Codebook for Ranney\_HVD\_Mine\_2013\_04\_07.dta

CAUTION: THE ENTIRE CODEBOOK SHOULD BE READ BEFORE USING THE DATA.

“Timing” of data.

First, data were put into the year (i.e., “elect\_year”) that is the calendar year of the election that produced the outcome. Then the data were pasted into future years, but only as far into the future as the calendar year before the next election. For example, the results of the 1986 CA state assembly election were put into 1986 and 1987 for the variable “elect\_year.” Data are reported annually.

For the Ranney data, running averages of the four dimensions were made (of four, six, eight and ten years) and then averaged into the Ranney index.

For the Holbrook and Van Dunk data, the data were first worked on with the state-chamber-year as the unit of analysis. Running averages of the four dimensions were created that were weighted by the number of seats up in each chamber (running averages of four, six, eight and ten years). The four dimensions were then averaged (and subtracted from “100”) to make the Holbrook and Van Dunk indicator for a chamber-year. The values from the two chambers were then averaged.

For both measures, if you want the average competitiveness of the last two biennial elections, only utilize odd numbered years (or even numbered years for states with odd-numbered elections) for variables with a “\_4yr” suffix, etc. If you want the last three biennial elections, do the same with “\_6yr” suffix variables, etc., etc. See the variables “sen\_prop\_up” and “hs\_prop\_up” to help with these decisions.

YEARS COVERED

Ranney index for four year moving average:

Most states: 1941 to 2010

Two-thirds of states: 1939 to 2010

Nebraska: none

Non-partisan Minnesota 1953 and on

Alaska: 1961 and on

Hawaii: 1939 and on

Holbrook and Van Dunk for four year moving average:

VT: 1989 to 2010

All states but VT: 1974 to 2010

Most states: 1971 to 2010

States missing for 1971: AL KY MD MS NJ NC VT VA

States missing for 1972: AL MD MS NC VT

States missing for 1973: MS VT

(This missing years before 1974 are caused by four year election cycles (causing the state to enter the dataset two years later), odd-year election cycles, or missing data (NC, VT).)

VARIABLES

stateno

Number of state in an alphabetical list.

**state\_name**

**Full name of the state.**

**state\_icpsr**

**ICPSR state code.**

**state\_fips**

**Census state FIPS code.**

**state\_abrev**

State postal abbreviation.

elect\_year

Calendar year that the election was in, or years after the election year but before the calendar year of the next election.

**sen\_prop\_up**

**Proportion of state senate seats up in this year.**

**hs\_prop\_up**

**Proportion of state house seats up in this year.**

**ranney1\_sen\_dem\_prop**

**Proportion of state senators who are Democrats.**

**Note: this is the annual measure the moving averages were computed from.**

**ranney2\_hs\_dem\_prop**

**Proportion of state house members who are Democrats.**

**Note: this is the annual measure the moving averages were computed from.**

**ranney3\_gub\_prop**

**Proportion of the two-party vote that the Democratic candidate got in the last election.**

**Note: this is the annual measure the moving averages were computed from.**

**ranney4\_control**

**0 = unified Republican control, 1 = unified Democratic control, .5=neither.**

**Note: this is the annual measure the moving averages were computed from.**

**ranney4\_control\_alt**

**Dummy: 1 = unified Democratic control, 0 = else.**

**Note: this is the annual measure the moving averages were computed from.**

**Note: this is the way dimension #4 of the Ranney index has been measured in the past. This method seems very problematic to me. The underlying assumption of this method is that unified Democratic control is important, but that the difference between unified Republican control and split control isn’t.**

**Ranney variables with the suffix “\_4yr” represent a four year moving average of the above variables, with the last year being used to compute the average being the year in question. “\_6yr” etc. are analogous with different numbers of years.**

