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Title Sources of pro-incumbent bias in N.E.S. survey estimates for U.S. House races since 1978: A second Look

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Abstract

Beginning in 1978, survey estimates of percentage vote for incumbents in contested House races are substantially higher than the actual, aggregate figures. Prior to 1978, these differences were quite small. Bloom shows that the effects demonstrated for 1978, 1980, and 1982 are not reversed when the order of the congressional battery and the vote questions was altered starting in 1984. The other major change to the survey that was introduced in 1978 was a mock ballot card and Bloom argues that this is the proximate cause of over-reporting for the incumbent.