the line blank.)
nefinitelv
Minht or Prohahlv will Definitelv will

|  | Will | Probably will | might not | not | not |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| President | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ |
| U.S. Senate | 0 | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ |
| U.S. House of Representatives | 0 | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | 0 | 0 |
| Governor | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ |
| State Legislature | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ |
| State Judge | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ |
| County Commissioner or Executive | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ |
| Mayor or Town Council | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ |
| Local School Board | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ |
| Ballot Initiative/Referendum | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ |

Do you think there are any important differences in what the Republicans and Democrats stand for?
O Yes, many important differences
Yes, a couple of important differences
O No, no important differences at all

How many days in the past week did you discuss politics with

|  | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Family | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ |
| Friends | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ |
| Co-Workers | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ |
| Neighbors | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ |

Do you spend most of your time during the day in activities with other adults or do you pretty much work on your own most of the time?
O Mostly spend time in activities with other adults
O Pretty much work on my own most of the time

How often do you attend religious services, apart from special events like weddings and funerals?
More than once a week
O Once a week
Once or twice a month
O A few times a year
O Never

In past elections, has information about candidates, parties, or political issues been made available in your place of worship before the election?
$\bigcirc$ Yes
O No

Do you like or dislike the process of going to the polls and filling out a ballot?
O Like
O Neither Like Nor Dislike

Dislike

How strongly do you like the process of going to the polls and filling out a ballot?
Very strongly
O Moderately strongly
A little strongly

How strongly do you dislike the process of going to the polls and filling out a ballot?

- Very strongly

O Moderately strongly

- A little strongly

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the statements below.

| Sometimes politics and government |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| seem so complicated that a person like |
| me can't really understand what is |
| going on. |
| When someone I know asks me to |
| vote, I don't feel any added pressure |
| to do so. |

People differ in their feelings about voting. For some, voting is a duty - they feel they should vote in every election no matter how they feel about the candidates and parties. For others voting is a choice - they feel free to vote or not to vote, depending on how they feel about the candidates and parties.

For you personally, is voting mainly a duty, mainly a choice, or neither a duty nor a choice ?
O Mainly a duty
O Mainly a choice
Neither a choice nor a duty

How strongly do you feel that voting is a choice?

- Very strongly

O Moderately Strongly
A little strongly

How strongly do you feel that voting is a duty?
Very strongly

O Moderately Strongly
$\bigcirc$
A little strongly

Sometimes, people care a lot about what happens in elections, even getting very excited when their candidates win or very depressed when their candidates lose. Other times, people don't care much who wins or loses in the elections.

Thinking of the different types of elections we have in this country, do you usually care the most about elections at the local level (e.g., town/city officials, school board, country officials), the state level (e.g., governor, state legislature), or the national level (e.g., president, Congress).
OLocal elections
State elections
O National elections
O Don't care about elections at any of these levels

Now, how much do you usually care about what happens in each of these three types of elections?

|  | $\begin{array}{c}\text { Care a } \\ \text { medium } \\ \text { amount }\end{array}$ |  |  |  | Care a lot |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | \(\left.\begin{array}{c}Care a great <br>

deal\end{array}\right]\)

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the statements below.

|  | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neither Agree nor Disagree | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Every time a new election comes around, it feels like I have to figure out where to go and what to do, almost like it's my first time. | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ |
| I would be embarrassed if my friends, neighbors, and co-workers found out I didn't vote. | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ |
| I want to cast my vote and make sure my views are counted, even if I know I am on the losing side. | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | 0 |
| I never feel pressured to vote just to make other people happy. | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ |
| Going to vote with friends or family members is usually more fun. | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ |
| I feel I have a pretty good understanding of the important issues facing our country. | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ |

Please indicate whether you have done any of the following activities.

| Donated money to a candidate because of the position he/she took on an issue that | No |
| :--- | :---: |
| matters to you |  |
| Done volunteer work for a candidate because of the position he/she took on an issue |  |
| that matters to you |  |
| Donated money to a group that was supporting a political cause you believe in |  |
| Officially joined an organization that advocated your views on a political issue |  |

As far as you are concerned personally, how important is it to always vote in elections?
O Not important at all
O Slightly important
O Moderately important
$\bigcirc$ Very important

- Extremely important

If you were selected to serve on a jury, would you be happy to do it or would you rather not serve? O Happy to do it

O Rather not serve
○ Don't know

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent?