**ranney1\_sen\_dem\_prop\_4yr**

**ranney2\_hs\_dem\_prop\_4yr**

**ranney3\_gub\_prop\_4yr**

**ranney4\_control\_4yr**

**ranney4\_control\_alt\_4yr**

**ranney1\_sen\_dem\_prop\_6yr**

**ranney2\_hs\_dem\_prop\_6yr**

**ranney3\_gub\_prop\_6yr**

**ranney4\_control\_6yr**

**ranney4\_control\_alt\_6yr**

**ranney1\_sen\_dem\_prop\_8yr**

**ranney2\_hs\_dem\_prop\_8yr**

**ranney3\_gub\_prop\_8yr**

**ranney4\_control\_8yr**

**ranney4\_control\_alt\_8yr**

**ranney1\_sen\_dem\_prop\_10yr**

**ranney2\_hs\_dem\_prop\_10yr**

**ranney3\_gub\_prop\_10yr**

**ranney4\_control\_10yr**

**ranney4\_control\_alt\_10yr**

**The following are averages of the four components for the relevant year.**

**ranney\_4yrs**

**ranney\_6yrs**

**ranney\_8yrs**

**ranney\_10yrs**

**The following are averages of the four components for the relevant year, except that ranney4\_control\_alt is used for the fourth component instead of ranney4\_control.**

**ranney\_alt\_4yrs**

**ranney\_alt\_6yrs**

**ranney\_alt\_8yrs**

**ranney\_alt\_10yrs**

**Ranney measures of competitiveness. Varies between .5 and 1, higher values representing higher levels of competitiveness.**

**folded\_ranney\_4yrs**

**folded\_ranney\_6yrs**

**folded\_ranney\_8yrs**

**folded\_ranney\_10yrs**

**STATA CODE**

**gen folded\_ranney\_4yrs=1-(abs(ranney\_4yrs-.5))**

**gen folded\_ranney\_6yrs=1-(abs(ranney\_6yrs-.5) )**

**gen folded\_ranney\_8yrs=1-(abs(ranney\_8yrs-.5) )**

**gen folded\_ranney\_10yrs=1-(abs(ranney\_10yrs-.5))**

**Ranney measures of competitiveness. Varies between .5 and 1, higher values representing higher levels of competitiveness.**

**folded\_ranney\_alt\_4yrs**

**folded\_ranney\_alt\_6yrs**

**folded\_ranney\_alt\_8yrs**

**folded\_ranney\_alt\_10yrs**

**STATA CODE**

**gen folded\_ranney\_alt\_4yrs=1-(abs(ranney\_4yrs\_alt-.5))**

**gen folded\_ranney\_alt\_6yrs=1-(abs(ranney\_6yrs\_alt-.5) )**

**gen folded\_ranney\_alt\_8yrs=1-(abs(ranney\_8yrs\_alt-.5) )**

**gen folded\_ranney\_alt\_10yrs=1-(abs(ranney\_10yrs\_alt-.5))**

**hvd1\_winper\_4yr**

**Average percent that winning candidates got in this year’s election (of the total vote), and in the elections whose values were put in the three calendar years prior to that.**

**Average weighted by the number of seats up in each election in the chamber-year.**

**Note: for an even-year, in an even-year election state with all of a chamber’s seats up, this would give one-fourth weight to the current election, one-half weight to the last election, and one-fourth weight to the second to last election. For an odd year in such a state, half weight would be given to the election held last year, and half weight would be given to the election before that.**

**WARNING: users can drop the even years in even year states if they don’t like the one-fourth/one-half/one-fourth weighting referred to above. For states with four year election cycles, like Alabama, users might consider only keeping the values from three years after the calendar year of the election.**

**Candidates in FFA-MMDs have their % multiplied by the number of seats in the FFA-MMD.**

**After computing this quantity for both chambers, those two quantities are averaged.**

**hvd2\_winmargin\_4yr**

**Average percent margin (of the total vote) by which winning candidates win (in this election or the elections that were put into the last three calendar years).**

**Average weighted by the number of seats up in each election in the chamber-year.**

**For FFA-MMDs, this is compared to the loser with the largest % of the vote. In FFA-MMDs, this margin is multiplied by the number of seats in the FFA-MMD.**

