

Through Thick and Thin? The dynamics of government support across income groups during economic crises

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Students of economic voting have recently made substantial progress in their understanding of when the economy is and is not likely to impact election outcomes. Our knowledge of the lower-level dynamics that drive these aggregate results remains fairly murky. In this paper we test competing theoretical claims about how individual-level orientations toward political economy lead to observed aggregate trends in economic voting. We do this with two different sets of analyses. In the first we evaluate our hypotheses using biannual data from 1976-2000 for nine Western European countries. In the second we conduct a statistical case study using monthly data for the United Kingdom from 2004-2008.