

A STUDY OF SELECTED VARIABLES RELATED TO THE
OUTCOMES OF SCHOOL BOND REFERENDA IN NORTH CAROLINA

A Dissertation

by

ROGER DALE WRIGHT

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OUTCOMES OF SCHOOL BOND REFERENDA IN NORTH CAROLINA

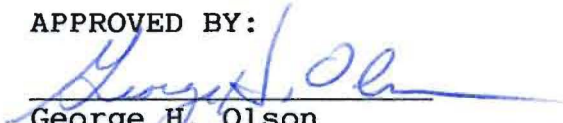
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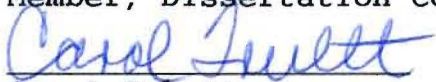
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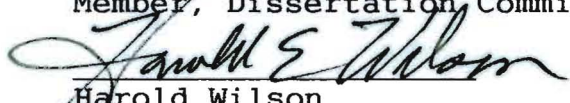
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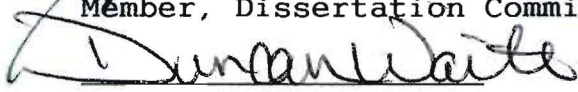

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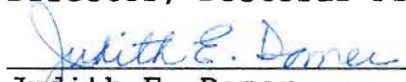

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ABSTRACT

A STUDY OF SELECTED VARIABLES RELATED TO THE
OUTCOMES OF SCHOOL BOND REFERENDA IN NORTH CAROLINA
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In this study factors selected from previous studies which were associated with the success or failure of school bond issues in the state of North Carolina from January 1, 1985 through December 31, 1994 were examined. The purpose of the study was to identify factors that provide statistical discrimination between successful and unsuccessful school bond elections, and to identify factors that could be used as a basis for planning and achieving maximum success for school bond issues.

Ninety-eight school bond issues that were voted on in the state of North Carolina over the 10-year period indicated above were included in the study. Discriminant analysis was used to differentiate between successful and unsuccessful school bond elections on the basis of the variables included in the study.

The primary hypothesis was that the discriminating variables selected for the study would distinguish the success or failure of school bond referenda in North

Carolina between January 1, 1985, and December 31, 1994. Three of the 12 variables selected for the study distinguished significantly between successful and unsuccessful school bond referenda; therefore, the primary hypothesis was accepted.

The three distinguishing variables, identified by step-wise discriminant analysis, were:

1. the number of times the referendum was attempted before approval;
2. the region of the state; and
3. whether or not the locality could be classified as urban or rural.

The remaining nine variables that did not prove to be significant were:

1. whether the vote was held at a special or general election;
2. the number of white voters who were registered in the district;
3. the number of black voters who were registered in the district;
4. the number of democrats, republicans, non-affiliated, and those classified as "other" who were registered in the district;
5. the tenure of the superintendent;
6. the number of seats replaced on the school board at the most recent election;

7. the bond amount;
8. the date of the school bond election; and
9. the date of the county's last tax assessment.

This study should be replicated in North Carolina for other periods of time. More detailed demographic data should be available in the future on age, sex, and race for all registered voters, not only those who have voted in the elections.