

## **USA 1988 Election Study**

*Methodology:*

Total Sample: 721

*Variables:*

| Variable Name:   | Question Asked:  | Coded As:   |
|------------------|--|---|
| Postvote         | (If the respondent voted:) How about the election for President? Did you vote for a candidate for President? (IF YES:) Who did you vote for?<br><br>1. Democrat<br>2. Republican<br>3. Other (incl. 3d/minor party candidates and write-ins)   | Recorded such that:<br><br>3 Democrat<br>4 Republican<br>5 Third Party<br><br>The “don’t know”, “refused” and “other” categories are recorded as missing. |
| Age              | What is the month, day and year of your birth?   | Age is year as coded.   |
| Female           | Sex of respondent<br>1. Male<br>2. Female  | Recorded such that:<br>0 Male<br>1 Female   |
| Union House Hold | Do you or anyone else in this household belong to a labor union?<br><br>1 Yes, someone (1948: head) in household belongs to a labor union<br>2 No, no one in household belongs to a labor union<br>0 DK; NA; INAP  | Recorded such that:<br><br>0 No<br>1 Yes<br><br>The “don’t know” and “refused” categories are recorded as missing.  |
| Income           | 1972-1990, 1992 long-form, 1994-later: Please look at this card/page and tell me the letter of the income group that includes the income of all members of your family living here in <previous year> before taxes. This figure should include salaries, wages, pensions, dividends, interest, and all other income. (IF UNCERTAIN:) What would be your best guess?<br><br>1992 short form: Can you give us an estimate of your total family income in 1991 before taxes? This figure should include salaries, wages, pensions, dividends, interest and all other income for | Recorded such that:<br><br>0 0 to 16 percentile<br>1 17 to 33 percentile<br>2 34 to 67 percentile<br>3 68 to 95 percentile<br>4 96 to 100 percentile      |

every member of your family living in your house in 1991. First could you tell me if that was above or below \$24,999? (IF UNCERTAIN: what would be your best guess?) (IF ABOVE/BELOW \$24,999:) I will read you some income categories, could you please stop me when I reach the category that corresponds to your family situation?

|         |  |  |
|---------|--|--|
| Black   | <p>1948-1998: Race determined by interviewer observation.</p> <p>1 White<br/>2 Black</p>   | <p>Recorded such that:</p> <p>0 White<br/>1 Black</p>  |
| Educate | <p>What is highest grade of school or year of college you have completed?</p> <p>1 Grade school or less (0-8 grades)<br/>2 High school (12 grades or fewer, incl. non-college training if applicable)<br/>3 Some College (13 grades or more but no degree)<br/>4 College or advanced degree<br/>0 DK; NA</p>   | <p>Recorded such that:</p> <p>0 Grade school or less (0-8 grades)<br/>1 High school (12 grades or fewer, incl. non-college training if applicable)<br/>2 Some College (13 grades or more but no degree)<br/>3 College or advanced degree</p> <p>The “don’t know” and “refused” categories are recorded as missing.</p> |
| Church  | <p>Lots of things come up that keep people from attending religious services even if they want to. Thinking about your life these days, do you ever attend religious services, apart from occasional weddings, baptisms or funerals? Do you go to religious services every week, almost every week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, or never?</p> <p>1 Every week<br/>2 Almost every week</p> | <p>Recorded such that:</p> <p>0 never, don’t know, NA or INAP<br/>1 once or twice a month &amp; a few times a year<br/>2 almost every week<br/>3 every week</p>  |

- 3 Once or twice a month
- 4 A few times a year
- 5 Never
- 7 No religious preference (1970-1988)
- 8 DK how often/ DK if attend
- 9 NA how often/ NA if attend
- 0 INAP religion

Libcon

We hear a lot of talk these days about liberals and conservatives. Here is a 7-point scale on which the political views that people might hold are arranged from extremely liberal to extremely conservative. Where would you place yourself on this scale, or haven't you thought much about this?

Recorded such that:

The “don’t know” and “refused” categories are recorded as missing.

PID

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or what? Would you call yourself a strong (REP/DEM) or a not very strong (REP/DEM)? (IF INDEPENDENT, OTHER) Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican or Democratic party?

Recorded such that:

- 1 Strong Democrat
- 2 Weak Democrat
- 3 Independent - Democrat
- 4 Independent - Independent
- 5 Independent - Republican
- 6 Weak Republican
- 7 Strong Republican

The “don’t know” and “refused” categories are recorded as missing.

Retnat

Now thinking about the economy: Would you say that over the past year the nation's economy has gotten better, stayed about the same or gotten worse?

Would you say much better or somewhat better?

Would you say much worse or somewhat worse?

- 1 Much better
- 2 Somewhat better
- 3 Stayed same
- 4 Somewhat worse

Recorded such that:

- 1 got somewhat or much better
- 2 stayed the same
- 3 got a little worse
- 4 got much worse

The “don’t know” and “refused” categories are recorded as missing.

