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About the Author

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American National Election Studies on CD-ROM

Erik W. Austin, Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, *University of Michigan*

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The study of voting, public opinion, and electoral participation in the United States has come to the desktop with the release of the American National Election Studies (ANES) CD-ROM. With this new product, researchers, teachers, and their students will have ready microcomputer access to a wealth of data from the longest-running survey in the social sciences, the American National Election Studies.

What's Included on the CD-ROM?

- All 22 time-series studies conducted in 1948, 1952, 1956, and biennially 1958-94. Particularly noteworthy is the newly released 1994 Election Study with its panel component tracking political change between 1992 and 1994.
- Three panel studies (the 1956-58-60 Panel, the 1972-74-76 Panel, and the 980 Major Panel)
- Continuous Monitoring (or "Rolling Cross-Section") Study, 1984
- Presidential Nomination Process (or "Super Tuesday") Study, 1988
- Pooled Senate Election Study, 1988-90-92
- Cumulative Data File, 1952-92,

which pools variables included three times or more in the time-series studies into a single data file for over 37,000 cases.

- Electronic versions of the codebooks, most with full frequencies
- SAS and SPSS data definition statements for all the data files
- *NES Bibliography of Data Use*
- *NES Continuity Guide* to questions asked over the years
- Files describing the history of NES, the research organization, and the study planning process, as well as a list of technical and pilot study reports

A Cornucopia of Research Topics

The data collections contained on this CD-ROM cover an array of topics that will support a range of research endeavors. Best known is the coverage of elections and electoral campaigns over nearly five decades and the administrations of 10 U.S. presidents. Topics include vote choice; electoral participation; interest and engagement in politics and the campaign; expectations regarding election outcomes; partisanship and evaluations of the political parties; and evaluation of

presidential and congressional candidates.

The National Election Studies (NES) contain a wealth of information on Americans' attitudes toward social and political issues that were prominent features of public life over the past five decades. Among the issues covered across this time are arms control and disarmament; national defense and the likelihood of war; opinions about the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf wars; crime, the death penalty, and gun control; civil rights, integration, government aid to minorities, and affirmative action; prayer in schools, protest, and urban unrest; medical care and health insurance; inflation and unemployment; the federal budget deficit; government efforts to guarantee jobs and standards of living; and abortion.

There are also measures of predispositions including satisfaction with standard of living, one's community, and with working life; authoritarianism; moral traditionalism; patriotism; trust in government; political efficacy; individualism; racial prejudice; religious attitudes and practices; and personal economic well-being.

The Profession

Many other social and economic attributes can be found in the NES collection as well: occupation and employment, income, age, race, gender, ethnic origin, family composition and living arrangements, religious affiliation, and educational attainment, to name a few.

Obtaining the ANES CD-ROM

Faculty, staff, and students at Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) member institutions can gain access to the ANES CD-ROM in two ways: by contacting their campus's ICPSR official representative, or through purchase of an individual copy of the disc directly from

ICPSR. ICPSR has made available several copies of the ANES CD-ROM to each of the official representatives at its over 300 member institutions. Individuals at these member institutions may purchase personal copies of the CD-ROM at a discount. Purchase of the ANES CD-ROM by individuals not located at ICPSR member institutions is also possible.

Individuals interested in ordering the CD-ROM can download an electronic copy of the order form from the ICPSR Gopher (gopher.icpsr.umich.edu) or from the NES World Wide Web homepage (<http://www.umich.edu/~nes/>). Individuals can also fax the ICPSR at 313-764-8041, or contact it by mail at

ICPSR, P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48106-1248.

The CD-ROM is a collaborative effort between the NES and ICPSR made possible by funding provided by the National Science Foundation as part of its long-term support of the National Election Studies.

About the Author

Erik W. Austin is director of archival development at ICPSR and executive director of the Social Science History Association.

Steven J. Rosenstone is the NES principal investigator and a professor of political science at the University of Michigan.

Pi Sigma Alpha, the Political Science Honor Society: Seventy-five Years of Change and Growth

David B. Magleby, President, Pi Sigma Alpha

Pi Sigma Alpha, the political science honor society, is 75 years old this year. Over the past few years the society has initiated a series of new programs and activities intended to recognize excellence in political science students, facilitate the creation of new chapters and

the revitalization of old chapters, encourage all chapters to involve students in meaningful activities related to the discipline, and foster the development of the discipline of political science.

History

Pi Sigma Alpha was founded in 1920 at the University of Texas with the purpose of bringing together students and faculty interested in the study of government and politics. Professor C. Perry Patterson was an early leader of the first chapter and served as president of the society from 1920 until 1932. The success of Pi Sigma Alpha at the University of Texas prompted other universities to adopt chapters. The University of Kansas and the University of Oklahoma established chapters in 1922. In March of that year the society held its first national convention at the University of Oklahoma.

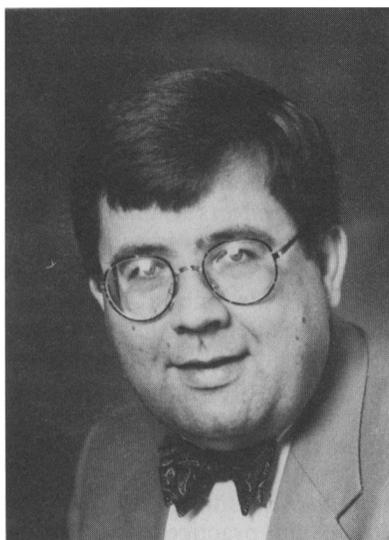
Growth in the number of chap-

ters accelerated following the Second World War. Today there are 463 chapters, with at least one chapter in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia plus, as of this year, Guam. Pi Sigma Alpha is the third largest member of the Association of College Honor Societies. The growth in new chapters is accelerating; 66 schools have been granted charters in the past five years and 24 in 1994-95 alone. Most existing chapters are actively recruiting new members; over the past two years, 87% of chapters registered new initiates with the national office.

Forming a Chapter

There are several requirements for establishing a new chapter. The institution itself must

- be fully accredited;
- confer the B.A. degree in its own name;
- recruit its own faculty; and



David B. Magleby