

## Appendix A: Question Wordings

*Note:* In the Education Next Survey, the question wordings for some items vary slightly from year to year.

For example, in 2008, the *Teacher Salaries (with education spending data)* question reads: “According to the most recent information available, in your state public school teachers receive on average an annual salary of \$XX,XXX. Do you think that teacher salaries in your state should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?”

However, the 2009 version reads: “In your state, teachers are paid an average annual salary of [ADD VALUE HERE]. Do you think that these teacher salaries should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?”

In the space below, I present the most common version of the question wording for each item.

*Education Spending:* Do you think that government funding for public schools in your district should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

- (1) Greatly increase
- (2) Increase
- (3) Stay about the same
- (4) Decrease
- (5) Greatly decrease

*Education Spending (with education spending data):* According to the most recent information available, in your district \$XXXX is being spent each year per child attending public schools. Do you think that government funding for public schools in your district should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

- (1) Greatly increase
- (2) Increase
- (3) Stay about the same
- (4) Decrease
- (5) Greatly decrease

*Teacher Salaries:* Do you think that teacher salaries in your state should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

- (1) Greatly increase
- (2) Increase
- (3) Stay about the same
- (4) Decrease
- (5) Greatly decrease

*Teacher Salaries (with education spending data):* According to the most recent information available, in your state public school teachers receive on average an annual salary of \$XX,XXX. Do you think that teacher salaries in your state should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

- (1) Greatly increase
- (2) Increase
- (3) Stay about the same
- (4) Decrease
- (5) Greatly decrease

*Charter Schools:* Many states permit the formation of charter schools, which are publicly funded but are not managed by the local school board. These schools are expected to meet promised objectives, but are exempt from many state regulations. Do you support or oppose the formation of charter schools?

- (1) Completely support
- (2) Somewhat support
- (3) Neither support nor oppose
- (4) Somewhat oppose
- (5) Completely oppose

*Charter Schools (with Obama's position):* Many states permit the formation of charter schools, which are publicly funded but are not managed by the local school board. These schools are expected to meet promised objectives, but are exempt from many state regulations. President Barack Obama has expressed support for charter schools. What do you think? Do you support or oppose the formation of charter schools?

- (1) Completely support
- (2) Somewhat support
- (3) Neither support nor oppose
- (4) Somewhat oppose
- (5) Completely oppose

*Merit-Based Pay:* Do you favor or oppose basing a teacher's salary, in part, on his or her students' academic progress on state tests?

- (1) Completely favor
- (2) Somewhat favor
- (3) Neither favor nor oppose
- (4) Somewhat oppose
- (5) Completely oppose

*Merit-Based Pay (with Obama's position):* President Barack Obama has expressed support for the policy of basing teachers' salaries, in part, on their students' academic progress on tests? What do you think of this policy?

- (1) Completely favor
- (2) Somewhat favor
- (3) Neither favor nor oppose
- (4) Somewhat oppose
- (5) Completely oppose

*School Accountability:* As you may know, this year Congress is expected to take action on the federal school accountability law. Some people have proposed to maintain the current requirement that all students be tested in math and reading each year in grades 3-8 and once in high school. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

- (1) Completely support
- (2) Somewhat support
- (3) Neither support nor oppose
- (4) Somewhat oppose
- (5) Completely oppose

*School Accountability (with Obama's position):* As you may know, this year Congress is expected to take action on the federal school accountability law. President Barack Obama has proposed to maintain the current requirement that all students be tested in math and reading each year in grades 3-8 and once in high school. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

- (1) Completely support
- (2) Somewhat support
- (3) Neither support nor oppose
- (4) Somewhat oppose
- (5) Completely oppose

*Testing:* Some people have proposed that states be required to toughen the standards and tests used to evaluate student performance. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

- (1) Completely support
- (2) Somewhat support
- (3) Neither support nor oppose
- (4) Somewhat oppose
- (5) Completely oppose

*Testing (with Obama's position):* President Obama has proposed that states be required to toughen the standards and tests used to evaluate student performance. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

- (1) Completely support
- (2) Somewhat support
- (3) Neither support nor oppose
- (4) Somewhat oppose
- (5) Completely oppose

## **Appendix B: Survey Details**

### *2008*

- This survey was conducted by the polling firm Knowledge Networks (KN) between February 16 and March 15, 2008.
- This dataset contains a nationally representative stratified sample of 2,500 adults (age 18 years and older) and an oversample of 700 public school teachers. The sample consists of 2,546 non-Hispanic whites, 250 non-Hispanic blacks, and 239 Hispanics.

