

Online Appendix for “Prior Experience Predicts Presidential Performance”

Appendix A. Correlation Coefficients between Ten Categories of Leadership and Overall Score

	Public Persuasion	Moral Authority	Relations with Congress	Performance within the Context of Times	Crisis Leadership	International Relations	Vision/Setting an Agenda	Economic Management	Administrative Skills	Pursued Equal Justice For All
Moral Authority	.580									
Relations with Congress	.745	.648								
Performance within the Context of Times	.872	.787	.821							
Crisis Leadership	.816	.692	.690	.941						
International Relations	.695	.588	.458	.788	.843					
Vision/Setting an Agenda	.915	.639	.742	.872	.819	.623				
Economic Management	.855	.502	.663	.859	.804	.706	.778			
Administrative Skills	.564	.691	.649	.733	.665	.700	.595	.684		
Pursued Equal Justice For All	.418	.289	.549	.565	.470	.266	.503	.544	.456	
Overall Score	.901	.767	.823	.985	.929	.796	.905	.882	.787	.596

Note: All correlations are significant at  $p \leq .05$

## Appendix B. Replication of Results Using 2010 Siena Poll (Controlling for Party)

Variable Name (n=19)	Communication Ability	Relationship with Congress	Handling of US Economy	Foreign Policy Accomplishments	Overall
<u>National Executive Positions</u>					
Vice President					
Years as Vice President					
Federal Administrator				11.5*	9.6*
Years as Federal Administrator					
<u>National Legislative Positions</u>					
Senator					
Years as Senator					
Representative					
Years as Representative					
Congressional Leader		11.4*			
Years as Congressional Leader		1.1**		-1.6**	
<u>Military Experience</u>					
Military Service					
Years in Military					
Active Duty During Peacetime				15.2**	7.5*
Years on Active Duty Peacetime					.43*
Active Duty During War Time	10.4*	10.6**	10.3*	10.2*	10.0**
Years Active Duty During War Time		2.7*			
Combat			10.2*	13.3**	10.1**
Years in Combat					
Reserves					
Years in Reserve					
<u>State Executive Positions</u>					
Governor	10.9*				
Years as Governor	1.9*				
Governor of a Big State	15.4***	10.4**			9.7**
<u>State Legislative Positions</u>					
State Legislator					
Years as State Legislator					
<u>Total Political Service</u>					
Years in National Office		0.9***			
Years in State Office					
Years in Local Office					
Years in Public Office		1.0**			
<u>Campaigns</u>					
Elected to Presidency					
National Campaigns					
State Campaign					
Local Campaigns					
Total Campaigns					
<u>Background</u>					
Age					
Years in Private Sector			-0.7*		
J.D./Law Profession					
Graduate Degree					
Professor or University President			10.6*		
Washington Outsider					
<i>s.d.</i>	19.1	11.9	16.0	15.6	12.8

\*= .10; \*\*=p≤.05; \*\*\*=p≤.01 based upon one-tailed tests.

## Appendix C. Models Comparing Results with and without Controlling for Party

Variable Name (n=19)	Overall Score Controlling for Party	Overall Score Without Controlling for Party
<i>National Executive Positions</i>		
Vice President		
Years as Vice President		
Federal Administrator		
Years as Federal Administrator		
<i>National Legislative Positions</i>		
Senator		
Years as Senator		
Representative		
Years as Representative		
Congressional Leader		
Years as Congressional Leader		
<i>Military Experience</i>		
Military Service		
Years in Military		
Active Duty During Peacetime	10.3**	9.3*
Years on Active Duty	0.6*	0.4
Active Duty During War Time	13.8***	11.4**
Years Active Duty During War Time	3.5**	2.4
Combat	13.5**	11.4**
Years in Combat	3.1*	2.3
Reserves		
Years in Reserve		
<i>State Executive Positions</i>		
Governor		
Years as Governor		
Governor of a Big State	10.6**	8.6
<i>State Legislative Positions</i>		
State Legislator		
Years as State Legislator		
<i>Total Political Service</i>		
Years in National Office		
Years in State Office		
Years in Local Office		
Years in Public Office		
<i>Campaigns</i>		
Elected to Presidency		
National Campaigns		
State Campaign		
Local Campaigns		
Total Campaigns		
<i>Background</i>		
Age		
Years in Private Sector		
J.D./Law Profession		
Graduate Degree		
Professor or University President		
Washington Outsider		
s.d.	14.5	14.5