- Republican
- Democrat

O independent
something else

Do you consider yourself a strong or not a very strong Republican?
Strong Republican
Not very strong Republican

Do you consider yourself a strong or not a very strong Democrat?
O Strong Democrat
Not very strong Democrat

Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or to the Democratic Party?

- Closer to the Republican Party

Closer to the Democratic Party
O Neither

When it comes to politics, would you describe yourself as liberal, conservative, or moderate?
Extremely conservative

- Conservative

Slightly conservative

- Moderate

Slightly liberal

- Liberal

O Extremely Liberal

## Battery

When you consider whether or not you will turn out to vote, which of the following factors are most important to you personally and which are least important?

Please take a moment to rank them in order of importance, so that the most important factor is on top, the next most important factor is second, and so on, with the least important factor on the bottom.

You can use your mouse to drag each option up or down the list.
When candidates or groups encourage you to vote
Making a friend or family member happy by going to vote
Desire to express your support for a candidate or cause you strongly believe in

Ease (convenience) of getting to the polls
How much you are likely to be affected by the outcome of the election

The likelihood that the election is so close that your vote will determine who wins
Showing loyalty to your political party

Desire to fulfill your civic duty
Pleasure you get from standing in line and filling out a ballot

Timing
This page timer will not be displayed to the recipient.
First Click: 0 seconds.
Last Click: 0 seconds.
Page Submit: 0 seconds.
Click Count: 0 clicks.

## Trigger 2

Taking into consideration all of the elections that occur in your area, from the presidential to local school board elections (and everything in between), how often do the candidates you prefer win? You may not know the exact percentage, but what's your best guess from 0 to 100 percent?
(Move the slider below to indicate any number between 0 and 100, for example 0 means your candidates never win, 25 means they win about one time in four, 50 means they win about half of the time, and so on, up to 100, which means they win every time.)

|  | Percent |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 0 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 100 |
| How often do the candidates you prefer win? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Timing
This page timer will not be displayed to the recipient.
First Click: 0 seconds.
Last Click: 0 seconds.
Page Submit: 0 seconds.
Click Count: 0 clicks.

## Controls

What is your age?
-18-24
-25-30
-31-35
36-40
-41-45
46-50
51-55
56-60
61-65
-65+
How many years have you lived at your present address?
Less than six months
Six months to one yea
Number of years
What is your sex?
O Male
Female
Are you a citizen of the United States?
Y Yes
No
Which choice best describes the highest level of education you've completed?
$\bigcirc$ Less than high school
Some high school
High school (or equivalent)
Some college
Associate degree (2 year program)
Bachelors degree (4 year program)
Graduate degree (e.g. JD, MD, Masters, PhD)
Last year, what was the total income before taxes of all the people living in your household?
Less than $\$ 10,000$

- $10,000-\$ 15,000$
\$15,000-\$25,000
\$25,000-\$35,000
\$35,000-\$50,000
\$50,000-\$75,000

- 

© $\$ 100,000-\$ 150,000$
O More than $\$ 150,000$

Are you of Hispanic ethnicity?
Yes
No

What is your race? (choose all that apply)
$\square$ White
$\square$ Black
$\square$ Asian
$\square$ American Indian
$\square$ Other

How would you describe your current employment status?
Working full time
Working part time
Temporarily laid off
Unemployed
$\bigcirc$ Retired

- Permanently disabled

O Homemaker

- Student

Other

In what state do you currently reside?
$\qquad$

Please enter your zip code where you are registered to vote, or, if you are not registered to vote, where your current mailing address is. We would like this information to learn more about where in the country people who take our survey live. This information cannot and will not be used to contact you.