### *2009*

- This survey was conducted by the polling firm Knowledge Networks (KN) between February 25 and March 13 of 2009.
- This dataset contains a nationally representative stratified sample of U.S. adults (age 18 years and older) and oversamples of Hispanics and non-Hispanic blacks, public school teachers, and residents of Florida (the last group for supplemental analyses not reported here). The combined sample of 3,251 respondents consists of 2,153 non-Hispanic whites, 434 non-Hispanic blacks, 481 Hispanics, and 183 members of other ethnic groups; 709 public school teachers and 948 residents of Florida; and 1,694 self-identified Democrats and 1,265 self-identified Republicans. Of the 3,251 respondents surveyed in 2009, approximately 300 had also been interviewed in 2008. For this group, it was possible to identify the consistency of responses to identical questions asked in both years.

### *2010*

- This survey was conducted by the polling firm Knowledge Networks (KN) between May 11 and June 8, 2010.
- This dataset contains a nationally representative stratified sample of 1,184 adults (age 18 years and older) and oversamples of 684 public school teachers and 908 residents of zip codes in which a charter school was located during the 2009–10 school year. The total sample of 2,776 adults consists of 2,038 non-Hispanic whites, 280 non-Hispanic blacks, 263 Hispanics, and 195 individuals identifying with another or multiple racial or ethnic groups.

### *2011*

- This survey was conducted by the polling firm Knowledge Networks (KN) between April 15 and May 4, 2011.
- This dataset contains a nationally representative stratified sample of approximately 550 adults (age 18 years and older) and representative oversamples of roughly 350 members of the following subgroups: the affluent (as defined below), public school teachers, parents of school-aged children, residents of zip codes in which a charter school was located during the 2009–10 school year, African Americans, and Hispanics. Respondents could elect to complete the survey in English or Spanish.
- The affluent are identified as Americans with at least a B.A. or its equivalent whose household income placed them within the top 10 percent of the income distribution within their state. This sample of 412 respondents was 45 percent male, 58 percent with an advanced degree beyond the B.A., 28 percent parents of school-aged children, 84 percent married, and 85 percent white, 2 percent African American, 4 percent Hispanic, and 8 percent other or multiple race/ethnicity.

### *2012*

- This survey was conducted by the polling firm Knowledge Networks (KN) between April 27 and May 11, 2012.
- This dataset contains a nationally representative, stratified sample of 2,993 adults (age 18 years and older) and representative oversamples of the following subgroups: public school teachers, parents of school-age children, African Americans, and Hispanics. Respondents could elect to complete the survey in English or Spanish.

### *2013*

- The survey was conducted in June 2013 by the polling firm Knowledge Networks (KN).
- This dataset contains a nationally representative, stratified sample of 1,138 adults (age 18 years and older) and representative oversamples of the following subgroups: public school teachers, parents of school-age children, African Americans, and Hispanics. Respondents could elect to complete the survey in English or Spanish.

### *2014*

- This survey was conducted in May and June 2014 by the polling firm Knowledge Networks (KN).
- This dataset contains a nationally representative, stratified sample of adults (age 18 years and older) and representative oversamples of the following subgroups: public school teachers, African Americans, and Hispanics. This sample includes some respondents who were also sampled as part of the 2013 survey. Respondents could elect to complete the survey in English or Spanish.

## Appendix C: Logistic Regression Results

Table C1. Effects of Providing Per Pupil Expenditure Data on Support for Increased Education Spending

