

Fair, Ray C. Predicting presidential elections and other things. 2nd ed. Stanford Economics and Finance, 2012. 220p index afp ISBN 9780804760492, \$29.95

Over the last ten years, Americans have gained weight; that is a bad thing. Over the last ten years--the interval between the 1st (CH, Feb'03, 40-3473) and 2nd editions--Yale economist Fair's *Predicting* has also put on weight, 50 pages to be exact, and that is a good thing. The first edition was quite good; the second is even better. Fair's aim has not changed: "To present in an intuitive and nontechnical way tools and methods of the social sciences." Three chapters are new, and nine are revised; most all are more lively renditions of previously published journal articles. Chapter 2 will test, as it did before, the outer limits of lay readers' basic understanding of statistical underpinnings. The remaining chapters are stand-alone applications and include what one might call "from soup to nuts," or in this case, what determines the price of wine; who will have an affair; whether coming to class improves a student's grade; who will win the 2012 presidential and congressional elections; and interest rates, inflation, and the Federal Reserve. Three other chapters are on sports: marathon times and age, baseball performance and age, and predicting the outcomes of college football games. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All readership levels.