India National and State Election Dataset

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Version 2.0

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This database contains detailed candidate-level data for elections to the lower houses of India's national and state legislatures, i.e., the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas. The data span 1977-2015, with each row representing a candidate that ran for office in that state-year.

The variables in the national election data file are:

Variable name	Storage type	Variable contents
st_name	str35	State
Year	Int	General election year
pc_no	Byte	Parliamentary constituency number
pc_name	str25	Parliamentary constituency name
pc_type	str3	Parliamentary constituency reservation status
cand_name	str70	Candidate name
cand_sex	str1	Candidate sex
partyname	str57	Party name
partyabbre	str10	Party abbreviation
totvotpoll	Long	Votes received
electors	Long	Number of registered voters

The variables in the state election data file are:

Variable Name	Storage type	Variable contents
st_name	str35	State
Year	float	Assembly election year
ac_no	int	Assembly constituency number
ac_name	str28	Assembly constituency name
ac_type	str5	Assembly constituency reservation status
cand_name	str98	Candidate name
cand_sex	str1	Candidate sex
partyname	str60	Party name
partyabbre	str11	Party abbreviation

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totvotpoll	long	Votes received
electors	long	Number of registered voters

These data can be used to calculate a number of fields, including turnout, vote shares, winning status, effective number of parties and so forth.

There were two state elections in Bihar in 2005. In order to distinguish data for the two elections from one another, data for the second have the year 2005.1.

Data for bye-elections are not included.

Data were sourced from the Election Commission of India's online reports, and from field visits.

If using these data, please cite them as

Bhavnani, Rikhil R., 2017, "India National and State Election Dataset", http://dx.doi.org/10.7910/DVN/26526 Harvard Dataverse Network V2.