
SETUPS: Voting Behavior: The 2000 Election

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ICPSR 3356

SETUPS: VOTING BEHAVIOR: THE 2000 ELECTION

(ICPSR 3356)

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DATA COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Charles Prysby and Carmine Scavo

SETUPS: VOTING BEHAVIOR: THE 2000 ELECTION (ICPSR 3356)

SUMMARY: This Supplementary Empirical Teaching Units in Political Science (SETUPS) module is designed as an introduction to the study of elections, voting behavior, and survey data through the analysis of the 2000 United States general election. The data are taken from the AMERICAN NATIONAL ELECTION STUDY, 2000: PRE- AND POST-ELECTION SURVEY (ICPSR 3131), conducted by Nancy Burns, Donald R. Kinder, Steven J. Rosenstone, Virginia Sapiro, and the National Election Studies. A subset of items was drawn from the full election survey, including questions on voting behavior, political involvement, media involvement, candidate images, presidential approval and government performance, economic conditions, ideology, general spending and taxation, social welfare policy, foreign policy and defense issues, social and other domestic issues, civil rights and equality, and general orientations toward government. A number of social and demographic characteristics such as gender, race, age, marital status, education, occupation, income, religious affiliation, region, and employment status are also included.

UNIVERSE: All United States citizens of voting age on or before Election Day (November 6, 2000), residing in housing units other than on military reservations in the 48 coterminous states.

SAMPLING: National multistage area probability sample.

NOTE: (1) The data for this instructional subset are distributed by ICPSR through an arrangement with the American Political Science Association (APSA). Manuals for use with the data are available from the APSA Division of Educational Affairs. (2) The codebook is provided by ICPSR as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file. The PDF file format was developed by Adobe Systems Incorporated and can be accessed using PDF reader software, such as the Adobe Acrobat Reader. Information on how to obtain a copy of the Acrobat Reader is provided on the ICPSR Web site.

EXTENT OF COLLECTION: 1 data file + machine-readable documentation (PDF) + SAS data definition statements + SPSS data definition statements + Stata data definition statements

EXTENT OF PROCESSING: MDATA.PR/ CONCHK.PR/ DDEF.ICPSR/ REFORM.DOC/
UNDOCCHK.PR/ FREQ.PR

DATA FORMAT: Logical Record Length with SAS, SPSS, and Stata data definition statements, and SPSS portable file

File Structure: rectangular

Cases: 1,555

Variables: 184

Record Length: 239

Records Per Case: 1

RELATED PUBLICATIONS:

Prysbý, Charles, and Carmine Scavo. SETUPS: VOTING BEHAVIOR: THE 2000 ELECTION. Washington, DC: American Political Science Association, 2002.

ICPSR 3356
SETUPS: Voting Behavior: The 2000 Election
Codebook

A. Voting Behavior and Related Items

V001 Voted in election (1241)

Did you vote in the elections this November?

1182	1	Voted
433	2	Did not vote
2	9	NA

V002 Presidential vote (1249)

Whom did you vote for in the presidential election? (Nonvoters are recorded as NA).

504	1	Bush
550	2	Gore
44	3	Other
456	9	NA

V003 1996 presidential vote (304)

Whom did you vote for in the 1996 presidential election? (Nonvoters are recorded as NA).

531	1	Clinton
343	2	Dole
117	3	Perot
562	9	NA

V004 House vote (1263)

Whom did you vote for in the elections for the House of Representatives? (Responses are categorized by the party of the candidate. Nonvoters are recorded as NA.)

432	1	Democrat
404	2	Republican
718	9	NA

V005 Type of House race (194)

Classification of the type of race for the House of Representatives in the respondent's congressional district. Districts were classified as to whether: (a) a Democratic incumbent was running for re-election; (b) no incumbent was running for re-election; or (c) a Republican incumbent was running for re-election. In a few cases, the respondent's congressional district was not ascertained, so these cases are coded as NA.

662	1	Democratic incumbent
154	2	Open seat
729	3	Republican incumbent
9	9	NA

V006 Senate vote (1275)

Whom did you vote for in the U. S. Senate race? (Responses are categorized by the party of the candidate. All nonvoters, including those who lived in a state that did not have a Senate election in 1996, are recorded as NA.)

394	1	Democrat
312	2	Republican
848	9	NA

V007 Type of Senate race (204)

Classification of the type of race for the U. S. Senate in the respondent's state. States were classified as to whether: (a) a Democratic incumbent was running for re-election; (b) no incumbent was running for re-election; or (c) a Republican incumbent was running for re-election. In a few cases, the respondent's state was not ascertained, so these cases are coded as NA.

429	1	Democratic incumbent
232	2	Open seat
535	3	Republican incumbent
352	4	No race in state
6	9	NA

V008 Party identification (523)

Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an independent, or what? If Democrat or Republican, would you call yourself a strong or a weak Democrat or Republican? If independent, are you closer to the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?

292	1	Strong Democrat
234	2	Weak Democrat
231	3	Independent Democrat
180	4	Independent
205	5	Independent Republican
185	6	Weak Republican
196	7	Strong Republican
30	9	NA

V009 Feeling thermometer: Democratic Party (369)

On a scale of 0 to 100 degrees, how warm or cold do you feel toward the Democratic Party?

136	1	0 - 24
232	2	25 - 49
296	3	50
474	4	51 - 75
363	5	76 - 100
53	9	NA

V010 Feeling thermometer: Republican Party (370)

On a scale of 0 to 100 degrees, how warm or cold do you feel toward the Republican Party?

147	1	0 - 24
306	2	25 - 49
311	3	50
507	4	51 - 75
230	5	76 - 100
52	9	NA

B. Political Involvement Items

V011 Interest in campaign (301, 1201)

How interested have you been in the political campaigns so far this year?

321	1	Very interested
312	2	Interested
500	3	Somewhat interested
256	4	Slightly interested
165	5	Not interested

V012 Concern over election (302)

How much would you say that you personally care who wins the election for president?