\*=.10; \*\*=p≤.05; \*\*\*=p≤.01 based upon one-tailed tests.

## Appendix D. Replication of Balz Model

We begin by replicating the Balz model (2010) which focuses on years served in certain positions. We do this to provide interested readers with a baseline for comparison with previous literature. We note that there is not enough variation in some of Balz' categorizations to match our data exactly. Also, Balz uses a hierarchical linear model because he uses *rankings*. Using the rankings requires *hlm* because each ranking is dependent on every other ranking within each poll (if a president is ranked #1 within a poll, then every other president must be ranked lower). The raw scores, which we employ, are independent of each other – two presidents can have the same score and one president's score does not affect the score of another. Thus, we use *ols*. The below table shows that years served as vice president do not significantly predict performance, while years served as a federal administrator have a modest positive effect. Years served as senator are not significant, while years served in the House have a slightly negative impact. In Model #1, Years in Military do not predict performance. In Model #2, we substitute Years in Combat for Years in Military. This coefficient shows a positive and substantive effect. We do this because Table 5 suggests that Combat predicts performance better than generic Military Service (this designation includes the reserves, which has little impact in Table 5.) Serving as state governor or legislator both positively predict presidential performance; total service at the state level negatively predicts performance. The positive coefficient for state legislative service and negative coefficient for total state service is likely an artifact of including both in the model. (The total state level service variable includes, along with other state level service, service in the governorship and legislature. However, we include it to replicate Balz' model as close as possible.) Years in the private sector have a minor negative effect. Party is again highly predictive. Thus, in opposition to Balz' findings, we find that experience significantly predicts performance.

Variable Name	Model #1	Model #2
Years as Vice President	-0.6	-0.5
Years as Federal Administrator	0.9**	1.0***
Years as Senator	0.8	0.9
Years as Representative	-0.7**	-0.8***
Years in Military	0.1	
Years in Combat		1.8**
Years as Governor	7.0***	6.1***
Years as State Legislator	3.6***	3.1***
Years in State Office	-6.0***	-5.0***
Years in Private Sector	-0.9***	-0.8***
Party ( <i>GOP=1</i> )	-10.3***	-10.7***
Constant	77.8***	73.3***
$R^2$	.33	.35
<i>n</i>	190	190

\*\*= $p \leq .05$ ; \*\*\*= $p \leq .01$  based upon two-tailed tests. Standard errors are clustered.

## Appendix E. Models with Alternative Conceptions of the Modern Presidency

Variable Name	McKinley – George W. Bush	Wilson – George W. Bush	F.D.R – George W. Bush
Federal Administrator	9.95***	6.72***	5.71***
Years as Congressional Leader	-0.52**	-0.53**	-0.50**
Governor of Big State	12.42***	13.04***	15.52***
Active Duty During War Time	18.06***	18.10***	16.99***
Washington Outsider	-0.53	-1.17	-6.19
Party ( <i>GOP=1</i> )	-23.32***	-24.02***	-21.62***
<i>Constant</i>	57.18***	60.53***	57.79***
$R^2$	0.52	0.50	0.42
<i>n</i>	190	160	120
<i>Standard Deviation D.V.</i>	17.13	17.54	16.59

\*\*= $p \leq .05$ ; \*\*\*= $p \leq .01$  based upon one-tailed tests. Standard errors are clustered.