	2008		2009		2011	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Per Pupil Expenditures	-0.62*** (0.11)	-0.66*** (0.11)	-0.47*** (0.10)	-0.49*** (0.10)	-0.73*** (0.11)	-0.78*** (0.11)
Republican	-1.02*** (0.11)	-0.57*** (0.12)	-0.90*** (0.11)	-0.57*** (0.13)	-1.14*** (0.12)	-0.94*** (0.14)
Per Pupil Expenditures × Rep	0.20 (0.15)	0.21 (0.15)	0.14 (0.15)	0.15 (0.16)	0.11 (0.17)	0.17 (0.18)
Covariates		Yes		Yes		Yes
N	3,228	3,228	3,251	3,251	2,632	2,632
	2012		2013		2014	
	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Per Pupil Expenditures	-0.89*** (0.15)	0.96*** (0.15)	-0.75*** (0.07)	-0.78*** (0.08)	-0.97*** (0.10)	-1.02*** (0.10)
Republican	-0.94*** (0.16)	-0.68*** (0.18)	-0.96*** (0.09)	-0.65*** (0.10)	-1.26*** (0.11)	-0.87*** (0.12)
Per Pupil Expenditures × Rep	0.40† (0.22)	0.51* (0.22)	0.17 (0.12)	0.18 (0.12)	0.47** (0.15)	0.45** (0.15)
Covariates		Yes		Yes		Yes
N	1,519	1,519	5,569	5,569	3,491	3,491

*Notes:* Values are logistic regression coefficients with standard errors in parentheses; Republican compared to Democrat (Independent/Undecided/Other not shown); covariates include age, educational attainment, race, gender, income, U.S. Census region, children in household, and political ideology; party identification variables contain individuals who say they lean towards one party. *Source:* Education Next Survey, Program on Education Policy and Governance, Harvard University. †  $p < .1$ , \*  $p < .05$ , \*\*  $p < .01$ , \*\*\*  $p < .001$

Table C2. Effects of Providing Teacher Salary Data on Support for Increased Teacher Salaries

	2008		2009		2010		2011	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Teacher Salaries	-0.64*** (0.11)	-0.69*** (0.12)	-0.51*** (0.10)	-0.58*** (0.11)	-0.50*** (0.11)	-0.52*** (0.11)	-0.36*** (0.10)	-0.43*** (0.11)
Republican	-0.74*** (0.11)	-0.45** (0.14)	-0.44*** (0.11)	-0.20 (0.13)	-0.55*** (0.12)	-0.39** (0.14)	-0.88*** (0.12)	-0.73*** (0.14)
Salaries × Rep	0.20 (0.15)	0.15 (0.17)	0.01 (0.15)	0.04 (0.16)	-0.02 (0.16)	0.03 (0.17)	-0.01 (0.17)	0.06 (0.18)
Covariates		Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes
N	3,234	3,234	3,251	3,251	2,776	2,776	2,632	2,632
	2012		2013		2014			
	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)		
Teacher Salaries	-1.01*** (0.10)	-1.12*** (0.11)	0.99*** (0.07)	-1.07*** (0.08)	-1.03*** (0.08)	-1.11*** (0.08)		
Republican	-0.78*** (0.11)	-0.64*** (0.13)	-0.86*** (0.09)	-0.76*** (0.10)	-0.86*** (0.09)	-0.58*** (0.10)		
Salaries × Rep	0.28 <sup>†</sup> (0.16)	0.35* (0.16)	0.37** (0.12)	0.44*** (0.13)	0.25* (0.12)	0.24 <sup>†</sup> (0.12)		
Covariates		Yes		Yes		Yes		
N		2,993		2,993		5,569		5,569

Notes: Values are logistic regression coefficients with standard errors in parentheses; Republican compared to Democrat (Independent/Undecided/Other not shown); covariates include age, educational attainment, race, gender, income, U.S. Census region, children in household, and political ideology; party identification variables contain individuals who say they lean towards one party. Source: Education Next Survey, Program on Education Policy and Governance, Harvard University. <sup>†</sup>  $p < .1$ , \*  $p < .05$ , \*\*  $p < .01$ , \*\*\*  $p < .001$

Table C3. Effects of Providing Education Spending Data on Education Spending Preferences (All Years)

	More Spending		Teacher Salaries	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Education Spending Data	-0.73*** (0.04)	-0.76*** (0.04)	-0.78*** (0.04)	-0.85*** (0.04)
Republican	-1.03*** (0.04)	-0.69*** (0.05)	-0.75*** (0.04)	-0.56*** (0.05)
Education Spending Data $\times$ Rep	0.23*** (0.06)	0.25*** (0.06)	0.20*** (0.05)	0.23*** (0.06)
Covariates		Yes		Yes
N	19,690	19,690	25,721	25,721

