

# Public Opinion

## Wilson Chapter 5

### What is Public Opinion?

- People don't spend much time \_\_\_\_\_ about politics.
  - Monetary Control \_\_\_\_\_ ruse
  - poor \_\_\_\_\_ recognition of \_\_\_\_\_
- Poll \_\_\_\_\_ affect answers.
- Public opinion is \_\_\_\_\_.

### Some Conclusions

- Public consultation works best with \_\_\_\_\_ political choices.
- Specific \_\_\_\_\_ may be less important to the health of society than is the underlying political culture.

### Origins of Political Attitudes

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### The Role of Family 1

- Children adopt party ID of \_\_\_\_\_
  - more \_\_\_\_\_ with time
  - trend is declining
- \_\_\_\_\_ voters are less partisan.
  - more are independent

### The Role of Family 2

- Importance of \_\_\_\_\_ influence of parents is unclear.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ choices tend to be independent.
- Clear political ideologies passed on only in a few families.
  - Most families do not discuss \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Greater discussions = more \_\_\_\_\_ of ideology

### The Role of Religion 1

- Families form & transmit allegiances through their \_\_\_\_\_ traditions.
  - Catholic families = slightly more \_\_\_\_\_ on economic issues
  - Protestant families = more \_\_\_\_\_
  - Jewish families = \_\_\_\_\_ more liberal on economic and social issues

### The Role of Religion 2

- Two theories about these differences
  - Differences reflect social \_\_\_\_\_ of each group.
    - Catholics & Jews once poor \_\_\_\_\_ = ID with Democratic Party.
    - Democratic support has waned as social status increased.

- Differences reflect content of religion.
  - Jews emphasize social \_\_\_\_\_.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Protestants emphasize personal rectitude.

### The Role of Religion 3

- Christian \_\_\_\_\_
  - grass roots \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_ affiliation

### The Role of Gender 1

- \_\_\_\_\_ party affiliations of men and women
  - men increasingly \_\_\_\_\_ since mid-60s
  - \_\_\_\_\_ have identified with Democrats at about the same rate

### The Role of Gender 2

- reflects \_\_\_\_\_ differences about
  - \_\_\_\_\_ of government
  - gun \_\_\_\_\_
  - social programs
  - \_\_\_\_\_ rights
- gender gap not unique to \_\_\_\_\_

### The Role of Schooling 1

- College education has \_\_\_\_\_ effect
  - possibly due to exposure to liberalizing ideas
- Effect extends long after \_\_\_\_\_
- Effect is \_\_\_\_\_ as more people go to college

### The Role of Schooling 2

- Cause of this liberalizing?
  - personal \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_,
    - family,
    - \_\_\_\_\_
  - exposure to \_\_\_\_\_ about politics
  - \_\_\_\_\_ professors

### The Role of Schooling 3

- Increasing \_\_\_\_\_ Since 1960s?
  - \_\_\_\_\_ – opposing legalization of marijuana and abortion
  - \_\_\_\_\_ – support school busing

### Cleavages and Public Opinion

- social class
- race and ethnicity
- region

## Social Class

- less important in U.S. than Europe
- Class voting
  - \_\_\_\_\_ sharply since 1940s
- Why the change?
  - greater exposure to liberalizing effects of higher education
  - \_\_\_\_\_ issues now define liberal and conservative
  - moral, symbolic, & \_\_\_\_\_ policy issues do not divide rich and poor in same way

## Race and Ethnicity

- Similarities and differences between blacks and whites are \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ differences also surface among African Americans
- Difference between \_\_\_\_\_ and citizens
  - in black community
  - in white community
- No \_\_\_\_\_ voters have become predictably partisan in their voting

## Region 1

- White southerners once more conservative than other regions regarding
  - \_\_\_\_\_ to minorities,
  - legalizing marijuana,
  - school \_\_\_\_\_, and
  - rights of the \_\_\_\_\_
- White southerners about the same as other regions on economic issues

## Region 2

- Traditionally, white southerners were solidly \_\_\_\_\_
  - the “solid south” – for Democrats
- Political views today are \_\_\_\_\_ regionally distinct
- Today, white Southerners are less \_\_\_\_\_ to the Democratic Party than in the past.