It would be most helpful to us if you provided the full nine digit zip code.
If you don't have it memorized, nine digit zip codes can often be located on utility bills or other mail you may have sitting nearby. You can also look it up at:
https://tools.usps.com/go/ZipLookupAction!input.action
If you are unable to locate your nine digit zip code, please just enter your five digit zip code.

## Conclusion

This is the end of the study. Thank you for participating in this research! Your responses are extremely valuable and your time is greatly appreciated.

The main goals of this research are to learn more about why people vote sometimes and other times do not and to understand better why Deople aet involved in elections.

Your code to be paid through Amazon Mechanical Turk is $\$\{\mathrm{e}: / /$ Field/mTurkCode $\}$

When you are ready, please click the arrow below to secure your responses.
If you have any comments, please leave them in the box below (optional). Any questions about this research can be directed to pacherry@umich.edu

| Variable Name | Scale |
| :--- | :--- |
| Registered | $0-1$ |
| Intend | $0-1$ |
| Chance | $0-1$ |
|  |  |
| Vote_2008 | $0-1$ |
|  |  |
| Vote_2010 | $0-1$ |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Vote_five_year | $(Q 5-1) / 4$ |
| Past_turnout_scale | $0-1$ |
| Personally_follow_local | $\left(Q 6 \_1-1\right) / 4$ |

## Based On

Q1: These days, many people are so busy they cannot find time to register to vote, or they move around so often they do not get a chance to re-register. Are you currently registered to vote in your precinct or election district, or haven't you been able to register so far? Q2: Do you intend to vote in the November election later this year?
0 if $\mathrm{Q} 2==2$; Q2_1:What is the percent chance you will vote this coming November?
Q3: In 2008, you may remember that Barack Obama ran for President on the Democratic ticket against John McCain for the Republicans. Do you remember for sure whether or not you voted in that election?
Q4: In talking to people about elections, we often find that a lot of people were not able to vote because they weren't registered, they were sick, or they just didn't have time. Which of the following statements best describes you:
Q5: In most places around the United States, elections of one sort or another take place nearly every year, sometimes more than once per year. Thinking about all of the elections (including primaries, caucuses, special and recall elections, as well as regular elections) that have been held where you live in the last five years (and in which you were eligible to vote), in about how many of these elections did you vote?
Vote_2008
Vote_2010
Vote_five_year
Q6_1: How often do you personally follow what is happening in government and politics at each of these

| Personally_follow_state <br> Personally_follow_national | $($ Q6_2-1)/4 <br> $($ Q6_3-1)/4 |
| :--- | :--- |
|  |  |
| Election_affect_issues | $(\mathrm{Q} 7-1) / 4$ |
| Vote_makes_difference | $(\mathrm{Q} 8-1) / 4$ |
| Transportation_difficult | $(\mathrm{Q} 9-1) / 4$ |
| Party_contact_2010 | $0-1$ |
| Other_contact_2010 | $0-1$ |
| Party_contact_2012 | $0-1$ |
| Other_contact_2012 | $0-1$ |
| Participate_president | $\left(5-\mathrm{B} 1 \_1\right) / 4$ |
| Participate_senate | $\left(5-\mathrm{B} 1 \_2\right) / 4$ |

