Erikson & Tedin, Ch. 10: The Public and Its Elected Representatives & MC Exercise 7

I.	[Sharing	model]	Opinion	sharing	between	policy	makers	and th	e public
----	----------	--------	---------	---------	---------	--------	--------	--------	----------

- A. Recruitment of political leaders
  - 1. Self-starters
  - 2. Reluctants/lateral entrants
- B. Selection biases
  - 1. Class Table 10.1, p. 294
  - 2. Race
  - 3. Gender
  - 4. Age
- C. Opinion sharing Table 10.2, p. 295
- II. [Parties model] Political parties and representation Table 10.3, p. 297
  - A. Ideology and party leaders | Figure 10.1, p. 297 & Table 10.4, p. 298
  - B. Public opinion relative to the public's perception of the parties | Table 10.5, p. 299
  - C. The relevance of party platforms
    - 1. Party voting in legislatures | Figure 10.2, p. 301 & Figure 10.3, p. 302
    - 2. Party labels as a basis for policy choice
    - 3. The importance of party competition
    - 4. Does party control matter?
- III. [Delegate model] Leadership responsiveness to public opinion Pp. 305-12
  - A. Legislators' roles
    - 1. [Instructed] Delegate model: believe they should follow the wishes of their constituents even if those wishes are contrary to their own
    - 2. [Free-agent] Trustee model: believe they should be trusted enough by their constituents to follow the dictates of their own conscience or judgment in deciding what is best for their constituents
    - 3. Politico model: sometimes act as delegates but other times as trustees
  - B. Political ambition
    - 1. And rates of turnover in office
      - a. Presidents & governors
      - b. Congress: lowest turnover; highest experience/ambition
      - c. State legislatures
      - d. Local legislatures: highest turnover; lowest experience/ambition
    - 2. Term limit debate
      - a. For
        - (1) Increase election competition
        - (2) Improve candidate pool
        - (3) Reduce corruption in office
        - (4) Increase Congressional responsiveness to voters
        - (5) Reduce gridlock with executive branch
      - b. Against
        - (1) Term limits are anti-democratic
        - (2) Increase the influence of media and money in Congressional elections

- (3) Increase the number of unresponsive and "lame ducks"
- (4) Increase the influence of unelected Congressional staff
- (5) Increase the influence of unelected executive bureaucrats
- C. Following public opinion | Figures 10.4 & 10.5, p. 309

- D. Electoral timing
  - 1. Redistricting
  - 2. District ideology
- E. Political leaders as educators
- IV. Do elected officials need to follow public opinion?
  - A. Incumbency
    - 1. Directly related to level of government
    - 2. Higher for legislators than executives
    - 3. Nature of incumbency advantages
      - a. Partisan elections
      - b. Perks of office holding
      - c. Casework
      - d. Campaign experience
      - e. Few strong challengers
    - 4. Success rate exaggerated because anticipation of defeat leads to retirements
  - B. The public's attention to policy positions (of leaders)
    - 1. Between elections
    - 2. During hotly contested elections
- V. [Interest-group model] Interest groups and democratic representation
  - A. Interest groups opinion as public opinion
  - B. Money, PACs, and the electoral process
  - C. Interest groups: an assessment
- VI. Conclusion