

Political Beliefs and Voter Behavior Need to Know

6.1

Demography

Census

When do censuses occur?

How does the census happen?

How does the census help the people?

How is the US an immigrant society?

How are all Americans, even Native Americans immigrants?

What people immigrated to the US at what times?

What people immigrate to the US the most today?

Ellis Island

Open Door Immigration Policy

Chinese Exclusion Act

Quotas for immigration

Family integration in relation to immigration

Melting Pot

Minority majority

US racial demographics in 2050 (middle of 21st Century)

US racial demographics today (list each race and % of each)

Which races are more impoverished today?

How have African Americans increased in elected office since 1970?

Which countries give the US the most illegal immigrants? Which regions?

Which racial minorities are the most successful in the US?

Political culture

Examples of political culture of US

E pluribus unum

Reapportionment

Limit of total house members

Graying of America – what is it? – why has it happened?

Why is the Graying of America a problem for Social Security?

How does Social Security work? – understand this fully.

6.2

Political socialization

The different agents of political socialization - how each socializes

Most important agent of political socialization

Role of genetics in political socialization

"The new parent"

Which age group is more interested in government and politics? Why?

Most formal agent of political socialization

Why would the government want to politically socialize students?

Indoctrination of political ideas to students and the young

How does voter turnout change with age? When does it go down again?

How does party attachment change with age?

6.3

What does a good poll have to have? Be specific and detailed.

Sample

Random sampling

What will a random sample of the US look like racially? Gender-wise?

What happened in the Literary Digest poll? What does it tell us about sampling?

Random digit dialing

Why does random digit dialing not work so good in 2014?

What are pro-polling and anti-polling arguments? One sentence for each.

Bandwagon effect – definition and origin of the phrase

Exit polls – how they work – why we don't know who really won the election until much later after the election – who does the exit polling?

How wording of polls can lead to biased results

Jefferson v. Hamilton's views of the American people

As a whole, what do people really know about government and politics?

"Jeffersonian faith"

3 Stooges v. 3 Branches

How has increased education of Americans led to knowledge of government and politics?

"The paradox of mass politics"

Informed electorate

What has led to a decline of trust in the government?

Cynicism

What leads people to trust the government more?

"Rally around the flag"

How do programs to help poverty lead to distrust in the government?

"Big government" – what it is – who supports it- who opposes it

6.4

Scope of government

Political ideology – what it is – two main ideologies in America

Liberal and conservative takes on each issue on table 6.1

Liberal and conservative takes on government power

Percentages of US that is lib/cons

Lib/cons by age group, race, gender, catholic/Jew v. protestant, religiosity

Gender gap – who is it a problem for – what it is, yo. – when it started

4 kinds of voters – very important
centrists
Which ideologies are becoming more accepting of gay marriage?
Red states, blue states
Which members of each ideology are the loudest?

6.5

“The squeaky wheel gets the grease”
Political participation – define – examples
60/40
Conventional v. Unconventional participation – define – examples
Protest – define – examples
Civil disobedience – define – examples
King’s relationship w/ Gandhi
Kent State – what happened – why
Occupy Wall Street – what happened – why
US participation frequency in contacting politicians v. protesting
Social economic status
Social economic status in US in relation to political participation –
“George Bush doesn’t care about black people.”
Katrina and political participation
Why should African Americans theoretically vote more?
When education is removed as a factor, how do African Americans vote?
If young people voted more, how would the government react?

6.6

Scope of government. – define
What did Reagan think the scope of the government should be?
Lib/Cons on scope of gov.
Why is the US generally more conservative when it comes to the scope of the government? How would this probably be different in a third world country?
How did 9/11 impact US views on the scope of government?
“ideological conservatives but operational liberals” – define and understand fully

Chapter 9 Intro

Incumbent
Criticism of the US campaign process
Nomination campaigns
Election campaigns
When do primaries, party conventions and general elections occur

9.1

Nomination
Campaign strategy
3 Ms – why are they needed?
Delegate
National Party Convention – what happens there? – how did it use to be? – how is it now? – why did it change? (1968)
Why did the Democrats changing their primary process lead to the Republicans changing theirs?
McGovern-Fraser
Superdelegates
Invisible primary
Why are primaries more about personalities than policies?
Rick Perry “oops” – what does this show?
First state caucus? First state primary?
Define caucus. How is it different than a primary?
Define primary. How is it different from the general election? – this is a big deal.
Why is the Iowa caucus a media extravaganza? How is this related to horserace journalism?
Frontloading
Why is frontloading bad? – 2 reasons
Primary delegate allocation by state – diff for dems/rep
“The big mo” – how does it relate to Iowa and New Hampshire
Problems with the primary and caucus system (5 problems)
“The new king makers”
3 things that happen at National Conventions
Party Platform

9.2

“Campaign” as related to the military
Where do young people get most of their government and politics news as compared to old people?
Why is more money being collected in smaller amounts from the Internet?
Who first got lots of money from the Internet for their campaign?
Direct mail
Why is marketing changing from direct mail to email?>
2 types of media attention – examples of both
Most money in campaigns is spent on ... (be specific)
Do most political ads focus on policy or personality? (get the answer from page 300, not your own opinion)
Main offices in a campaign team. (around 4 or 5)

9.3

Which socioeconomic group donates the most to campaigns?

2 ways to contribute money to campaigns.
Campaign finance reform
What leads to CFR?
FECA – what it stands for – what it did – why it happened
Max amount an individual can donate to a candidate in 2012
PACs – what they do
Opensecrets.org
Fundrace.org
Why don't candidates take the \$3 donations from tax return donations?
Buckley v. Valeo – what it led to
Kerry and Romney have in common in campaign funds
Soft money – what it is
McCain Feingold – when – what happened
McConnell v. FEC
“hydraulic theory of money in politics” – understand this. It is a big deal
527 Group rules
Citizens United v. FEC – when - what happened – what it means for campaign financing – what it created
501c group rules
SuperPac Rules
Criticisms of campaign spending
“Money is the mother's milk of politics”
Three effects of campaigns on voters
Selective perception
Suffrage
Who doesn't have suffrage
Change in turnout from 1896 election to 2012 election
Political efficacy
Impact of political efficacy on turnout
Civic duty
Number of states with same-day voter registration
Voter registration laws
Which party favors more strict voter registration? Less strict? – why for each
Motor Voter Act – what it is- impact on turnout
US turnout v. other democratic countries
Who votes more and why based on...
Education
Age
Race
Gender
Marital status
Government employment
Cumulative impact of voter turnout
Mandate theory of elections – example – define
What is “rock the vote”
3 major elements of voters decisions
“the yellow dog” – what does it mean
Policy voting
Floating voters
Kerry and flip flopping
What happened in the 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2012 presidential elections – why each candidate won each election (you might have to go back into chapter 6 and 9 for this)
“self deportation” who said it? Why does it matter? What does it mean?
Electoral College- how it works
Winner take-all in Electoral College
What happens if no candidates gets the EC majority?
Battleground states
Criticism of the EC
What if we made the presidential election based on only the popular vote?
Why are elections important to Americans?>
“The permanent campaign”
How do elections increase the scope of government?