Participate_senate
three levels? Local
Q6_2 ^ State
Q6_3 ^ National
Q7: Some people believe that who wins an election has a big impact on policies and conditions in the country. Other people believe that, in the end, it doesn't matter much who wins the election, because very little of importance changes. In your opinion, how much do election outcomes usually affect what actually happens on the issues you care the most about?
Q8: How often have you thought your own vote would make the difference in who wins or loses an election? Q9: Typically, how difficult is it for you to find the time and transportation to get to your polling locations to vote?
Q10: Thinking back to the 2010 elections, did anyone from one of the political parties or the candidates' campaigns get in touch with you and encourage you to vote?
Q11: Did anyone besides the parties or candidates encourage you to vote in 2010?
Q12: Now how about this year, has anyone from one of the political parties or the candidates' campaigns been in touch with you and encouraged you to vote in this year's elections?
Q13: Has anyone besides the parties or candidates encouraged you to vote in this year's elections? B1_1: How likely are you to participate in this year's election campaigns, by working to help one of the candidate's campaigns, by donating money to a campaign, or by attending a campaign event of some kind? President
$B 1 \_2 \wedge$ U.S. Senate

| Participate_house | (5-B1_3)/4 |
| :---: | :---: |
| Participate_governor | (5-B1_4)/4 |
| Participate_legislature | (5-B1_5)/4 |
| Participate_judge | (5-B1_6)/4 |
| Participate_commissioner | (5-B1_7)/4 |
| Participate_mayor | (5-B1_8)/4 |
| Participate_school | (5-B1_9)/4 |
| Participate_ballot | (5-B1_10)/4 |
| Discuss_family | B2_1/8 |
| Discuss_friends | B2_2/8 |
| Discuss_work | B2_3/8 |
| Discuss_neighbor | B2_4/8 |
| Differences_between_parties | (3-Q14)/2 |
| Time_alone | 0-1 |
| Attend_church | (5-Q16)/4 |
| Church_information | 0-1 |
| Like_process | (4-Like_process)/3 |
| Dislike_process | (4-Dislike_process)/3 |
| Government_complicated | (B3_1-1)/4 |

B1_3 ^ U.S. House of Representatives
B1_4^ Governor
B1_5 ^ State Legislature
B1_6 ^ State Judge
B1_7^County Commissioner or Executive
B1_ $8{ }^{\wedge}$ Mayor or Town Council
B1_9^ Local School Board
B1_10^Ballot Initiative/Referendum
B2_1: How many days in the past week did you discuss politics with: Family
B2_2 ${ }^{\wedge}$ Friends
B2_3^Co-Workers
B2_4 ${ }^{\wedge}$ Neighbors
Q14: Do you think there are any important differences in what the Republicans and Democrats stand for?
Q15: Do you spend most of your time during the day in activities with other adults or do you pretty much work on your own most of the time?
Q16: How often do you attend religious services, apart from special events like weddings and funerals?
0 if Q16==5; Q16_1: In past elections, has information about candidates, parties, or political issues been made available in your place of worship before the election? Q17: Do you like or dislike the process of going to the polls and filling out a ballot?
4 if Q17==2; 4 if Q17==3; Q17_1: How strongly do you like the process of going to the polls and filling out a ballot?
4 if Q17==1; 4 if Q17==2; Q17_2: How strongly do you dislike the process of going to the polls and filling out a ballot?
B3_1: Sometimes politics and government seem so

| Someone_asks_pressure | $($ B3_2-1)/4 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Process_familiar | $($ B3_3-1)/4 |
| Miss_dont_care | $($ B3_4-1)/4 |
| Voting_pointless | $($ B3_5-1)/4 |
| Vote_to_please | $($ B3_6-1)/4 |
|  |  |
| Mainly_choice | $\left(4-M a i n l y \_c h o i c e\right) / 3$ |
| Mainly_duty | $\left(4-M a i n l y \_d u t y\right) / 3$ |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Usually_care_local | $0-1$ |
| Usually_care_state | $0-1$ |
| Usually_care_national | $0-1$ |
| Care_local | $($ Care_local-1)/4 |
| Care_state | (Care_state-1)/4 |
| Care_national | (Care_national-1)/4 |

