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Abstract

The 1998 NES Pilot Study included several items and experimental manipulations focusing on political participation. The goal was to answer specific questions about the manner in which campaign participation is measured in NES studies. (1) Does asking separate questions about campaign donations to political parties and to candidates elicit enough information to be worth asking two questions? (2) Could participation questions be asked in a manner that provides more detailed information about levels of political participation than the traditional dichotomous questions provide? If items tapping extent of participation were incorporated, could such items also maintain continuity for purposes of continuing the time series? (3) How would the more detailed measures compare with dichotomous measures in terms of reliability and validity? This memo addresses each of these questions in turn.