HARVARD Dataverse

Maintenance Downtime: Tue., Oct. 10 6-7PM EDT. Harvard Dataverse Repository will be unavailable on Tuesday starting 6:00PM EDT (22:00 GMT), for an upgrade to Dataverse v.6.0. This is a serious version update that requires upgrading several important infrastructure components as well. For this reason we are announcing an unusually long downtime window, in case there are any complications. **Please also note** that the search engine is among the components being upgraded, which will require rebuilding the index from scratch. Because of this, search results will be incomplete for a few hours after the site is back up. (All the existing datasets will still be accessible via direct links). Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

Political Analysis Dataverse

(Cambridge University Press)

Replication data for: Elections and the Regression-Discontinuity Design: Lessons from Close U.S. House Races, 1942-2008

Incomplete metadata | Version 2.0

Devin M. Caughey; Jasjeet S. Sekhon, 2011, "Replication data for: Elections and the Regression-Discontinuity Design: Lessons from Close U.S. House Races, 1942-2008", https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/8EYYA2, Harvard Dataverse, V2, UNF:5:AI9kprv6ytPW1MxsspufoA== [fileUNF]

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Description

Following David Lee's pioneering work, numerous scholars have applied the regression-discontinuity (RD) design to popular elections. Contrary to the assumptions of RD, however, we show that bare winners and bare losers in U.S. House elections (1942–2008) differ markedly on pretreatment covariates. Bare winners possess large ex ante financial, experience, and incumbency advantages over their opponents and are usually the candidates predicted to win by Congressional Quarterly's pre-election ratings. Covariate imbalance actually worsens in the closest House elections. National partisan tides help explain these patterns. Previous works have missed this imbalance because they rely excessively on model-based extrapolation. We present evidence suggesting that sorting in close House elections is due mainly to activities on or before Election Day rather than post-election recounts or other manipulation. The sorting is so strong that it is impossible to achieve covariate balance between matched treated and control observations, making covariate adjustment a dubious enterprise. Although RD is problematic for post-war House elections, this example does highlight the design's advantages over alternatives: RD's assumptions are clear and weaker than model-based alternatives, and their implications are empirically testable. (2011-07)

Collapse Description [-]

Keyword

Elections

Related Publication

Devin M. Caughey and Jasjeet S. Sekhon. "Elections and the Regression-Discontinuity Design: Lessons from Close U.S. House Races, 1942-2008." Political Analysis, In Press.

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RD2011-10-30replicationC.R
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This R code file replicates all figures, tables, and major analyses in the paper.
Main Replication File

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RD2011-10-30replicationC.Rout
Plain Text - 104.5 KB
Published Nov 16, 2011
272 Downloads
MD5: 19b...3ad
Output produced by RD2011-10-30replicationC.R
R Output File

RDrdobReplication.do
Stata Syntax - 21.4 KB
Published Jul 28, 2011
427 Downloads
MD5: 209...139
The R file contains the main replication code. This Stata file only provides replication code for Imbens-Kalyanaraman RD optimal bandwidth estimates that are provided in the appendix.
Software

RDReplication.tab
Tabular Data - 4.4 MB
Published Jul 28, 2011
827 Downloads
45 Variables, 16968 Observations UNF:5:AI9k...foA==
Data File
Data

Replication.README
Plain Text - 322 B
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File describes all of the files needed for replication.
Documentation