complicated that a person like me can't really understand what is going on.
B3_2: When someone I know asks me to vote, I don't feel any added pressure to do so.
B3_3: The process of going to the polls and filling out a ballot is so familiar to me, I feel like I could do it in my sleep.
B3_4: If I happen to miss an election, I don't care if other people know I didn't vote.
B3_5: If I know my side will lose the election, I see voting as pointless and prefer to find better ways to achieve my goals.
B3_6: There are times when I turn out to vote mainly to please someone I care about.
Q18: For you personally, is voting mainly a duty, mainly a choice, or neither a duty nor a choice?
4 if Q18==1; 4 if Q18==3; Q18_1: How strongly do you feel that voting is a choice?
4 if Q18==2; 4 if Q18==3 Q18_2: How strongly do you feel that voting is a duty?
0 if $\mathrm{Q} 19==2 ; 0$ if $\mathrm{Q} 19==3 ; 0$ if $\mathrm{Q} 19==4$; Q19: Thinking of the different types of elections we have in this country, do you usually care the most about elections at the local level (e.g., town/city officials, school board, country officials), the state level (e.g., governor, state legislature), or the national level (e.g., president, Congress). Local 0 if Q19==1; 0 if Q19==3; 0 if Q19==4; Q19 ^ State 0 if Q19 $==1 ; 0$ if $\mathrm{Q} 19==2 ; 0$ if $\mathrm{Q} 19==4 ; \mathrm{Q}^{\wedge}{ }^{\wedge}$ National 1 if Q19==4; Q19_1_1: Now, how much do you usually care about what happens in each of these three types of elections? Local
1 if Q19==4; Q19_1_2 ^ State
1 if Q19==4; Q19_1_3 ${ }^{\wedge}$ National

| Feels_first_time | $\left(\mathrm{B} 4 \_1-1\right) / 4$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Embarrassed_no_vote | $\left(\mathrm{B} 4 \_2-1\right) / 4$ |
| Cast_even_losing | $\left(\mathrm{B} 4 \_3-1\right) / 4$ |
| Never_pressured_people_happy | $\left(\mathrm{B} 4 \_4-1\right) / 4$ |
| Vote_family_fun | $\left(\mathrm{B} 4 \_5-1\right) / 4$ |
| Understand_issues | $\left(\mathrm{B} 4 \_6-1\right) / 4$ |
| Donated_money_candidate | $0-1$ |
| Volunteer_candidate | $0-1$ |
| Donated_money_group | $0-1$ |
| Joined_group | $0-1$ |
| Attend_protest | $0-1$ |
| Always_vote_important | $(\mathrm{Q} 20-1) / 4$ |
| Serve_on_jury | $0-1$ |
| PartyID | $0-6$ |

B4_1: Every time a new election comes around, it feels like I have to figure out where to go and what to do, almost like it's my first time.
B4_2: I would be embarrassed if my friends, neighbors, and co-workers found out I didn't vote.
B4_3: I want to cast my vote and make sure my views are counted, even if I know I am on the losing side.
B4_4: I never feel pressured to vote just to make other people happy.
B4_5: Going to vote with friends or family members is usually more fun.
B4_6: I feel I have a pretty good understanding of the important issues facing our country.
B5_1: Donated money to a candidate because of the position he/she took on an issue that matters to you
B5_2: Done volunteer work for a candidate because of the position he/she took on an issue that matters to you
B5_3: Donated money to a group that was supporting a political cause you believe in
B5_4: Officially joined an organization that advocated your views on a political issue
B5_5: Attended a protest in support of a specific political cause
Q20: As far as you are concerned personally, how important is it to always vote in elections?
Q21: If you were selected to serve on a jury, would you be happy to do it or would you rather not serve?
Q22: Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent?
Q22_1: Do you consider yourself a strong or not a very strong Republican?
Q22_2: Do you consider yourself a strong or not a very

