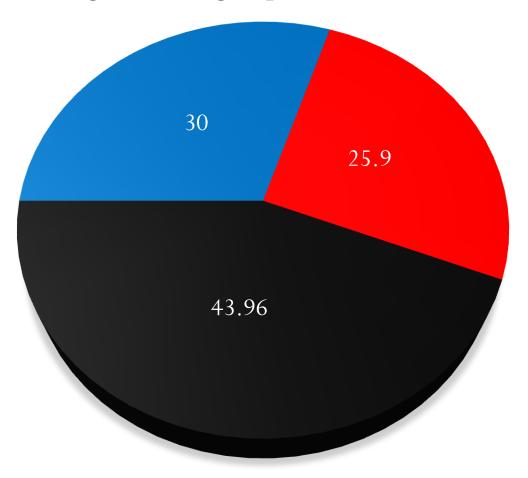


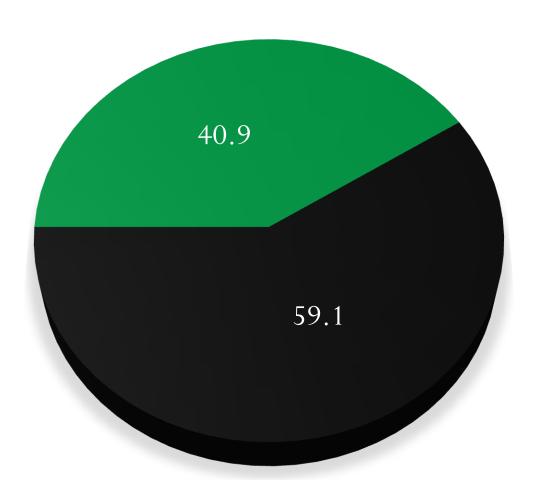
"I always waste my vote on a third party that can't win — that way I don't feel so guilty afterwards."

#### **Eligible Voting Population for 2008**



U.S. Elections Project http://elections.gmu.edu/Turnout\_2010G.html

#### **Eligible Voting Population for 2010**



U.S. Elections Project http://elections.gmu.edu/Turnout\_2010G.html

# Nonvoters: Doing Nothing to Change the Government They Hate

Geoffrey McIver

### Past Literature

- Connelly (1944)
  - GeographyWhy vote Democrat in LouisianaWhy vote Republican in Pennsylvania
- Wolfinger and Rosenstone (1976)
  - Income
  - Education



### Past Literature

- Kinder & Kieweit (1979)
  - Issues that affect voters personally
- Coffey (2005)
  - Public opinion vs. Party ideology
  - Factions within a party
- Are voters satisfied with this representation?



# **Emotional voting**

How should satisfaction with the government effect voting?

Remember Kinder & Kieweit

# Satisfied voters

Or satisfied nonvoters

# Hypothesis

Nonvoters are more likely to be dissatisfied with the current government.





# Methodology

Testing a theory

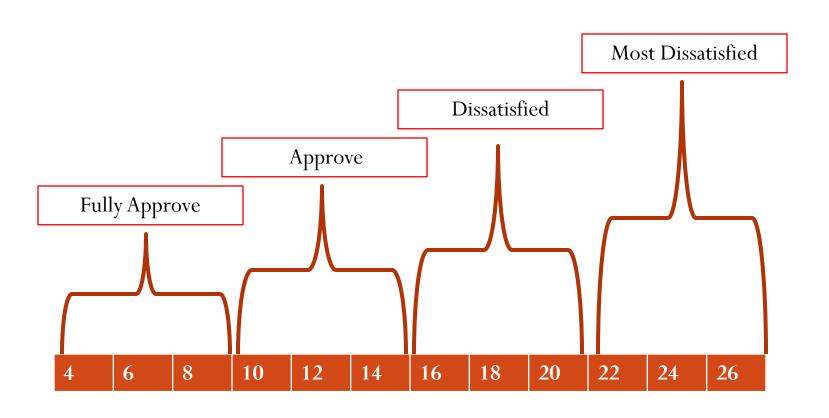
The American National Election Survey, 2008\_2009

1,475 respondents
12 questions

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ID#	Question	Points given for responses
	Question	l onits given for responses
V083027	A13. Are things in the country on right track	1 → 5/ wrong
V083034	A15. Care who wins House election	1/very → 3/not very much
V083035	A16. Approval of Congress handling its job	0 →1 disapprove
V083045	C1a. Is there anything R likes about Democratic Party	0 <b>→</b> 1/no
V083049	C2a. Is there anything R likes about Republican Party	0 <b>→</b> 1/no
V085150	M1d. How many in government are crooked	1/not very many → 3/ most
V085182	Q4. Does/doesn't make a difference who is in power	1/ makes big difference → 5/doesn't
V085184	Q6. How good a job gov't in Washington has done past 4 yrs	1/very good → 5/very bad
V085194	Q13. How satisfied with way democracy works in the U.S.	1/very satisfied → 4/not satisfied
V085206	R6b. Hopeful about what federal gov't has done during last 4 yrs	1/ Extremely → 5/not at all
V085208	R6d. Proud about what federal gov't has done during last 4 yrs	1/Extremely → 5/not at all
V085062	C10. Is R optimistic or pessimistic about the U.S.	0 → 1/ pessimistic
		Total possible = 33

