
Affluence and Influence

ECONOMIC INEQUALITY AND POLITICAL
POWER IN AMERICA

Martin Gilens

RUSSELL SAGE FOUNDATION
NEW YORK
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS
PRINCETON AND OXFORD

Contents

List of Tables ix

List of Figures xi

Acknowledgments xiii

Introduction 1

CHAPTER 1

Citizen Competence and Democratic Decision Making 12

CHAPTER 2

Data and Methods 50

CHAPTER 3

The Preference/Policy Link 70

CHAPTER 4

Policy Domains and Democratic Responsiveness 97

CHAPTER 5

Interest Groups and Democratic Responsiveness 124

CHAPTER 6

Parties, Elections, and Democratic Responsiveness 162

CHAPTER 7

Democratic Responsiveness across Time 193

CHAPTER 8

Money and American Politics 234

Appendix 253

Notes 279

References 305

Index 323