| Ideological_extremity | $(($ Folded 1-4)-1)/3 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Battery_ease | $\left(9-B 6 \_1\right) / 8$ |
| Battery_affected_outcome | $\left(9-B 6 \_2\right) / 8$ |
| Battery_fulfill_duty | $(9-B 63) / 8$ |
| Battery_pleasure_line | $\left(9-B 6 \_4\right) / 8$ |
| Battery_vote_determines | $\left(9-B 6 \_5\right) / 8$ |
| Battery_express_support | $\left(9-B 6 \_6\right) / 8$ |
| Battery_family_happy | $\left(9-B 6 \_7\right) / 8$ |
| Battery_loyalty | $(9-B 68) / 8$ |
| Battery_encouraged | $\left(9-B 6 \_9\right) / 8$ |
| Age | Q24 |
| Years_at_address | $0-53$ |
| Sex | $0-1$ |
| Citizen | $0-1$ |
| Education | $($ Q28-1)/6 |
| Income | $($ Q29-1)/8 |
| Hispanic | $0-1$ |
| White | $0-1$ |
| Black | $0-1$ |

strong Democrat?
Q22_3: Do you think of yourself as closer to the
Republican Party or to the Democratic Party?
Q23: When it comes to politics, would you describe yourself as liberal, conservative, or moderate?
B6_1: Ease (convenience) of getting to the polls
B6_2: How much you are likely to be affected by the outcome of the election
B6_3: Desire to fulfill your civic duty
B6_4: Pleasure you get from standing in line and filling out a ballot
B6_5: The likelihood that the election is so close that your vote will determine who wins
B6_6: Desire to express your support for a candidate or cause you strongly believe in
B6_7: Making a friend or family member happy by going

## to vote

B6_8: Showing loyalty to your political party
B6_9: When candidates or groups encourage you to vote
Q24: What is your age?
Q25: How many years have you lived at your present address?
Q25_TEXT
Q26: What is your sex?
Q27: Are you a citizen of the United States?
Q28: Which choice best describes the highest level of education you've completed?
Q29: Last year, what was the total income before taxes of all the people living in your household?
Q30: Are you of Hispanic ethnicity?
Q31_1: What is your race? (choose all that apply) White
Q31_2 ^ Black

| Asian | 0-1 | Q31_3 ^ Asian |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| American_Indian | 0-1 | Q31_4 ${ }^{\wedge}$ American Indian |
| Other_race | 0-1 | Q31_5 ^ Other race |
| Minority | 0-1 | Hispanic |
|  |  | Black |
|  |  | Asian |
|  |  | American_Indian |
|  |  | Other_race |
| Unemployed | 0-1 | Q32: How would you describe your current employment status? Unemployed dummy |
| Retired | 0-1 | Q32: How would you describe your current employment status? Retired dummy |
| Student | 0-1 | Q32: How would you describe your current employment status? Student dummy |
|  |  | Q32: How would you describe your current employment status? Working full/part time dummy |
| Trigger | Trigger/100 | Trigger_1, Trigger_2, condition |
| Partisanship | (Partisanship-1)/3 | PartyID |
| Percent_life_at_address | Percent_life_at_address/23 | Years_at_address/Age |
| Impact_civic_duty | Impact_civic_duty/6 | Q18: For you personally, is voting mainly a duty, mainly a choice, or neither a duty nor a choice? |
|  |  | Q18_1: How strongly do you feel that voting is a choice? |
|  |  | Q18_2: How strongly do you feel that voting is a duty? |
| Impact_liking_process | 0-6/6 | Q17: Do you like or dislike the process of going to the polls and filling out a ballot? |
|  |  | Q17_1: How strongly do you like the process of going to the polls and filling out a ballot? |
|  |  | Q17_2: How strongly do you dislike the process of going to the polls and filling out a ballot? |
| Expressive_activity_index | Expressive_activity_index/5 | Donated_money_candidate |
|  |  | Volunteer_candidate |


