

News of the Profession

National Science Foundation Funds National Election Studies

At its November meeting, the National Science Board authorized a second five-year term for National Science Foundation support of the National Election Studies (NES). The proposal submitted by Warren E. Miller as Principal Investigator, called for major funding for studies of the 1984, 1986, and 1988 elections. It also provides for a continuation of NES Board-sponsored research and development to improve the quality of measurement and to extend substantive coverage in future studies. The National Science Board authorization was for the expenditure of approximately \$7 million over the five-year period, 1984-1988. The funding will make it possible for the NES



Warren E. Miller is Principal Investigator for the National Election Studies funded by the National Science Foundation.

Board of Overseers to continue its active role in stimulating innovations in research design and study content through the involvement of interested members of the research community. Announcement of future plans will be made through the NES mailing list. Anyone not presently on the list is urged to contact Ann Robinson, Center for Political Studies, P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106.

1984 Study Plans

The new funding will make possible a resumption of the scheduled sequence of planning activities that had preceded the 1978 and 1980 studies. Plans for the 1984 studies were developed by the Board of Overseers, a Board-appointed planning committee, and the study staff during 1983 with a special supplementary grant to sustain NES activities pending the renewal of long-term support. In a continuation of the development of new designs for NES data collection, the 1984 study will begin with a new series of data collections starting in early January 1984. The first phase of the study will consist of an extended series of weekly data collections that is scheduled to continue through November 1984. A new independent national sample of 75 cases will be interviewed during each of the intervening 46 weeks. This continuous monitoring of public perceptions, beliefs, and political attitudes is an extension of the 1980 design. It will use the telephone interviewing technology and is intended to capture changes induced by the politically relevant events of the year, including the primaries and the nominating conventions.

The second phase of the study will consist of the traditional pre-post interviews taken immediately before and after the fall elections with a national sample of

2,000 cases. Because of necessary limitations, both methodological and financial, the continuous monitoring interviews will be approximately 40 minutes in length. Pre-election interviews will be divided with half taken as personal interviews, and for reasons of economy, the second half conducted as telephone interviews.

Planning for the 1984 study was carried out by a Board-appointed committee including Professor Donald Kinder, Michigan, chair; and Board members, Professor Richard Brody, Stanford; Stanley Kelley, Jr., Princeton; Warren E. Miller, Arizona State University, Principal Investigator, *ex officio*; David O. Sears, UCLA; and Raymond E. Wolfinger, Berkeley, Board Chairman, *ex officio*. Three members of the research community were appointed committee members. They were Professor Stanley Feldman, Kentucky; Ethel Klein, Harvard; and Steven Rosenstone, Yale. Working with Kinder, the later three committee members designed a major pilot study that was carried out in the summer of 1983 to provide new content for both components of the 1984 study. The topics emphasized in the pilot study included group membership as a basis for political judgments and evaluations, political values, an extension of earlier work on candidates' personal traits, and extended

attention to performance evaluations directed at the Reagan administration.

The pilot study instruments and data are available through the ICPSR. The continuous monitoring instrument is presently available from Ann Robinson. In accord with standing NES policy, none of the 1984 data will be released until after the election. Current plans call for release of the continuous monitoring data as soon after the election as administratively and technically feasible.

Specifications for the traditional pre-post components of the 1984 study will be decided by the Board of Overseers and the Kinder committee at a June meeting of the Board. Interview schedules for this phase of NES activities will be available from Ann Robinson with the distribution date to be announced in late fall. The pre-post data will be released as soon as possible in the spring of 1985.

Board Membership

In anticipation of forthcoming vacancies on the Board of Overseers, nominations for new board members are hereby warmly encouraged. Nominations should be sent to Professor Raymond E. Wolfinger, Chairman, NES Board of Overseers, State Data Program, University of California, Berkeley, 2538 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94720. □

Federal Support for Social and Behavioral Science Research: A Summary of 1984 Budgets

Editor's Note: The December 16, 1983 issue of the COSSA Washington Update was devoted in its entirety to a summary and analysis of the final FY 1984 budget levels for social and behavioral science research. This article reprints that issue.

The final FY 1984 budget levels send mixed signals about federal support for research in the social and behavioral sciences. COSSA's survey of approximately 30 federal agencies and departments turned up information on FY 1984 research budgets that can best be explained in a good news and bad news scenario. In general, social and behavioral science research budgets within health-related research agencies fared