

PROPOSAL: TESTING BEHAVIOR THEORIES OF VOTING IN A CORPORATE SETTING

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One difficulty in testing various theories of voting behavior is that in a typical election it is unclear exactly what the voter's objective function is. A voter may choose only one candidate who will set policy for education, the environment, defense, poverty alleviation, etc. We turn to shareholders to surmount this problem. A shareholder's objective is to increase company earnings. Turning to the corporate world allows us to test various behavioral theories of voting such as that voters respond more to gains over losses and that they respond more to more recent events.

We are looking for a research assistant who is familiar with both Excel and STATA. The research assistant will gain experience gathering, assembling and cleaning large data sets as well as in doing some basic analysis.