1184	1	Care a good deal
364	2	Do not care much
5	9	NA

V013 Days discussed politics last week (1204, 1205)

How many days in the past week did you talk about politics with family or friends?

640	1	6 - 7 days
352	2	3 - 5 days
222	3	1 - 2 days
318	4	0 days
22	9	NA

V014 Campaign activity index (1225-1228)

Index of respondent's activity in the campaign, built from "yes" answers to the following questions: Did you talk to any people and try to show them why they should vote for or against one of the parties or candidates?; Did you wear a campaign button, put a campaign sticker on your car, or place a sign in your window or in front of your house?; Did you go to any political meetings, rallies, speeches, dinners, or things like that in support of a particular candidate?; and Did you do any (other) work for one of the parties or candidates?

133	1	Two or more acts
475	2	One act
945	3	No acts

V015 Campaign contributions index (1229, 1231, 1233)

Index of respondent's financial contribution to the campaign, built from "yes" answers to the following questions: Did you give any money to an individual candidate running for public office? Did you give any money to a political party during this election year? and Did you give money to any other group that supported or opposed candidates?

170	1	Made contribution
1384	2	Did not contribute

C. Media Involvement Items

V016 Attention paid to presidential campaign news (1648)

How much attention did you pay to news about the campaign for President?

263	1	A great deal
393	2	Quite a bit
583	3	Some
260	4	Very little
49	5	None
5	9	NA

V017 Attention paid to congressional campaign news (1649)

How much attention did you pay to news about the congressional campaigns?

55	1	A great deal
110	2	Quite a bit
459	3	Some
651	4	Very little
274	5	None
6	9	NA

V018 Number of campaign programs watched (1202,1203)

How many television programs about the presidential campaign did you watch?

366	1	Good many
537	2	Several
357	3	One or two
291	4	None
3	9	NA

V019 Attention to national television campaign news (329,330)

How much attention did you pay to news on national news shows about the campaign for President?

187	1	A great deal
296	2	Quite a bit
450	3	Some
167	4	Very little
448	5	None
3	9	NA

V020 Attention to local campaign news (331,332,333)

How much attention did you pay to news on local news shows about the campaign for President?

161	1	A great deal
263	2	Quite a bit
485	3	Some
318	4	Very little
327	5	None

V021 Days watched national television news last week (329)

How many days in the past week did you watch the national news on TV?

443	1	6 - 7 days
345	2	3 - 5 days
328	3	1 - 2 days
432	4	0 days
6	9	NA

V022 Days watched local television early news last week (331)

How many days in the past week did you watch the local early TV news?

463	1	6 - 7 days
349	2	3 - 5 days
249	3	1 - 2 days
493	4	0 days

V023 Days watched local television late news last week (332)

How many days in the past week did you watch the local late TV news?

330	1	6 - 7 days
340	2	3 - 5 days
279	3	1 - 2 days
603	4	0 days
1	9	NA

V024 Watched presidential debate? (1644,1645)

Did you watch any of the televised presidential debates between George Bush and Al Gore?

413	1	Watched entire debate
623	2	Watched part of debate
509	3	Did not watch debate
8	9	NA

V025 Days read newspaper last week (335)

How many days in the past week did you read a daily newspaper?

513	1	7 days
282	2	3-6 days
338	3	1-2 days
420	4	0 days

V026 Attention paid to campaign news in newspapers (335,336,337)

How much attention did you pay to newspaper articles about the campaign for president?

93	1	Great deal
164	2	Quite a bit
294	3	Some
86	4	Very little
914	5	None
1	9	NA

V027 Number of campaign speeches heard on radio (1646,1647)

How many speeches or discussions about the campaign on the radio would you say you listened to?

122	1	Good many
221	2	Several
236	3	One or two
970	4	None
5	9	NA

V028 Listen to talk radio? (1431)

How much attention do you pay to political talk radio programs in which people call in to voice their opinions about politics?

158	1	Most days
141	2	1 - 2 days per week
237	3	Occasionally
1018	4	Not at all

V029 Viewed election information on Internet? (1433,1434)

Do you view information on the internet as a source to find out about presidential elections?

435 1 Yes

1119 2 No

V030 Trust in media (1429)

How much of the time do you think you can trust the media to report the news fairly?

114 1 Almost always

640 2 Most of the time

670 3 Some of the time

670 4 Almost never

2 9 NA

D. Candidate Image Items

V031 Gore: really cares? (525)

How well does the phrase “he really cares about people like you” describe Al Gore?

822	1	Quite well
625	2	Not very well
107	9	NA

V032 Gore: knowledgeable? (526)

How well does the phrase “he is knowledgeable” describe Al Gore?

1228	1	Quite well
255	2	Not very well
71	9	NA

V033 Gore: strong leader? (527)

How well does the phrase “he presents strong leadership” describe Al Gore?

843	1	Quite well
613	2	Not very well
98	9	NA

V034 Gore: dishonest? (528)

How well does the phrase “he is dishonest” describe Al Gore?

398	1	Quite well
1003	2	Not very well
152	9	NA

V035 Bush: really cares? (532)

How well does the phrase “he really cares about people like you” describe George Bush?

674	1	Quite well
761	2	Not very well
188	9	NA

V036 Bush: knowledgeable? (533)

How well does the phrase “he is knowledgeable” describe George Bush?

1056	1	Quite well
416	2	Not very well
82	9	NA

V037 Bush: strong leader? (534)

How well does the phrase “he provides strong leadership” describe George Bush?

960	1	Quite well
479	2	Not very well
115	9	NA

V038 Bush: dishonest? (535)

How well does the phrase “he is dishonest” describe George Bush?

