Elections, Voting Behaviour, Party ID

Questions:

1. Why do people vote?

Loewen (2010) – responds to Blais (*to vote or not to vote*) – rational choice plus a duty term to account for why people vote

Nevitte (1996) – decline of deference

Rational choice model – Loewen conceptualizes elections as “a competition between groups of people who rely on more than self-interest when deciding to when and how to participate in politics.

Rational Choice – P(B) > C

Blais – D + P(B) > C

Loewen – P(BS + Affinity + Antipathy) > C

* Loewen ignores the duty term, and sees it more as a group activity

Loewen responds to Blais insofar as he describes the view of voter turnout as only half-right – he sees this as a static explanation that does not condition concern for others. BUT he does not respond to Blais insofar as he doesn’t actually integrate a duty term into his analysis.

1. How do people vote? Main question of the literature

Columbia – people vote in groups

Andre Blais – Catholics more than any other group vote liberal, (2) and non-British vote that explains the liberal victory; (3) regions – eastern Canada and Ontario more likely to vote liberal

Johnston 2007 – party system dominated by cultural factors. Liberal success is a factor of not because they are centrist in redistribution but rather the central cleavage in Canada, they manage to come down on both sides. In ROC, they are Catholic and French; and in Quebec, they are non-Franco

Michigan school – people vote due to social-psychological framework – unmoved mover.

Party ID framework that emphasizes socialization.

Johnston (2006) –

Green, Palmquist, and Schickler (2004) –

Clarke et al. (1995) – Absent Mandate – in Canada, party ID is either (1) durable and (2) flexible (mostly this one, party ID relatively weak).

3 prime determinants to vote:

* psychological attachment – party ID
* attitudes towards party leaders and candidates
* attitudes on issues
  + 2/1 ratio of flexible to durable voters in Canada
* Elections don’t produce real election mandates (same idea as brokerage politics)

Johnston, Blais, Brody, and Crete – Letting the people decide – this is largely a response to both Michigan and Columbia schools, that don’t consider the campaign cycle as important – book stresses the importance of campaigns

Rational Choice – cost benefit calculation occurs at every vote

Blais, Nadeau – re: the support for sovereignty is based on a calculation of cost / benefits for Quebec on the impact on French language and on the economy