**Retrospective Voting in the 2012 Presidential Election**

**By Jonathan Silberman**

**Table of Contents**

**Chapter Page Numbers**

Introduction 1-5

Chapter 1 6-16

Chapter 2 17-38

Chapter 3 39-48

Chapter 4 49-52

Works Cited 53-61

**List of Tables**

**Figure Title Page**

Table 2.1 Values for Change in Obama’s Vote Share and Change in the Unemployment Rate…………………………………………………………………………………………..23

Table 2.2 OLS Regression Results for Change in Support for Barack Obama 2008-2012………………………………………………………………………………………….26

Table 2.3 Values for Change in Bush’s Vote Share and Change in the Unemployment Rate…………………………………………………………………………………………..29

Table 2.4 OLS Regression Results for Change in Support for George W. Bush 2000-2004

………………………………………………………………………………………………..31

Table 2.5 Values for Change in Clinton’s Vote Share and Change in the Unemployment Rate…………………………………………………………………………………………..32

Table 2.6 OLS Regression Results for Change in Support for Bill Clinton 1992-1996..36

Table 3.1 Matrix of Economic Conditions and Voter Choice (in number of respondents

………………………………………………………………………………………………..43

Table 3.2 Matrix of Economic Conditions and Voter Choice (in percentage of respondents)………………………………………………………………………………….43

Table 3.3 Matrix of Views of the Economy and Voter Choice (in number of respondents

……………………………………………………………………………………………….44

Table 3.4 Matrix of Views of the Economy and Voter Choice (in percentage of respondents)……………………………………………………………………………….....44

Table 3.5 Table of Critical Values for Logistic Regression…………………………….46

**List of Figures**

Figure 2.1 Map of Change in Obama’s Vote Share in the Continental US……………24

Figure 2.2 Map of Change in the Unemployment Rate from Jan/09 to Nov/12……….25

Figure 2.3 Map of Change in Bush’s Vote Share in the Continental US……………...30

Figure 2.4 Map of Chang ein the Unemployment Rate from Jan/01 to Nov/04……….30

Figure 2.5 Map of Change in Clinton’s Vote Share in the Continental US……………34

Figure 2.6 Map of Change in Unemployment Rate from Jan/93 to Nov/96…………...34

**List of Graphs**

Graph 3.1 Bar Graph of Voter Choice and Economic Conditions……………............43

Graph 3.2 Bar Graph of Voter Choice among Respondents who chose Both or Neither

……………………………………………………………………………………….…….45

**Appendix**

**Interval Variables for the County Level Analysis**

Age Intervals for Obama

22.4-34.6 1

34.7-36.8 2

36.8-38.3 3

38.4-39.3 4

39.4-40.3 5

40.4-41.2 6

41.3-42.5 7

42.6-44.2 8

44.3-46.8 9

46.9-62.7 10

Income Intervals for Obama

40.29-64.33 1

64.34-69.08 2

69.09-73.09 3

73.1-76.69 4

76.7-80.25 5

80.26-84.39 6

80.27-89.28 7

89.29-96.15 8

96.16-106.08 9

106.09-290.75 10

Income Intervals for Bush

34.85-60.74 1

60.75-65.2 2

65.22-69.23 3

69.24-72.83 4

72.84-75.99 5

76-79.38 6

79.39-83.42 7

83.43-88.93 8

88.94-98.23 9

98.24-257.3 10

Age Intervals for Bush

20.6-33.2 1

33.3-34.8 2

34.9-35.9 3

36-36.8 4

36.9-37.5 5

37.6-38.3 6

38.4-39.3 7

39.4-40.5 8

40.6-42.3 9

42.4-58.6 10

Age Intervals Clinton

20.35-31.45 1

31.46-33.3 2

33.4-34.25 3

34.26-35 4

35.01-35.85 5

35.86-36.6 6

36.01-37.5 7

37.51-38.65 8

38.66-40.3 9

40.31-54.2 10

Income Intervals Clinton

33.06-62.94 1

62.95-67.86 2

67.87-71.72 3

71.73-75.1 4

75.11-78.55 5

78.56-81.91 6

81.92-85.78 7

85.79-90.49 8

90.5-100.09 9

100.1-253.42 10

**Interval Variables for Individual Level Analysis**

Age Intervals

18-20 1

21-24 2

25-29 3

30-34 4

35-39 5

40-44 6

45-49 7

50-54 8

55-59 9

60-64 10

65-69 11

70-74 12

75 or Older 13

Income Intervals

Under $25,000 1

$25,000 but less than $30,000 2

$30,000 but less than $35,000 3

$35,000 but less than $40,000 4

$40,000 but less than $50,000 5

Education Intervals

8th Grade or Less 1

High School Incomplete 2

High School Degree 3

Some College but no Degree 4

Associates Degree 5

College Degree 6

Postgraduate Degree 7

Ideology Intervals

Very conservative 1

Conservative 2

Moderate 3

Liberal 4

Very liberal 5