

The Ohio Political Study (TOPS) surveys were conducted in 1984, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1994, and 1998:

1984: One wave –one wave. Principal investigator: Aage Clausen. Sponsored by the Department of Political Science, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and the Office of Research of the Ohio State University. Conducted by the Polimetrics Laboratory for Political and Social Research of the Ohio State University Department of Political Science.

1986: Three waves, contained within one dataset. When a single question has more than one variable name listed, it usually means that the item was asked during more than one wave or more than once within a single survey. For that year only, the two pre-election waves can be separated from the post-election survey using the WAVE variable. Principal investigator: Aage Clausen. Sponsored by the Department of Political Science, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and the Office of Research of the Ohio State University. Conducted by the Polimetrics Laboratory for Political and Social Research of the Ohio State University Department of Political Science.

1988: Two waves, in separate August and December datasets. Principal investigator: Aage Clausen. Sponsored by the Department of Political Science, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and the Office of Research of the Ohio State University. Conducted by the Polimetrics Laboratory for Political and Social Research of the Ohio State University Department of Political Science.

1989: Two waves, in separate datasets. Principal investigator: Aage Clausen. Sponsored by the Department of Political Science, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and the Office of Research of the Ohio State University. Conducted by the Polimetrics Laboratory for Political and Social Research of the Ohio State University Department of Political Science.

1990: Three waves, contained within one dataset. Principal investigator: Paul Beck. Sponsored by the National Science Foundation. The waves can be distinguished by the letter associated with each; variables with the prefixes V, X, and Z represent waves one, two, and three, respectively. For details on the structure of the study, see Beck, Baum, Clausen, and Smith, "Patterns and Sources of Ticket Splitting in Subpresidential Voting," APSR, December 1992, pp. 916-28. Conducted by the Polimetrics Laboratory for Political and Social Research of the Ohio State University Department of Political Science.

1994: One post-election wave. Principal investigator: Herbert Weisberg. Sponsored by the Department of Political Science, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and the Office of Research of the Ohio State University. Conducted by the Polimetrics Laboratory for Political and Social Research of the Ohio State University Department of Political Science.

1998: One post-election wave. Principal investigator: Herbert Weisberg. Sponsored by the Department of Political Science, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and the Office of Research of the Ohio State University. Conducted by the Center for Survey Research of the Ohio State University.

The 1986, 1988, and 1990 datasets have been archived with the Institute for Research in the Social Sciences at the University of North Carolina.

Barry C. Burden compiled a continuity guide in early 1995 that tracks questions asked in the 1984, 1986, 1988, and 1990 TOPS. At that time, most of the TOPS data could be accessed by downloading them from a Polimetrix cartridge called TOPS2 (slot number AD78). Systems files, export files, and codebooks were available.