|  | Average_national_participation/3 | Donated_money_group |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Joined_group |
|  |  | Attend_protest |
| Average_national_participation |  | Participate_president |
|  |  | Participate_senate |
|  |  | Participate_house |
| Average_state_participation | Average_state_participation/4 | Participate_governor |
|  |  | Participate_legislature |
|  |  | Participate_judge |
|  |  | Participate_ballot |
| Average_local_participation | Average_local_participation/3 | Participate_commissioner |
|  |  | Participate_mayor |
|  |  | Participate_school |
| Index_of_mobilization | 0-5 | Party_contact_2010 |
|  |  | Party_contact_2012 |
|  |  | Other_contact_2010 |
|  |  | Other_contact_2012 |
|  |  | Church_information |
|  |  |  |
| Follow_state_relative | Personally_follow_national |  |
|  | Personally_follow_local- |  |
| Follow_local_relative | Personally_follow_national |  |
|  |  | Average_state_participation, |
| State_relative_index | -0.8333334-0.75 | Average_national_participation |
|  |  | Average_local_participation, |
| Local_relative_index | -0.8333334-1 | Average_national_participation |
| BLDiv | 1-3 | Based on Congressional District information from merge |
| SLDiv | 1-3 | Based on Congressional District information from merge |
| bigloser | 0-1 | 0 if Partisanship $=$. |
|  |  | 1 if BLDiv==1 \& Partisanship<2.9 |
|  |  | 1 if BLDiv==3 \& Partisanship>3.1 |


| bigwinner | 0-1 | $\begin{aligned} & 0 \text { if Partisanship~=. } \\ & 1 \text { if BLDiv==3 \& Partisanship<2.9 } \\ & 1 \text { if BLDiv==1 \& Partisanship>3.1 } \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| bigcompete | 0-1 | $\begin{aligned} & 0 \text { if bigloser==1 } \mid 0 \text { if bigwinner==1 } \\ & 1 \text { if bigloser }==0 \& \text { bigwinner==0 } \end{aligned}$ |
| simloser | 0-1 | $\begin{aligned} & 0 \text { if Partisanship~=. } \\ & 1 \text { if SLDiv==1 \& Partisanship<2.9 } \\ & 1 \text { if SLDiv===3 \& Partisanship>3.1 } \end{aligned}$ |
| simwinner | 0-1 | $\begin{aligned} & 0 \text { if Partisanship } \sim= \\ & 1 \text { if SLDiv==3 \& Partisanship<2.9 } \\ & 1 \text { if SLDiv==1 \& Partisanship }>3.1 \end{aligned}$ |
| simcompete | 0-1 | $\begin{aligned} & 0 \text { if simloser }==1 \mid 0 \text { if simwinner==1 } \\ & 1 \text { if simloser }==0 \& \text { simwinner==0 } \end{aligned}$ |
| Feels_first_time_rev | (5-B4_1)/4 | B4_1 |
| Never_pressured_people_happy_rev | (5-B4_4)/4 | B4_4 |
| Someone_asks_pressure_rev | (5-B3_2)/4 | B3_2 |
| Voting_pointless_rev | (5-B3_5)/4 | B3_5 |
| Government_complicated_rev | (5-B3_1)/4 | B3_1 |
| Elections_matter | Elections_matter/3 | Differences_between_parties Election_affect_issues Vote_makes_difference |
| Cost_scale | Cost_scale/2 | Transportation_difficult Battery_ease |
| Local_elections_scale | Local_elections_scale/6 | Care_local <br> Care_state <br> State_relative_index <br> Local_relative_index <br> Follow_state_relative <br> Follow_local_relative |
| Political_discussion | Political_discussion/4 | Discuss_friends <br> Discuss_family |


| Civic_duty_scale | Civic_duty_scale/3 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Social_norms_scale | Social_norms_scale/2 |
| Social_pressures_scale | Social_pressures_scale/3 |
| Habitual_voting_scale | Habitual_voting_scale/2 |
| Efficacy_scale | Efficacy_scale/2 |
| Voice_counted_scale | Voice_counted_scale/2 |
| Partisan_commitment_scale | Partisan_commitment_scale/3 |

