Abstract

This report examines the group responsiveness questions asked on the 1998 NES Pilot Study. These questions were designed to assess voter perceptions of candidate support for specific groups. We provide some descriptive information on these new measures, and estimate their performance as predictors of intended vote choice. We find that the questions do a fairly good job of distinguishing between the candidates and influencing the vote-decision, provided that the candidates actually differ ideologically. There was also some evidence that respondents mis-perceived the candidates’ “true” positions, but this varied dramatically across states. We conclude by suggesting that the Board include these items on the 2000 Election Study, with some modifications.