# Grouping respondents



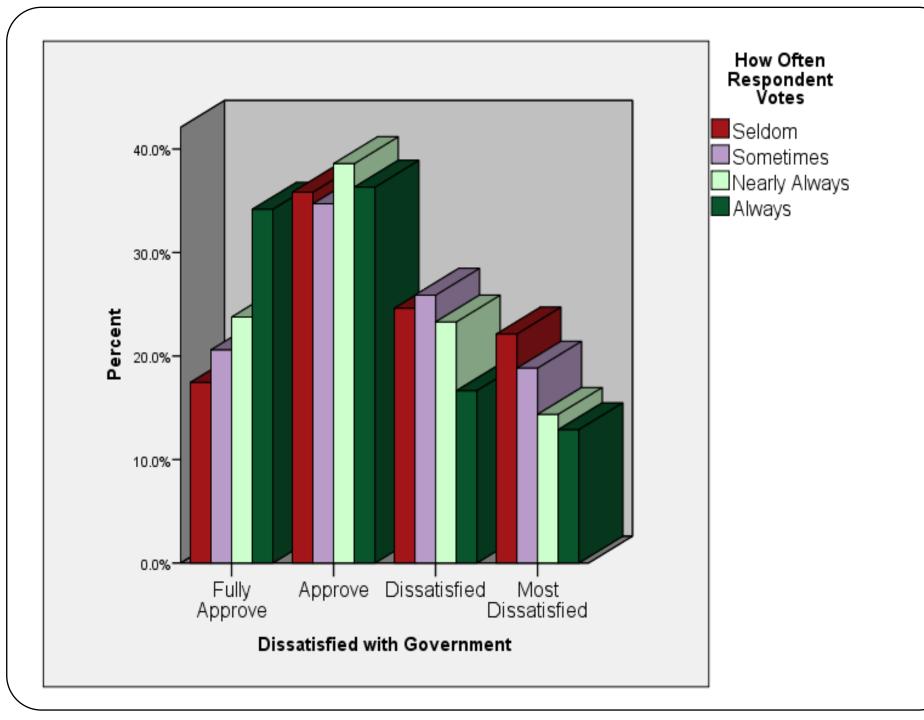
#### Crosstabs with variable "Dissatisfied with Government" & "How Often Respondent Votes"

			Dissatisfied with Government				
			Fully Approve	Approve	Dissatisfied	Most Dissatisfied	Total
How Often	Always	Count	191	203	93		559
espondent Votes		Percent % Dissatisfied with the Government	50%	38%	30%	31%	38%
	Nearly Always	Count	101	164	99	61	425
		Percent % Dissatisfied with the Government	26%	30%	31%	26%	29%
	Sometimes	Count	35	59	44	32	170
		Percent % Dissatisfied with the Government	9%	11%	14%	14%	12%
	Seldom	Count	56	115	79	71	321
		Percent % Dissatisfied with Government	15%	21%	25%	30%	22%
Total		Count	383	541	315	236	1475
		Percent % Dissatisfied with the Government	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

#### **Symmetric Measures**

	Value	Asymp. Std. Errora	Approx. Tb	Approx. Sig.
Ordinal by Ordinal Gamma	.202	.030	6.685	.000
N of Valid Cases	1475			





### Income

As an intervening variable

#### Income Level

#### How Often Respondent Votes

Always

■Nearly Always

■Sométimes

Seldom

Fully Approve

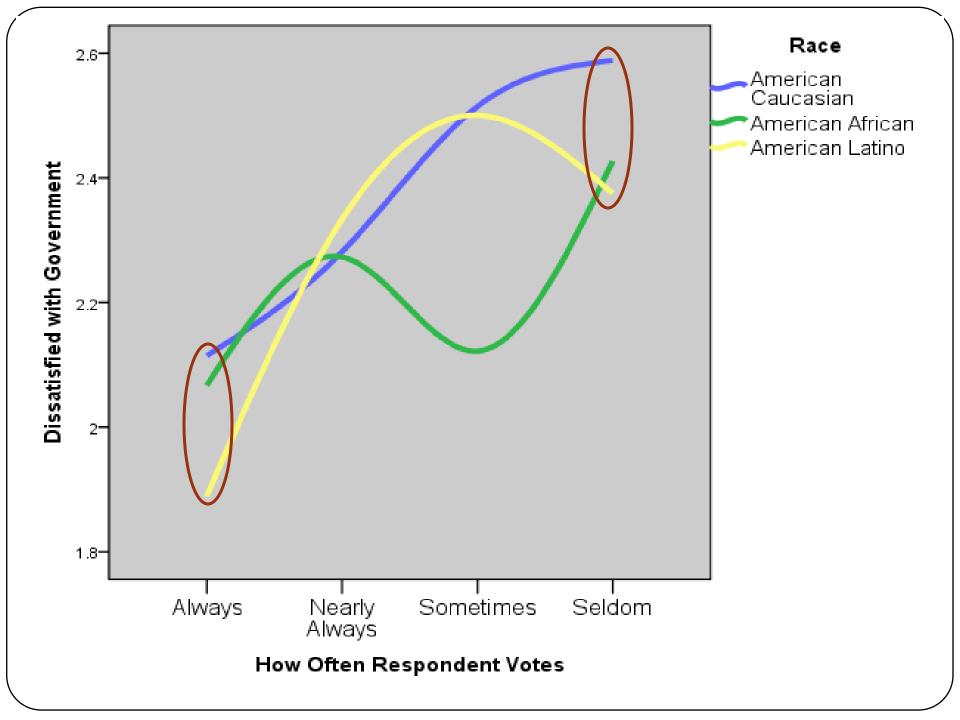
Approve

D<sub>issatisfied</sub>

Most Dissatisfied

### Race

As an intervening variable



## Education

As an intervening variable

#### Highschool Education

How Often Respondent Votes ■Always ■Seldom

Fully Approve

Approve

Dissatisfied with Government Dissatisfied

Most Dissatisfied

### Conclusion

- 1. Voters love the nonvoter
  - 2. More to follow