287	1	Quite well
1070	2	Not very well
197	9	NA

V039 Gore: pre-election feeling thermometer (360)

On a scale of 0 degrees to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel towards Al Gore?
(assessed before the election)

169	1	0 - 24
260	2	25 - 49
243	3	50
501	4	51 - 75
353	5	76-100
28	9	NA

V040 Gore: post-election feeling thermometer (1293)

On a scale of 0 degrees to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel towards Al Gore?
(assessed after the election)

246	1	0 - 24
280	2	25 - 49
192	3	50
470	4	51 - 75
349	5	76-100
18	9	NA

V041 Bush: pre-election feeling thermometer (361)

On a scale of 0 degrees to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel towards George Bush?
(assessed before the election)

197	1	0 - 24
287	2	25 - 49
292	3	50
473	4	51 - 75
329	5	76-100
36	9	NA

V042 Bush: post-election feeling thermometer (1294)

On a scale of 0 degrees to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel towards George Bush? (assessed after the election)

183	1	0 - 24
322	2	25 - 49
218	3	50
421	4	51 - 75
396	5	76-100
14	9	NA

V043 Nader: feeling thermometer (363)

On a scale of 0 degrees to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel towards Ralph Nader? (assessed before the election)

126	1	0 - 24
175	2	25 - 49
344	3	50
312	4	51 - 75
142	5	76-100
455	9	NA

V044 Buchanan: feeling thermometer (362)

On a scale of 0 degrees to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel towards Pat Buchanan? (assessed before the election)

283	1	0 - 24
279	2	25 - 49
414	3	50
234	4	51 - 75
46	5	76-100
298	9	NA

V045 Lieberman: feeling thermometer (366)

On a scale of 0 degrees to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel towards Joseph Lieberman? (assessed before the election)

96	1	0 - 24
153	2	25 - 49
325	3	50
348	4	51 - 75
185	5	76-100
447	9	NA

V046 Cheney: feeling thermometer (367)

On a scale of 0 degrees to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel towards Richard Cheney? (assessed before the election)

81	1	0 - 24
135	2	25 - 49
350	3	50
386	4	51 - 75
197	5	76-100
405	9	NA

E. Presidential approval and government performance item

V047 Clinton job approval (341)

Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Bill Clinton is handling his job as president?

625	1	Strongly approve
355	2	Approve
140	3	Disapprove
371	4	Strongly disapprove
63	9	NA

V048 Clinton: moral? (1637a)

How well does the phrase “he is moral” describe Bill Clinton?

252	1	Quite well
1270	2	Not very well
32	9	NA

V049 Clinton: cares? (1638a)

How well does the phrase “he really cares about people like you” describe Bill Clinton?

764	1	Quite well
753	2	Not very well
37	9	NA

V050 Clinton: strong leader? (1640a)

How well does the phrase “he presents strong leadership” describe Bill Clinton?

995	1	Quite well
537	2	Not very well
22	9	NA

V051 Clinton: dishonest? (1641a)

How well does the phrase “he is dishonest” describe Bill Clinton?

930	1	Quite well
582	2	Not very well
42	9	NA

V052 Clinton: feeling thermometer (359)

On a scale of 0 degrees to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel towards Bill Clinton?

265	1	0-24
247	2	25-49
186	3	50
430	4	51-75
416	5	76-100
10	9	NA

V053 Approval of Congress (358)

Do you approve or disapprove of the way the that the U.S. Congress is handling its job?

250	1	Strongly approve
558	2	Approve
257	3	Disapprove
260	4	Strongly disapprove
229	9	NA

V054 Congress: feeling thermometer (1305)

On a scale of 0 degrees to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel towards Congress (assessed after the election)?

53	1	0-24
221	2	25-49
392	3	50
631	4	51-75
184	5	76-100
73	9	NA

V055 Supreme Court: feeling thermometer (1304)

On a scale of 0 degrees to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel towards the Supreme Court?

38	1	0-24
101	2	25-49
326	3	50
619	4	51-75
391	5	76-100
79	9	NA

V056 Federal government: feeling thermometer (1307)

On a scale of 0 degrees to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel towards the Federal government?

107	1	0-24
288	2	25-49
329	3	50
574	4	51-75
188	5	76-100
68	9	NA

V057 Most important problem for US (436)

What do you think is the most important problem facing this country? (NOTE: This question was only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

111	1	Economy and government spending
114	2	Education
131	3	Health care and social welfare
75	4	Social Security and Medicare
83	5	Moral problems
87	6	Crime
67	7	Other domestic problems
85	8	Foreign affairs and defense
800	9	NA

V058 Government performance on most important problem (437)

How good a job is the government in Washington doing in dealing with this problem? (NOTE: This question was asked of only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

73	1	Good
317	2	Fair
345	3	Poor
819	9	NA

V059 Party performance on most important problem (438)

Which political party do you think would be most likely to get the government to do a better job in dealing with this problem? (NOTE: This question was asked of only one-half of the full sample.)

170	1	Republicans better
365	2	No difference
197	3	Democrats better
822	9	NA

F. Economic conditions items

V060 Better or worse off financially? (1412a)

Would you say that you were better off or worse off financially than you were last year?

157	1	Much better
357	2	Somewhat better
838	3	About the same
144	4	Somewhat worse
51	5	Much worse
7	9	NA

V061 Better or worse off next year? (1417a)

Do you think that a year from now you will be better or worse off financially?

196	1	Much better
385	2	Somewhat better
847	3	About the same
66	4	Somewhat worse
24	5	Much worse
35	9	NA

V062 Economy since 1992 (1599a)

Would you say that since 1992 the nation's economy has gotten better, stayed about the same, or gotten worse?

565	1	Much better
496	2	Somewhat better
368	3	About the same
61	4	Somewhat worse
31	5	Much worse
32	9	NA

V063 Economy last year (491)

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

207	1	Much better
375	2	Somewhat better
690	3	About the same
63	4	Somewhat worse
204	5	Much worse
14	9	NA

V064 Economy next year (499)

What about the next 12 months? Do you expect the economy to get better, get worse or stay about the same?

