

Table 5-1 Candidate Effects in U.S. House Elections, 1972–2010 (by decade)

	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s
<i>Incumbency Advantage</i>				
“Slurge”	7.1	8.1	5.8	5.2
Gelman-King index	10.4	10.8	8.7	6.5
High-spending challenger	3.3	3.1	3.6	3.6
Low-spending challenger	9.3	10.4	8.0	5.7
<i>Challenger Quality Effect</i>				
No controls	8.3	7.4	8.6	8.8
Controls, except spending	3.8	3.6	2.7	1.7
Controls, including spending	1.5	1.4	0.6	0.5

Source: Compiled by author.

Note: Entries are estimated differences in vote share for candidates in each category; computation of coefficients is described in 47; high-spending challengers are defined as those spending \$500,000 or more in 2010 dollars; the rest are considered low spenders.