

Author(s): Feldman, Stanley

Title: Report on Values in the 1983 Pilot Study

Date: October 19, 1983

Dataset(s): 1983 Pilot Study

Abstract

This paper discusses and analyzes the 1983 Pilot Study items designed to measure three basic predispositions: Equality, economic individualism, and support for the free enterprise system. Feldman finds that it is possible to develop items that are good indicators for these values. On the whole, however, the indicators do not produce scales that perform reliably as would be desired. In practice, Feldman concludes, tradeoffs will need to be made between scale length and reliability. Feldman also examines the correlates of equality, economic individualism, and free enterprise against various demographic and political factors. He finds that party and ideological identifications do not strongly correlate with the value dimensions. Underlying splits on positions concerning equality and economic individualism, however, do exist along race and gender lines. Finally, Feldman conducts an analysis of the political impact of the three value measures. This analysis strongly suggests that equality and economic individualism have substantial effects on the development of political positions and candidate preferences. The free enterprise measures, on the other hand, do not seem to play a role in the development of political preferences or evaluations.