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**Title:** Coding of Independent/Independents and Apoliticals in the Party Identification Summary Code and Apoliticals in the Rolling Cross Section

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## **Abstract**

Since 1978, the National Elections Study has used indicators of political interest to distinguish between independent/independents and Apoliticals, among respondents who indicate they have no party preferences. Only respondents who indicate that they have little interest in politics (when responding to a series of political interest questions) remain coded as Apoliticals. Other cases are moved to the independent category. Lake examines the results of these recoding procedures from 1980 to gauge their effect on response distribution. She finds that summary of party identification would be different if the recoding of independents and Apoliticals was not done.