104	1	Much better
252	2	Somewhat better
865	3	About the same
215	4	Somewhat worse
61	5	Much worse
57	9	NA

V065 Clinton effect on economy (1603a)

Would you say that Bill Clinton has made the nation's economy better, made it worse, or had no effect on the economy?

379	1	Much better
471	2	Somewhat better
594	3	No effect
38	4	Somewhat worse
19	5	Much worse
54	9	NA

V066 Clinton handling of economy (503)

Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Bill Clinton is handling the economy?

650	1	Strongly approve
442	2	Approve
134	3	Disapprove
226	4	Strongly disapprove
102	9	NA

V067 Best party for economy (505)

Which political party do you think would be most likely to get the government to do a better job in dealing with this problem?

430	1	Democrats better
717	2	No difference
359	3	Republicans better
48	9	NA

G. Ideology items

V068 Ideology (1368)

Respondent's self-placement on a scale running from "liberal" to "conservative."

196	1	Liberal
128	2	Slightly liberal
375	3	Moderate
180	4	Slightly conservative
296	5	Conservative
378	9	NA

V069 Gore: ideological placement (1372)

Respondent's placement of Al Gore on a scale running from "liberal" to "conservative."

635	1	Liberal
271	2	Slightly liberal
206	3	Moderate
100	4	Slightly conservative
146	5	Conservative
195	9	NA

V070 Bush: ideological placement (1374)

Respondent's placement of George Bush on a scale running from "liberal" to "conservative."

128	1	Liberal
81	2	Slightly liberal
173	3	Moderate
255	4	Slightly conservative
714	5	Conservative
202	9	NA

V071 Democratic Party: ideological placement (1382)

Respondent's placement of the Democratic Party on a scale running from "liberal" to "conservative."

657	1	Liberal
281	2	Slightly liberal
210	3	Moderate
65	4	Slightly conservative
128	5	Conservative
211	9	NA

V072 Republican Party: ideological placement (1383)

Respondent's placement of the Republican Party on a scale running from "liberal" to "conservative."

118	1	Liberal
73	2	Slightly liberal
167	3	Moderate
250	4	Slightly conservative
724	5	Conservative
222	9	NA

H. Social welfare and domestic spending issue items

V073 Government services: increase or decrease? (1386)

Do you think that the government should provide fewer services in order to reduce spending or should it increase the services it provides even if it means increasing spending? (NOTE: This question was only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

152	1	Reduce services and spending
347	2	Stay the same
294	3	Increase services and spending
761	9	NA

V074 Government services scale (1385)

Respondent's self-placement on a scale running from "Government should provide many fewer services to reduce spending a lot" to "Government should provide many more services, even if it means increasing spending." (NOTE: This question was only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

19	1	Many fewer services
55	2	
96	3	
174	4	
153	5	
45	6	
44	7	Many more services
968	9	NA

V075 Jobs and living standards: government vs. individual (616)

Should the government in Washington see to it that every person has a job and a good standard of living or should the government just let people get ahead on their own? (NOTE: This question was only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

166	1	Government should see to it
41	2	Depends
405	3	Leave people on own
942	9	NA

V076 Jobs and living standards scale (615)

Respondent's self placement on a scale running from "Government should see to it that every person has a job and a good standard of living" to "Government should let each person get ahead on their own." (NOTE: This question was only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

67	1	Government should guarantee
41	2	
84	3	
144	4	
153	5	
154	6	
109	7	Individual on own
802	9	NA

V077 Gore: jobs and living standards scale position (621)

Respondent's placement of Al Gore on a scale running from "Government should see to it that every person has a job and a good standard of living" to "Government should let each person get ahead on their own." (NOTE: This question was only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

64	1	Government should guarantee
94	2	
172	3	
180	4	
87	5	
52	6	
40	7	Individual on own
865	9	NA

V078 Bush: jobs and living standards scale position (626)

Respondent's placement of George Bush on a scale running from "Government should see to it that every person has a job and a good standard of living" to "Government should let each person get ahead on their own." (NOTE: This question was only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

23	1	Government should guarantee
22	2	
72	3	
154	4	
166	5	
167	6	
78	7	Individual on own
871	9	NA

V079 Health insurance: government vs. private plans (611)

Should there be a government insurance plan that would cover all medical and hospital expenses for everyone, or should medical expenses should be paid by individuals or by private insurance plans." (NOTE: This question was only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

310	1	Government health plan
43	2	Same as now
257	3	Private health plans
944	9	NA

V080 Government health insurance scale (609)

Respondent's placement on a scale that runs from "There should be a government insurance plan which would cover all medical and hospital expenses for everyone" to "All medical expenses should be paid by individuals or by private insurance plans."
(NOTE: This question was only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

130	1	Government plan
82	2	
122	3	
162	4	
115	5	
80	6	
85	7	Private plans
778	9	NA

V081 Spending on welfare programs (676)

Should federal spending on welfare programs be increased, decreased, or kept the same?

262	1	Increase
690	2	About the same
577	3	Decrease
24	9	NA

V082 Spending on aid for the poor (680)

Should federal spending on programs to aid the poor be increased, decreased, or kept the same?

820	1	Increase
571	2	About the same
134	3	Decrease
29	9	NA

V083 Spending on Social Security (681)

Should federal spending on social security be increased, decreased, or kept the same?

977	1	Increase
483	2	About the same
63	3	Decrease
31	9	NA

V084 Spending on public schools (683)

Should federal spending on education be increased, decreased, or kept the same?

1178	1	Increase
284	2	About the same
83	3	Decrease
8	9	NA

V085 Use budget surplus for Social Security? (693)

Do you approve or disapprove of the proposal to use most of the expected federal budget surplus to protect social security and Medicare?