*Notes:* Values are logistic regression coefficients with standard errors in parentheses; Republican compared to Democrat (Independent/Undecided/Other not shown); covariates include age, educational attainment, race, gender, income, U.S. Census region, children in household, and political ideology; party identification variables contain individuals who say they lean towards one party; all models hold survey year constant. *Source:* Education Next Survey, Program on Education Policy and Governance, Harvard University.  $^{\dagger} p < .1$ ,  $* p < .05$ ,  $** p < .01$ ,  $*** p < .001$



Table C4. Effects of Providing Obama's Position on Attitudes Towards Education Issues (2009)

	Charter Schools		Merit Pay	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Obama's Position	0.37** (0.12)	0.37** (0.12)	0.65*** (0.12)	0.67*** (0.13)
Republican	0.46*** (0.13)	0.37* (0.15)	0.15 (0.13)	0.12 (0.16)
Obama's Position × Rep	-0.36 <sup>†</sup> (0.18)	-0.35 <sup>†</sup> (0.19)	-0.26 (0.19)	-0.26 (0.19)
Covariates		Yes		Yes
N	2,164	2,164	2,142	2,142

*Notes:* Values are logistic regression coefficients with standard errors in parentheses; Republican compared to Democrat (Independent/Undecided/Other not shown); covariates include age, educational attainment, race, gender, income, U.S. Census region, children in household, and political ideology; party identification variables contain individuals who say they lean towards one party. *Source:* Education Next Survey, Program on Education Policy and Governance, Harvard University. <sup>†</sup>  $p < .1$ , \*  $p < .05$ , \*\*  $p < .01$ , \*\*\*  $p < .001$

Table C5. Effects of Providing Obama's Position on Attitudes Towards Education Issues (2010)

	Accountability		Testing		Merit Pay	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Obama's Position	0.45*** (0.11)	0.46*** (0.11)	0.59*** (0.11)	0.57*** (0.11)	0.20 <sup>†</sup> (0.10)	0.22* (0.11)
Republican	-0.03 (0.11)	0.09 (0.13)	0.09 (0.11)	0.10 (0.13)	0.12 (0.11)	0.15 (0.14)
Obama's Position × Rep	-0.63*** (0.16)	-0.65*** (0.16)	-0.65*** (0.16)	-0.67*** (0.16)	-0.57*** (0.16)	-0.59*** (0.16)
Covariates		Yes		Yes		Yes
N	2,776	2,776	2,776	2,776	2,776	2,776

*Notes:* Values are logistic regression coefficients with standard errors in parentheses; Republican compared to Democrat (Independent/Undecided/Other not shown); covariates include age, educational attainment, race, gender, income, U.S. Census region, children in household, and political ideology; party identification variables contain individuals who say they lean towards one party. *Source:* Education Next Survey, Program on Education Policy and Governance, Harvard University. <sup>†</sup>  $p < .1$ , \*  $p < .05$ , \*\*  $p < .01$ , \*\*\*  $p < .001$

Table C6. Relationships Between Children in the Household and Attitudes Towards Education Issues

	2008-09, 2011-14 More Spending		2008-14 Teacher Salaries		2008-14 Charter Schools		2008-11, 2013 Merit Pay	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Child	0.24*** (0.07)	0.19** (0.07)	0.02 (0.05)	-0.02 (0.06)	0.09* (0.04)	0.15*** (0.05)	0.03 (0.05)	0.02 (0.06)
Republican	-1.15*** (0.05)	-0.76*** (0.07)	-0.85*** (0.05)	-0.55*** (0.06)	0.60*** (0.04)	0.56*** (0.05)	0.30*** (0.05)	0.27*** (0.06)
Child × Rep	0.30** (0.10)	0.29** (0.10)	0.27** (0.08)	0.19* (0.09)	-0.21** (0.07)	-0.21** (0.07)	-0.13 (0.08)	-0.02 (0.08)
Covariates		Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes
N	9,925	9,925	12,787	12,787	17,228	17,228	12,239	12,239

Notes: Values are logistic regression coefficients with standard errors in parentheses; Republican compared to Democrat (Independent/Undecided/Other not shown); covariates include age, educational attainment, race, gender, income, U.S. Census region, and political ideology; party identification variables contain individuals who say they lean towards one party; all models hold survey year constant. Source: Education Next Survey, Program on Education Policy and Governance, Harvard University. <sup>†</sup>  $p < .1$ , \*  $p < .05$ , \*\*  $p < .01$ , \*\*\*  $p < .001$