Pollock, *An R Companion to Political Analysis*

**Datasets**

Download the R script files

**›** R script [script files.zip]

Problem and Solution for function, wtd.boxplot

Problem: Chapter 4, pages 45-47, describes how to create boxplots using wtd.boxplot. I chose this function because it permits sampling weights. Wtd.boxplot worked fine during the development of the R Companion. Now, however, the function errors out when weights are specified. This problem affects the guided example (pp. 45-47) and chapter exercise 1E and 1F (pp. 54-55).

Solution: Thomas Lumley’s survey package has svyboxplot, which will create boxplots for weighted data. First the user must define the dataset as a design set (a dataset that requires sampling weights). The following script defines the nes dataset as a design set, named nesD. It then runs svyboxplot with the same options described on page 47:

nesD =svydesign(id=~1,data=nes,weights=~wt)

svyboxplot(obama.therm~partyid7,nesD,

xlab="Party Identification",

ylab="Obama Rating",

main="Obama Rating, by Party ID",

col = "lightgray",

varwidth = T)

Complication: The R Companion introduces the survey package in Chapter 7, pp. 92-93. In any future editions Lumley’s survey package will be introduced earlier in the book, and more of his functions used.