## Political Ideology 1

- \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ set of political beliefs about who ought to rule, the principles rulers ought to obey, and what \_\_\_\_\_ rulers ought to pursue
- measured in terms of
  - How frequently they self-\_\_\_\_\_ or describe their choices as liberal, conservative, etc.
  - Whether their \_\_\_\_\_ preferences are consistent over time, or are based on consistent principles

## Political Ideology 2

- Yet people may have strong \_\_\_\_\_ even if they do not satisfy these conditions
- Other people may cross the \_\_\_\_\_ of traditional liberalism or conservatism in their issue affiliations

## Liberalism and Conservatism? 1

- Labels have a complex history
- Early 1800s
  - \_\_\_\_\_ supported
    - personal \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ liberty
- conservatives supported restoring the authority of
  - state
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - aristocracy

### Liberalism and Conservatism? 2

- \_\_\_\_\_ & New Deal changes things
  - liberals
    - support \_\_\_\_\_ government
  - conservatives
    - reaction to activism (\_\_\_\_\_)
    - \_\_\_\_\_ markets
    - \_\_\_\_\_ rights
    - individual \_\_\_\_\_ in economics
- Today labels are imprecise and changing

### Categories of Public Opinion 1

- Economic policy: \_\_\_\_\_ favor
  - \_\_\_\_\_ for all,
  - \_\_\_\_\_ medical care and education,
  - increased taxation of the \_\_\_\_\_
- Civil rights: liberals favor
  - strong \_\_\_\_\_ action to desegregate schools,
  - create \_\_\_\_\_ opportunities for minorities, and
  - strict enforcement of \_\_\_\_\_ rights law

### Categories of Public Opinion 2

- Public and political conduct: \_\_\_\_\_ are
  - \_\_\_\_\_ of protest demonstrations,
  - favor \_\_\_\_\_ of marijuana,
  - emphasize protecting the rights of the accused, and
  - respond to crime by seeking to eliminate its \_\_\_\_\_

### Analyzing Consistency

- People \_\_\_\_\_ liberal and conservative positions on these categories
- See following slides!

### Pure \_\_\_\_\_

- liberal on both economic and personal conduct issues
- 1994, \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the population

### Pure \_\_\_\_\_

- conservative on both economic and personal conduct issues
- 1994, \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the population

- conservative on \_\_\_\_\_ issues, liberal on personal conduct issues
- 1994, about \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the population

- 
- liberal on \_\_\_\_\_ issues, conservative on personal conduct issues
  - 1994, about \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the population

### Political Elites

- those who have a disproportionate amount of some valued \_\_\_\_\_
- Elites, or \_\_\_\_\_, display greater ideological consistency
  - more information and more \_\_\_\_\_ in politics than most people, so they may see more relationships among the issues
  - Their peers reinforce this consistency.

### Is there a “new class”?

- those who are \_\_\_\_\_ by the power, resources, and growth of government (not by business, as elites previously were)
- Two explanations of \_\_\_\_\_ individuals who are liberals
  - Directly benefit from \_\_\_\_\_
  - Liberal ideology is now \_\_\_\_\_ postgraduate education

### Middle Class Split? 1

- Traditional middle class:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ years of college,
  - suburban,
  - \_\_\_\_\_ affiliated,
  - pro business,
  - conservative on social issues,
  - \_\_\_\_\_

### Middle Class Split? 2

- Liberal middle class (or new class):
  - \_\_\_\_\_ education,
  - urban,
  - critical of \_\_\_\_\_,
  - liberal on social issues,
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- Emergence of new class creates a greater strain in Democratic party

### Political elites, public opinion, and public policy

- Elites influence public opinion in two ways
  - Raise and \_\_\_\_\_ political issues
  - State \_\_\_\_\_ by which to settle issues and define policy options

### Limits to elite influence on the public

- Elites do not define economic, crime, and other problems that are rooted in personal \_\_\_\_\_
- Elites contradict and \_\_\_\_\_ with one another, limiting their influence