999	1	Strongly approve
267	2	Approve
124	3	Disapprove
132	4	Strongly disapprove
32	9	NA

V086 Use budget surplus for tax cuts? (690)

Do you approve or disapprove of the proposal to use most of the expected federal budget surplus to cut taxes?

736	1	Strongly approve
260	2	Approve
190	3	Disapprove
315	4	Strongly disapprove
53	9	NA

I. Social issue items

V087 Abortion (694)

Respondent's agreement with one of the following statements: (1) By law, abortion should never be permitted; (2) The law should permit abortion only in case of rape, incest, or when the woman's life is in danger; (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; (4) By law, a woman should always be able to obtain an abortion as a matter of personal choice.

202	1	Never permitted
479	2	For rape and incest only
236	3	If clear need
598	4	Always permitted
39	9	NA

V088 Gore: abortion position (696)

Respondent's placement of Al Gore on the abortion scale.

77	1	Never permitted
217	2	For rape and incest only
220	3	If clear need
620	4	Always permitted
420	9	NA

V089 Bush: abortion position (698)

Respondent's placement of George Bush on the abortion scale.

243	1	Never permitted
545	2	For rape and incest only
195	3	If clear need
111	4	Always permitted
459	9	NA

V090 Gun control (731)

Do you think that the federal government should make it easier or more difficult for individuals to buy a gun?

905	1	More difficult
580	2	Same as now
58	3	Easier
11	9	NA

V091 Gore: gun control position (735)

Respondent's perception of where Al Gore stands on the question of gun control (see V090).

939	1	More difficult
321	2	Same as now
15	3	Easier
278	9	NA

V092 Bush: gun control position (739)

Respondent's perception of where George Bush stands on the question of gun control (see V090)

322	1	More difficult
693	2	Same as now
248	3	Easier
291	9	NA

V093 Best way to reduce crime (1482a)

Respondent's self-placement on a scale running from "The best way to reduce crime is to address the social problems that cause crime, like bad schools, poverty and joblessness" to "The best way to reduce crime is to make sure that criminals are caught, convicted and punished." (NOTE: This question was only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

335	1	Address social problems
262	2	Depends
222	3	Better to punish criminals
735	9	NA

V094 Crime prevention scale (1482)

(NOTE: This question was only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

75	1	Address social problems
61	2	
69	3	
136	4	
82	5	
62	6	
147	7	Vigorously enforce laws
922	9	NA

V095 Death penalty (752)

Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?

815	1	Strongly favor
279	2	Favor
141	3	Oppose
239	4	Strongly oppose
80	9	NA

V096 School vouchers (742)

Do you favor or oppose a program that would allow parents to use tax funds to send their children to the school of their choice, even if it were a private school?

647	1	Favor
535	2	Oppose
371	9	NA

V097 Desirable immigration level (510)

Do you think that the number of immigrants from foreign countries who are permitted to come the U.S. to live should be increased, decreased, or kept the same?

125	1	Increased
667	2	Same level
701	3	Decreased
61	9	NA

V098 Lifestyle tolerance index (computed from 1530-1533)

Index of respondent's tolerance to alternative lifestyles built from agreement or disagreement with the following statements: The world is always changing and we should adjust our view of moral behavior to those changes; We should be more tolerant of people who choose to live according to their own moral standards even if they are very different from our own; This country would have many fewer problems if there were more emphasis on traditional family ties; and The newer lifestyles are contributing to the breakdown of our society. (NOTE: Scores on this index are relative; individuals

237	1	High tolerance
369	2	
334	3	
394	4	
195	5	Low tolerance
24	9	NA

J. Civil rights and equality issue items

V099 Government aid to blacks (642)

Do you think that the federal government should make every effort to improve the social and economic position of blacks, or should the government should not make any special effort to help blacks because they should help themselves. (NOTE: This question was only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

173	1	Government should help
82	2	Depends
300	3	No special help
998	9	NA

V100 Minority aid scale (641)

Respondent's self-placement on a scale running from "Government should make every effort to improve the social and economic position of blacks" to "Government should not make any special effort to help blacks because they should help themselves." (NOTE: This question was only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

48	1	Government should help greatly
35	2	
64	3	
210	4	
123	5	
128	6	
165	7	No special help at all
780	9	NA

V101 Gore: minority aid scale position (651)

Respondent's placement of Al Gore on a scale running from "Government should make every effort to improve the social and economic position of blacks" to "Government should not make any special effort to help blacks because they should help themselves." (NOTE: This question was only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

80	1	Government should help greatly
110	2	
153	3	
178	4	
64	5	
54	6	
24	7	No special help at all
891	9	NA

V102 Bush: minority aid scale position (656)

Respondent's placement of George Bush on a scale running from "Government should make every effort to improve the social and economic position of blacks" to "Government should not make any special effort to help blacks because they should help themselves." (NOTE: This question was only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

17	1	Government should help greatly
25	2	
67	3	
175	4	
179	5	
104	6	
86	7	No special help at all
900	9	NA

V103 Job preferences for blacks (806)

Do you favor or oppose preferential hiring and promotion of blacks because of past discrimination?

146	1	Strongly favor
82	2	Favor
323	3	Oppose
856	4	Strongly oppose
147	9	NA

V104 Affirmative action programs (674a)

Do you think that a company that has discriminated against blacks should be required to have an affirmative action program?

537	1	Strongly favor
201	2	Favor
164	3	Oppose
467	4	Strongly oppose
185	9	NA

V105 Government help for blacks needed? (computed from 1508-1511)

Index computed from the respondent's agreement or disagreement with the following statements: Blacks should work their way up without special favors, just as other minorities did; Over the past few years, blacks have gotten less than they deserve; If blacks would only try harder, they could be just as well off as whites; and Generations of slavery and discrimination have created conditions that make it difficult for blacks to work their way out of the lower class.

298	1	Need help
277	2	
404	3	
253	4	
278	5	Do not need help
44	9	NA

V106 Job protection for gays (1481)

Do you favor or oppose laws to protect homosexuals against job discrimination?