This variable is recorded so

|                                  |   |  |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
|                                  | <p>5 Much worse<br/> 8 DK much or somewhat better/worse<br/> 9 NA much or somewhat better/worse<br/> 0 INAP, DK/NA if better or worse;</p>  | <p>that there are three dummy variables representing:</p> <p>_Iretnat_1 – Got better<br/> _Iretnat_2 – Stayed the same<br/> _Iretnat_3 – Got worse</p>   |
| Occupation<br>OccupB1<br>OccupB3 | <p>What is your main occupation [What sort of work do you do?] What are your most important activities or duties? (IF R IS RETIRED/UNEMPLOYED/DISABLED:) What kind of work did you do on your last regular job [What was your occupation?] What were your most important activities or duties?</p> <p>1 Professional and managerial<br/> 2 Clerical and sales workers<br/> 3 Skilled, semi-skilled and service workers<br/> 4 Laborers, except farm<br/> 5 Farmers, farm managers, farm laborers and foremen; forestry and fishermen<br/> 6 Homemakers<br/> 0 NA; member of armed forces; INAP.</p> | <p>OccupB1 coded such that:</p> <p>0 All other occupations<br/> 1 Professional and Managerial, Clerical and sales workers and Farmers, Farm Managers, Farm Laborers and Foremen; Forestry and Fishermen</p> <p>OccupB3 coded such that:</p> <p>0 All other Occupations<br/> 1 Homemakers</p> |
| South                            | <p>Region Codings are as follows:</p> <p>1 Northeast (CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT)<br/> 2 North Central (IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI)<br/> 3 South (AL, AR, DE, D.C., FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV)<br/> 4 West (AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY)</p>  | <p>Recoded such that:</p> <p>1 Northeast<br/> 2 North Central<br/> 3 South<br/> 4 West</p>   |
| Abort96                          | <p>There has been some discussion about abortion during recent years. Which one of the opinions on this page best agrees with your view? You can just tell me the number of the opinion you choose.</p> <p>1 By law, abortion should never be permitted.</p>  | <p>Recoded such that:</p> <p>0 By law, abortion should never be permitted.<br/> 1 The law should permit abortion only in case of rape, incest, or when the woman's life is in danger.</p>  |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>2 The law should permit abortion only in case of rape, incest, or when the woman's life is in danger.</p> <p>3 The law should permit abortion for reasons other than rape, incest, or danger to the woman's life, but only after the need for the abortion has been clearly established.</p> <p>4 By law, a woman should always be able to obtain an abortion as a matter of personal choice.</p> <p>9 DK; other</p> <p>0 NA; INAP.</p> | <p>2 The law should permit abortion for reasons other than rape, incest, or danger to the woman's life, but only after the need for the abortion has been clearly established.</p> <p>3 By law, a woman should always be able to obtain an abortion as a matter of personal choice.</p><br><p>The “don’t know” and “refused” categories are recoded as missing.</p> |
|--|---|

Defspd96

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Some people believe that we should spend much less money for defense. Others feel that defense spending should be greatly increased. Where would you place yourself on this scale or haven't you thought much about this?</p> <p>1 Greatly decrease defense spending</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p> <p>7 Greatly increase defense spending.</p> <p>9 DK; haven't thought much about it</p> | <p>Recoded such that:</p> <p>-3 Greatly decrease defense spending</p> <p>-2</p> <p>-1</p> <p>0</p> <p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 Greatly increase defense spending.</p><br><p>The “don’t know” and “refused” categories are recoded as missing.</p> |
|---|--|

Trust

|  |   |   |     |   |     |   |     |   |     |
|--|---|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|
| <p>People have different ideas about the government in Washington. These ideas don't refer to Democrats or Republicans in particular, but just to government in general. We want to see how you feel about these ideas.</p><br><p>How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right -- just about always, most of the time or only some of the time?</p><br><p>Would you say the government is pretty</p> | <p>Factor scores resulting from factor analysis of the four variables</p><br><p>Factor Loadings</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>1</td><td>.53</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>.58</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>.50</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>.54</td></tr> </table><br><p>First factor: Eigenvalue of 1.17.</p> | 1 | .53 | 2 | .58 | 3 | .50 | 4 | .54 |
| 1  | .53   |   |     |   |     |   |     |   |     |
| 2  | .58   |   |     |   |     |   |     |   |     |
| 3  | .50   |   |     |   |     |   |     |   |     |
| 4  | .54   |   |     |   |     |   |     |   |     |

much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves or that it is run for the benefit of all the people?

Do you think that people in the government waste a lot of money we pay in taxes, waste some of it, or don't waste very much of it?

Do you think that quite a few of the people running the government are crooked, not very many are, or do you think hardly any of them are crooked?

Efficacy

Now I'd like to read some of the kinds of things people tell us when we interview them.

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with them. I'll read them one at a time and you just tell me whether you agree or disagree:

"I don't think public officials care much what people like me think."

1 Agree  
2 Disagree  
3 Neither agree nor disagree  
9 DK; not sure; it depends; can't say, refused to say

"People like me don't have any say about what the government does."

1 Agree  
2 Disagree  
3 Neither agree nor disagree  
9 DK; not sure; it depends; can't say, refused to say

"Sometimes politics and government seem so complicated that a person like me can't really understand what's going on."

1 Agree  
2 Disagree

The "don't know" and "refused" categories are recoded as missing.

Factor scores resulting from factor analysis of the three variables

Factor Loadings

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1 | .58 |
| 2 | .59 |
| 3 | .33 |

First factor: Eigenvalue of .79.

The "don't know" and "refused" categories are recoded as missing.

3 Neither agree nor disagree  
9 DK; not sure; it depends; can't say,  
refused to say

*Data Acknowledgements:*