

Appendix B: Coding of Variables

All models estimated in Section 3 use data from the 1987 British General Election Study (Heath, Jowell, and Curtice 1989). In order to facilitate the comparison between the models estimated in this paper and past research I use the same variable coding as described in Alvarez, Nagler, and Bowler (2000) throughout Section 3. This coding is described on pp. 136-7 of that article, as well as in the following paragraph.

The distance between each party and each voter on the seven issues (defense (keeping nuclear weapons in Britain), concern with inflation versus unemployment (the Phillips Curve), the level of taxes, redistribution of income, nationalization of industry, protecting civil rights versus fighting crime, and social welfare programs) is measured as the absolute value of the difference between the mean placement of each party on the 11 point issue scale by all respondents and each respondents' self-placement on the scale. The geographic variables (South, Midlands, North, Wales, and Scotland) are coded one if the respondent resides in that particular geographic area, and zero otherwise. Public Sector Employee is coded as a one if the respondent held a job in the public sector (a nationalized industry or public corporation, a local or health authority, or the civil service), and zero otherwise. Female is coded one for females, zero for males. Age is the respondent's age in years, divided by 10. Home Ownership is coded one if the respondent or the respondent's household owns their residence, zero otherwise. Family Income is measured on a scale from 1 through 12, with higher numbers indicating greater income. Education records the respondent's age when he or she completed continuous full-time education, divided by 10. Inflation, Taxes, and Unemployment measures the respondent's beliefs about changes in prices, tax rates, and unemployment since the last general election in June 1983. These are measured on a scale from 1 through 5 (increased a lot, increased a little, stayed the same, fallen a little, fallen a lot), with higher numbers indicating a decrease. Working Class is coded as a one if the survey respondent held a working class occupation (any kind of manual, personal service, or agricultural work), and zero otherwise (note this variable was called "Blue Collar" in Alvarez and Nagler (1998) and Alvarez, Nagler, and Bowler (2000)). Union Member is coded as a one if the respondent was a member of a trade union or staff association, and zero otherwise.