585	1	Strongly favor
398	2	Favor
211	3	Oppose
276	4	Strongly oppose
84	9	NA

V107 Gays in the military (727)

Do you favor or oppose allowing homosexuals to serve in the United States Armed Forces?

758	1	Strongly favor
347	2	Favor
69	3	Oppose
287	4	Strongly oppose
93	9	NA

V108 Equality index (computed from 1521-1526)

Index of respondent's commitment to equality built from agreement or disagreement with the following statements: Our society should do whatever necessary to make sure that everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed; This country would be better off if we worried less about how equal people are; It is not really that big a problem if some people have more of a chance in life than others; If people were treated more equally in this country we would have many fewer problems; and One of the big problems in this country is we don't give everyone an equal chance. (NOTE: Scores on this index are relative; individuals classified as "high" (or "low") are simply higher (lower) than others not high (low) in an absolute sense.

322	1	High emphasis
432	2	
246	3	
300	4	
223	5	Low emphasis
32	9	NA

K. Environmental issue items

V109 Spending on environmental protection (682)

Should federal spending on the environment be increased, decreased, or remain the same?

773	1	Increase
604	2	About the same
145	3	Decrease
31	9	NA

V110 Protect environment or jobs? (710)

Do you think that it is more important to protect the environment even if it costs jobs or reduces our standard of living, or is it more important to protect jobs and the standard of living? (NOTE: This question was only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

363	1	Protect environment
66	2	Depends
141	3	Protect jobs
983	9	NA

V111 Environmental protection scale (708)

Respondent's self-placement on a scale running from "It is important to protect the environment even if it costs some jobs or otherwise reduces our standard of living" to "Protecting the environment is not as important as maintaining jobs and our standard of living." (NOTE: This question was only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

95	1	Strongly protect environment
97	2	
127	3	
241	4	
115	5	
53	6	
37	7	Strongly protect jobs
788	9	NA

V112 Gore: environmental protection scale position (714)

Respondent's placement of Al Gore on a scale running from "It is important to protect the environment even if it costs some jobs or otherwise reduces our standard of living" to "Protecting the environment is not as important as maintaining jobs and our standard of living." (NOTE: This question was only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

109	1	Strongly protect environment
122	2	
135	3	
156	4	

72	5	
37	6	
23	7	Strongly protect jobs
900	9	NA

V113 Bush: environmental protection scale position (719)

Respondent's placement of George Bush on a scale running from "It is important to protect the environment even if it costs some jobs or otherwise reduces our standard of living" to "Protecting the environment is not as important as maintaining jobs and our standard of living." (NOTE: This question was only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

23	1	Strongly protect environment
18	2	
64	3	
175	4	
165	5	
125	6	
45	7	Strongly protect jobs
937	9	NA

V114 More or less environmental regulation needed? (772)

Do you think that we need much tougher environmental regulations on business to protect the environment, or are the existing regulations already too much of a burden on business? (NOTE: This question was only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

298	1	Tougher regulations needed
59	2	Depends
111	3	Regulations already too tough
1085	9	NA

V115 Environmental regulation scale (771)

Respondent's self placement on a scale running from "We need much tougher environmental regulations on business to protect the environment" to "Existing environmental regulations are already too much of a burden on business." (NOTE: This question was only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

143	1	Much tougher regulation
114	2	
117	3	
149	4	
64	5	
42	6	
29	7	Regulations too tough
894	9	NA

V116 Gore: environmental regulation scale position (778)

Respondent's placement of Al Gore on a scale running from "We need much tougher environmental regulations on business to protect the environment" to "Existing environmental regulations are already too much of a burden on business." (NOTE: This question was only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

128	1	Much tougher regulation
171	2	
141	3	
129	4	
42	5	
22	6	
10	7	Regulations too tough
911	9	NA

V117 Bush: environmental regulation scale position (785)

Respondent's placement of George Bush on a scale running from "We need much tougher environmental regulations on business to protect the environment" to "Existing environmental regulations are already too much of a burden on business." (NOTE: This question was only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

22	1	Much tougher regulation
39	2	
87	3	
176	4	
141	5	
107	6	
48	7	Regulations too tough
934	9	NA

L. Foreign affairs and defense issue items

V118 US position in world (507)

During the past year, has the U.S. position in the world grown stronger, stayed about the same, or become weaker?

419	1	Weaker
756	2	About the same
352	3	Stronger
26	9	NA

V119 US world role (514)

Do you think that this country would be better off if we just stayed home and did not concern ourselves with problems in other parts of the world, or would we be better off if we tried to solve problems in other parts of the world?

453	1	Better off to stay home
1045	2	Better off solving problems
55	9	NA

V120 More or less defense spending? (583)

Do you think that defense spending should be increased, decreased, or kept the same?
(NOTE: This question was only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

90	1	Decrease spending
123	2	Keep the same
284	3	Increase spending
1056	9	NA

V121 Defense spending scale (581)

Respondent's self-placement on a scale running from "We should spend much less on defense" to "We should greatly increase defense spending." (NOTE: This question was only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

30	1	Much lower spending
29	2	
58	3	
181	4	
185	5	
126	6	
77	7	Much higher spending
867	9	NA

V122 Gore: defense spending scale position (588)

Respondent's placement of Al Gore on a scale running from "We should spend much less on defense" to "We should greatly increase defense spending." (NOTE: This question was only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

23	1	Much lower spending
66	2	
127	3	
203	4	
165	5	
64	6	
29	7	Much higher spending
876	9	NA

V123 Bush: defense spending scale position (593)

Respondent's placement of George Bush on a scale running from "We should spend much less on defense" to "We should greatly increase defense spending." (NOTE: This question was only asked of one-half of the full sample.)

9	1	Much lower spending
20	2	
51	3	
145	4	
211	5	
170	6	
87	7	Much higher spending
861	9	NA

V124 Spending on foreign aid (678)

Should federal spending on foreign aid be increased, decreased, or kept the same?

