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**BOLETIN DE PSICOLOGIA**

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**POLITICAL  
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*Abstracts*

**Political Behavior, Vol.14, N° 1, 1992**

**THE PUZZLE TRANSFORMED: Explaining declining turnout**

**Warren E. Miller**

This analysis of the decline in aggregate voting turnout in the United States between the 1950s and the 1980s attributes the decline to changes in the generational composition of the electorate. In particular, the post-New Deal generation (first presidential vote in 1968 or later), which continues to grow in size, votes at a rate well below that of older generations. A minor part of the generational differences in party identification and social connectedness (as measured by such indicators as home ownership and church attendance). The larger portion of generational turnout differences cannot be directly explained with variables contained in the National Election Studies. The generational differences in turnout are not reflected in preelection participation (informal campaigning, doing party work, etc.) and cannot be accounted for by a declining sense of political efficacy or citizen duty or by lessened interest in campaigns and election outcomes.

**NEW DEAL ISSUES AND THE AMERICAN ELECTORATE, 1952-1988**

**John G. Geer**

As each presidential election passes into the history books, debate renews over the status of the New Deal Party System. This article addresses part of that de-

bate by examining changes in the electorate's assessment of New Deal issues. Despite the vast literature on realignment, there have been few efforts to see whether issues associated with the New Deal still shape the political attitudes of the American electorate. Using the NES's open-ended like/dislike questions on parties and candidates from 1952 to 1988, I show that New Deal issues remain central to the partisan attitudes of the public. These findings show that the agenda of New Deal remains an integral part of how the American public thinks about their candidates and parties. There, of course, has been much change over the last four decades, but these results suggest, in general, that at least parts of the New Deal Party System remain intact.

## **BASES OF POLITICAL JUDGMENTS: The Role of Stereotypic and Nonstereotypic Information**

**Ellen D. Riggle, Victor C. Ottati, Robert S. Wyer,  
James Kuklinski, and Norbert Schwarz**

Three experiments investigated the role of stereotypic and nonstereotypic criteria in judgments of political candidates. The effects of physical attractiveness, political party, and stands on specific issues on both absolute and comparative judgments of political candidates were examined to evaluate three hypotheses about stereotype and attribute use. In the absence of other information, candidates' physical attractiveness (conveyed through photographs) had a substantial influence on subjects' global evaluations of them and inferences of both their personal qualities and their political ideology. When other information about the candidates' party membership and stands on specific issues was available, however, the candidates' attractiveness had no effect on the evaluations of them. When subjects made judgments of only one candidate, subjects relied exclusively on the candidate's voting record. When subjects were asked to make comparative judgments of two candidates, however, they based their judgments on each candidate's party membership and not on their respective voting records. Implications of these results, for the processes that underlie political judgments and decisions are evaluated.