Codebook for the Replication Data From: McAvoy and Enns (2010) "Using Approval of the President's Handling of the Economy to Understand Who Polarizes and Why"

For this project, we generated a measure of the public's approval of the president's handling of the economy (what we call, economic approval of the president) disaggregated by partisanship *and* education level. The data are monthly and cover the presidencies of George Bush and Bill Clinton (1993 to 2005). There were not, however, a sufficient number of surveys in 2000 so the data *cannot* be analyzed as a continuous time series.

If you utilize these data, we suggest you cite:

McAvoy, Gregory E. and Peter K. Enns. 2010. "Using Approval of the President's Handling of the Economy to Understand Who Polarizes and Why." *Presidential Studies Quarterly.* 40(3):545-558.

The data were obtained from the Roper Center Public Opinion Archive (`http://www.ropercenter.uconn.edu/`). The survey questions come from three survey houses: Gallup, CBS, and ABC. During the period of analysis all three surveys regularly asked, "Do you approve or disapprove of the way (George Bush/Bill Clinton) is handling the economy?" In total, this survey question was asked almost 200 times during our period of analysis.[1] For each survey, we calculated economic approval of the president (i.e., the percent who approve of the president's handling of the economy) for each education *and* partisan group. Then, for each group, we combine the survey marginals from the three surveys (ABC, CBS, and Gallup) with Jim Stimson's Dyad Ratios W-Calc Algorithm. This algorithm scales each survey series to a common metric and then uses a factor-analytic approach to extract the common overtime variance. Full details of the algorithm are available at `http://www.unc.edu/~jstimson/Software.html`. The result is nine different time series, which represent monthly economic approval of the president for low, middle, and high education Democrats, Republicans, and independents. Low education corresponds with a high school degree or less, high education corresponds with a college degree or more, and middle education represents those in between.

[1] The specific dates of the surveys appear in the Appendix of the article.