Collective Preferences in Democratic Politics

Opinion Surveys and the Will of the People

SCOTT L. ALTHAUS University of Illinois

> CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Contents

List of Figures and Tables I '	page viii
Acknowledgments	xi
1 Introduction	1
PART I ILLUSIONS OF AGGREGATION	
2 The Power of Noise	29
3 Who Speaks for the People?	59
PART II INFORMATION EFFECTS IN COLLECTIVE PI	REFERENCES
4 The Impact of Information Effects	97
5 The Structure and Causes of Information Effect	s 145
6 The Temporal Dynamics of Information Effects	196
PART III OPINION SURVEYS IN DEMOCRATIC POLI	ITICS
7 Opinion Surveys and the Will of the People	243
8 What Surveys Can Tell Us about Public Opinion	n 277
Appendix A: Political Knowledge Indices	314
Appendix B: Methodology	319
References	333
Index	363