Discuss_work
Discuss_neighbor
Impact_civic_duty
Always_vote_important
Mainly_duty
Embarrassed_no_vote
Miss_dont_care
Never_pressured_people_happy_rev
Someone_asks_pressure
Vote_to_please
Feels_first_time_rev
Process_familiar
Understand_issues
Government_complicated_rev
Cast_even_losing
Voting_pointless_rev
Battery_loyalty
Ideological_extremity
Partisanship

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[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Election data gathered via CQPress for all presidential, congressional, and gubernatorial elections ranging from 1982 through 2010.
    ${ }^{2}$ I use the terms "chronic losers" and "perpetual losers" interchangeably throughout this thesis to refer to those citizens who find themselves on the losing side of the vast majority of major elections over a long string of years. These may be thought of in a similar manner to sports fans who experience the wins and losses of their team in personal ways.

[^1]:    ${ }^{3}$ If the voters presidential candidate won, but congressional candidate lost they were identified as partial presidential winners. Conversely, if their congressional candidate won, but their presidential candidate lost they were categorized as partial congressional winners.

[^2]:    ${ }^{4}$ This figure is drawn from voter turnout data taken from Dr. Michael McDonald's United States Elections Project.

[^3]:    ${ }^{5}$ See Appendix A for all tables related to this section.

[^4]:    ${ }^{6}$ My MTurk survey was able to gather 866 respondents in one week. Respondents were eliminated from analysis for failing to pass compliance tests. These tests included how much time the respondents took to complete the survey, how much time they spent on a complex ranking question, and how much time they took to answer a trigger question. Furthermore, if a respondents exact Congressional District could not be determined by the zip code they responded they were exempt from analysis.
    ${ }^{7}$ A copy of the survey administered through MTurk has been included in Appendix C.

[^5]:    ${ }^{8}$ See Appendix B for information regarding the way in which the 2004 NAES data was coded.

[^6]:    ${ }^{9}$ Percent based on big loser data. Turnout ranges from $65 \%$ to $58 \%$ for simple losers.

[^7]:    ${ }^{10}$ It is also possible that the equal perception of competition is due to data or measurement problems. If respondents misreported their zip codes then their answers would be compared with the wrong district. Furthermore, it be that because my basis for actual levels of competition are only based on major elections, I am missing a considerable component of winning and losing in very localized elections (ie. school board, mayor, city executive, etc.). Finally, it is possible that an error occurred while I was coding the survey data.

[^8]:    ${ }^{11}$ Since the focus of this study is on the voting behaviors of chronic losers results in which chronic losers are not significantly different are not reported. These results are available from the author upon request.
    12 The scale combines answers from three questions: (1) are there differences between Republicans and Democrats, do you feel that elections have an affect on the issues, and do you feel your vote makes a difference.

[^9]:    ${ }^{13}$ Scale of Social Norms represents: are you embarrassed if people find out you didn't vote, and if I miss an election, I don't care if other people know I didn't vote.
    ${ }^{14}$ Scale of Social Pressures represents: I never feel pressured to vote just to make other people happy, when someone I know asks me to vote, I don't feel any added pressure to do so, and there are times when I turn out to vote mainly to please someone I care about.
    15 Variable represents: if I know my side will lose the election, I see voting as pointless... and I want to cast my vote and make sure my views are counted, even if I know I am on the losing side.
    ${ }^{16}$ The three scales are belief that elections matter, impact of liking the process, and scale of desire to have voice counted.

[^10]:    ${ }^{17}$ Specific information regarding the scaling of these variables can be found in Appendix C.
    ${ }^{18}$ Past voter turnout is a combination of respondent answers to: did you vote in 2008, did you vote in 2010, and how often in the past five years did you vote.