138	1	Increase
674	2	About the same
700	3	Decrease
42	9	NA

V125 US more secure? (1608a)

Would you say that compared to 1992, the U.S. is more secure from its foreign enemies, less secure, or has there not been much change?

376	1	More secure
699	2	No change
424	3	Less secure
55	9	NA

V126 Clinton effect on US security (1612a)

Would you say that the Clinton administration has made the U.S. more secure from its foreign enemies, less secure, or has there not been much change?

350	1	Made more secure
783	2	No effect
362	3	Made less secure
59	9	NA

V127 Best party to avoid war (506)

Do you think that the problem of keeping the U.S. out of war would be better handled during the next four years by the Democrats, the Republicans, or about the same by both parties?

302	1	Democrats
951	2	No difference
262	3	Republicans
38	9	NA

M. General government orientation items

V128 Trust government to do right? (V001534)

How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right?

866	1	Some or none of time
676	2	All or most of time
12	9	NA

V129 How much tax waste? (V001535)

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

906	1	A lot of waste
633	2	Not a lot
15	9	NA

V130 Government run for all? (V001536)

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

934	1	For a few
532	2	For all
87	9	NA

V131 Government officials crooked? (V001537)

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

568	1	Quite a few
952	2	Not many
34	9	NA

V132 Trust in government index (computed from V001534-V001537)

Index of respondent's trust in government built from answers to statements in V128, V129, V130, and V131.

301	1	Low
334	2	
325	3	

287	4	
202	5	High
104	9	NA

V133 Big government index (computed from V001420-V001422)

Index of respondent's attitude towards size of government built from selections from the following pairs of statements: (1) The less government the better, versus There are more things government should be doing; (2) We need a strong government to handle today's complex economic problems, versus The free market can handle these problems without government being involved; and (3) The main reason government has become bigger over the years is because it has gotten involved in things that people should do for themselves, versus Government has become bigger because the problems we face have become bigger.

321	1	Low support
247	2	
322	3	
586	4	High support
78	9	NA

V134 Personal political efficacy index (computed from V001516-V001519)

Index of respondent's feelings of personal political efficacy built from agreement or disagreement with the following statements: I have a pretty good understanding of important political issues facing the country; I consider myself well-qualified to participate in politics; I feel that I could do as good a job in public office as most other people; I think that I am better informed about politics and government than most people.

171	1	High
328	2	
390	3	
364	4	
280	5	Low
20	9	NA

V135 Public officials do not care? (V001527)

Do you agree or disagree with the statement, "I don't think public officials care much what people like me think?"

294	1	Agree strongly
587	2	Agree somewhat
163	3	Neither agree nor disagree
414	4	Disagree somewhat
85	5	Disagree strongly
11	9	NA

V136 People have no say? (V001528)

Do you agree or disagree with the statement, "People like me don't have any say about what the government does?"

240	1	Agree strongly
395	2	Agree somewhat
147	3	Neither agree nor disagree
571	4	Disagree somewhat
191	5	Disagree strongly
10	9	NA

V137 Institutional political efficacy index (computed from V001527, V001528)

Index of institutional political efficacy, constructed from responses to V135 and V136.

147	1	High
398	2	
318	3	
411	4	
268	5	Low
13	9	NA

V138 Politics too complicated? (V001529)

Do you agree or disagree with the statement, "Sometimes politics and government seem so complicated that a person like me can't really understand what's going on?"

355	1	Agree strongly
583	2	Agree somewhat
114	3	Neither agree nor disagree
314	4	Disagree somewhat
183	5	Disagree strongly
6	9	NA

V139 Satisfaction with US democracy (V001651)

Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way that democracy works in the U.S.?

447	1	Satisfied
683	2	Fairly satisfied
279	3	Not very satisfied
144	9	NA

V140 Favor two-party system? (V001650)

Which of the following would you prefer to see?: (1) A continuation of the two party system of Democrats and Republicans; (2) Elections in which candidates run as individuals without party labels; or (3) The growth of one or more parties that could effectively challenge the Democrats and Republicans?

565	1	Keep two parties
436	2	Nonpartisan system
494	3	New parties
59	9	NA

V141 Favor divided government? (V000397)

Do you think that it is better when one party controls both the presidency and Congress, better when control is divided, or doesn't it matter?

360	1	Control by one party
380	2	Does not matter
783	3	Divided government
31	9	NA

V142 Campaign finance reform (V001489)

Is it more important to protect government from excessive influence by campaign contributors, or is it more important to protect the freedom of individuals to financially support political candidates and parties?

656	1	Protect against undue influence
225	2	Protect freedom to contribute
672	9	NA

V143 Fairness of election (V001291)

Do you believe that the November election was fair or unfair

303	1	Very fair
420	2	Somewhat unfair
165	3	Neither fair nor unfair
321	4	Somewhat unfair
213	5	Very unfair
131	9	NA

N. Demographic items

V144 Gender (1029)

Respondent's gender.

670	1	Male
884	2	Female

V145 Race (1006a, 1012)

Respondent's race or ethnicity.

1172	1	White, non-Hispanic
181	2	Black
111	3	Hispanic
80	4	Other
10	9	NA

V146 Age (908)

Respondent's age.

199	1	18-24
264	2	25-34
359	3	35-44
260	4	45-54
201	5	55-64
265	6	65 & older
6	9	NA

V147 Marital status (909)

Respondent's marital status.

889	1	Married
368	2	Single
180	3	Divorced, Separated
108	4	Widowed
9	9	NA

V148 Children (1023, 1024)

Respondent's children.

563	1	Children under 18
572	2	Adult children only

414 3 No children
4 9 NA

V149 Education (913)

What is the highest grade of school you have completed?

