

Voting Behaviour

Political Science

What predicts how someone votes.

The main explanations.

Explanations

Party identification, often inherited

Sociological — class, region, religion

Retrospective judgement of performance

Issue voting on specific policies

Valence — competence rather than position

Findings

Identity is more stable than issues

Economic evaluations matter, especially recent ones

Campaigns mostly activate existing leanings

Turnout differs sharply by age and education

Educational reference. Voters weight recent economic conditions far more heavily than performance across a whole term.