**After computing this quantity for both chambers, those two quantities are averaged.**

**hvd3\_uncont\_4yr**

**Percent of seats that are uncontested (in this election or the elections that were put into the last three calendar years).**

**This takes under-contested seats in FFA-MMDs into account. For example, a three seat FFA-MMD with two Democrats and three Republicans would contribute “3” to the denominator, and “1” to the numerator of this variable.**

**After computing this quantity for both chambers, those two quantities are averaged.**

**hvd4\_safeseat\_4yr**

**Percent of seats that are “safe” (in this election or the elections that were put into the last three calendar years). “Safe” is considered a winning margin of 10% or more.**

**For FFA-MMDs, a winner is considered “safe” when their margin times the number of seats is greater than 10%. For FFA-MMDs, margin is computed as above.**

**After computing this quantity for both chambers, those two quantities are averaged.**

**unusable\_seats\_4yr\_per**

**Percent of seats in this year and the three years prior to that are “useable” for the Holbrook and Van Dunk measure. “Not useable” includes such things as missing vote returns (but not in uncontested elections in states that don’t put such elections on the ballot), missing party codes, or elections that only report the winner and information about the existence of other candidates is unknown.**

**Descriptives: 89.0% of state-years have 0% unusable seats, 98.7% have 5% or less unusable seats, 99.2% of state-years have 10% or less unusable seats, eight state-years have between 10 and 20% unusable seats, and eight more state-years have more than 20% unusable seats. The worst state-year has 49.8% of its seats with missing information.**

**WARNING: PEOPLE WILL HAVE TO DECIDE WHICH STATE-YEARS TO EXCLUDE BECAUSE OF MISSING DATA.**

**Same as above, except with a moving average over six years, ending in the calendar year in question.**

**hvd1\_winper\_6yr**

**hvd2\_winmargin\_6yr**

**hvd3\_uncont\_6yr**

**hvd4\_safeseat\_6yr**

**unusable\_seats\_6yr\_per**

**Same as above, except with a moving average over eight years, ending in the calendar year in question.**

**hvd1\_winper\_8yr**

**hvd2\_winmargin\_8yr**

**hvd3\_uncont\_8yr**

**hvd4\_safeseat\_8yr**

**unusable\_seats\_8yr\_per**

**Same as above, except with a moving average over ten years, ending in the calendar year in question.**

**hvd1\_winper\_10yr**

**hvd2\_winmargin\_10yr**

**hvd3\_uncont\_10yr**

**hvd4\_safeseat\_10yr**

**unusable\_seats\_10yr\_per**

**The following are 100 minus the average of the above four components.**

**hvd\_4yr**

**hvd\_6yr**

**hvd\_8yr**

**hvd\_10yr**

**sf\_hvd\_4yr**

**Shufeldt and Flavin’s four year Holbrook and Van Dunk measure.**

**Observed for: 391 cases.**

**sf\_ranney\_4yr**

**Shufeld and Flavin’s four year folded Ranney Index.**

**Observed for: 400 cases.**

**sf\_hvd\_8yr**

**Shufeldt and Flavin’s eight year Holbrook and Van Dunk measure.**

**Observed for: 247 cases.**

**sf\_ranney\_8yr**

**Shufeld and Flavin’s eight year folded Ranney Index.**

**Observed for: 200 cases.**

**sf\_hvd\_10yr**

**Shufeldt and Flavin’s ten year Holbrook and Van Dunk measure.**

**Observed for: 148 cases.**

**sf\_ranney\_10yr**

**Shufeld and Flavin’s ten year folded Ranney Index.**

**Observed for: 150 cases.**

**Note: these were merged in on the basis of the last year reported in their “ending year” for their measure in question. When their data were merged on the basis of “ending year” minus one, the correlations between my data and theirs were lower, so it was concluded that merging on the basis of “ending year” was appropriate.**

**Source: Shufeldt, Gregory, and Patrick Flavin. 2012. “Two Distinct Concepts: Party Competition in Government and Electoral Competition in the American States.” *State Politics and Policy Quarterly***12(3):330-342. <http://blogs.baylor.edu/patrick_j_flavin/data/>