231 1 Less than HS
516 2 HS graduate
310 3 Some college, no degree
125 4 Some college, AA degree
244 5 College degree
122 6 Advanced degree
6 9 NA

V150 Income (994)

What was the total income for your family last year?

179 1 Less than \$15k
328 2 \$15k to \$35k
388 3 \$35k to \$65k
181 4 \$65k to \$85k
218 5 \$85k and over
259 9 NA

V151 Social class (1005)

Do you think of yourself as working class or middle class?

716 1 Working class
579 2 Middle class
189 3 Upper middle class
69 9 NA

V152 Employment status (920)

Are you employed, looking for work, retired, or what?

962 1 Employed
78 2 Unemployed
321 3 Retired, disabled
136 4 Homemaker
53 5 Student
3 9 NA

V153 Occupation (979)

What is your primary occupation? (Retired, disabled, and unemployed individuals are classified according to their previous employment.)

443	1	Professional/managerial
197	2	Technical/clerical
366	3	Sales/service
274	4	Skilled manual
78	5	Unskilled manual
26	6	Farming/fishing
171	9	NA

V154 Union membership (990)

Does anyone in your household belong to a labor union?

242	1	Yes
1303	2	No
8	9	NA

V155 Religious affiliation (904)

What is your religious preference or affiliation? (Note: Mainline protestants include Episcopalians, Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, and other smaller sects; Evangelical protestants include Baptists, Pentecostal churches, and other smaller churches; Catholic includes Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox churches; Other includes mostly Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Scientists, and Muslims.)

409	1	Mainline Protestant
388	2	Evangelical Protestant
422	3	Catholic
31	4	Jewish
65	5	Other
216	6	None
22	9	NA

V156 Importance of religion (872, 873)

Index of importance of religion to the respondent built from the following questions: "Do you consider religion to be an important part of your life, or not?" and "How much guidance would you say religion plays in your day-to-day living?"

586	1	Great deal
329	2	Quite a bit
262	3	Some
372	4	None
5	9	NA

V157 Church attendance (877,879)

How often do you go to religious services?

396	1	Every week
403	2	Few times a month
232	3	Few times a year
512	4	Never
12	9	NA

V158 Region (79)

Region of the country that the respondent lives in.

328	1	Northeast
380	2	Midwest
518	3	South
322	4	West
6	9	NA

V159 Size of community (93)

Size of community the respondent lives in. (Note: Large urban areas are the 21 largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas, and medium urban areas are all other MSAs. Respondents not living in an MSA are classified as living in a town or rural area.)

219	1	Large urban area
379	2	Medium-sized urban area
247	3	Town or rural area
6	9	NA

V160 Type of place (93)

Type of community the respondent lives in. (Note: Central cities are defined as the central cities of Metropolitan statistical areas. Suburban areas are defined as the remaining portions of the MSAs. Respondents not living in an MSA are classified as living in a town or rural area.)

236	1	Central city
362	2	Suburb
247	3	Town or rural area
709	9	NA

O. Interval-level Variables for Further Analysis

The following variables are interval-level, or close to interval-level, measures that can be employed in statistical analyses where categorical data would be inappropriate, such as regression analysis. These variables are included for the convenience of those who want to go beyond the basic crosstabulation methods described in this manual.

The media variables are expressed in number of days per week of exposure (missing data are coded as 9). The thermometer items are expressed in actual degrees, running from 0 degrees to 100 degrees (missing data are coded as 999). Age is expressed in years (missing data are coded as 99).

V201 Days watched national news last week (329)

How many days in the past week did you watch the national news on TV?

V202 Days watched local early news last week (331)

How many days in the past week did you watch the local early TV news?

V203 Days watched local late news last week (332)

How many days in the past week did you watch the local late TV news?

V204 Days read newspaper last week (335)

How many days in the past week did you read a daily newspaper?

V205 Gore: pre-election feeling thermometer (360)

On a scale of 0 to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel toward Al Gore? (assessed before the election)

V206 Gore: post-election feeling thermometer (1293)

On a scale of 0 to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel toward Al Gore? (assessed after the election)

V207 Bush: pre-election feeling thermometer (361)

On a scale of 0 to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel toward George W. Bush? (assessed before the election)

V208 Bush: post-election feeling thermometer (1294)

On a scale of 0 to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel toward George W. Bush?
(assessed after the election)

V209 Nader: feeling thermometer (363)

On a scale of 0 to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel toward Ralph Nader?
(assessed before the election)

V210 Buchanan: feeling thermometer (362)

On a scale of 0 to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel toward Pat Buchanan?
(assessed before the election)

V211 Lieberman: feeling thermometer (366)

On a scale of 0 to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel toward Joseph Lieberman?
(assessed before the election)

V212 Cheney: feeling thermometer (367)

On a scale of 0 to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel toward Richard Cheney?
(assessed before the election)

V213 Clinton: feeling thermometer (359)

On a scale of 0 to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel toward Bill Clinton?
(assessed before the election)

V214 Democratic Party: feeling thermometer (369)

On a scale of 0 to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel toward the Democratic
Party? (assessed before the election)

V215 Republican Party: feeling thermometer (370)

On a scale of 0 to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel toward the Republican
Party? (assessed before the election)

V216 Political parties: feeling thermometer

On a scale of 0 to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel toward political parties in
general? (assessed before the election)

V217 Congress: feeling thermometer (1305)

On a scale of 0 to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel toward Congress?
(assessed after the election)

V218 Conservatives: feeling thermometer (1310)

On a scale of 0 to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel toward conservatives?
(assessed after the election)

V219 Liberals: feeling thermometer (1311)

On a scale of 0 to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel toward liberals? (assessed
after the election)

V220 Labor unions: feeling thermometer (1312)

On a scale of 0 to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel toward labor unions?
(assessed after the election)

V221 Big business: feeling thermometer (1313)

On a scale of 0 to 100 degrees, how warm or cool do you feel toward big business?
(assessed after the election)

V222 Age (908)

Respondent's age.