

Economic Insecurity and Voting Behavior

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A significant part of the literature in Political Sciences and Economics already estimate how macro-variables (such as unemployment rate or economic growth) and micro-variables (such as life satisfaction and household income) predict election outcomes. We propose to link voting behaviors to a new economic measure: personal economic insecurity. Controlling for contemporaneous family income and using a British and a German sample, we first show that partisans of “traditional parties” (Conservative and Labour in UK and CDU and SPD in Germany) become less supportive in the future if they feel more economically secure. Second, actual non-partisan voters are more likely to support a party in the future in case of personal economic insecurity. More specifically, the higher their level of personal economic insecurity, the more they will support conservative parties. We trust these results may be useful to shed new lights on recent electoral outcomes.