INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

CALIFORNIA ELECTIONS DATA ARCHIVE (CEDA)
CALIFORNIA LOCAL ELECTIONS 1995-2016
DATA DEFINITIONS AND CODEBOOK

The Secretary of State has given the ISR permission to make available a summary of the results of all local elections for the calendar year, as well as the raw data. ISR collects and tabulates these data for the Secretary of State annually. A hard copy report containing these tables, a summary of results for county, city and school district measures and candidate races, and an analysis of election trends may be ordered from the Secretary of State's office by calling Katherine Montgomery at (916) 657-2423.

The file CEDA_ _ _ _Data.xls is an Excel workbook that contains 2 worksheets – one contains all candidate race data and the other contains all data on measures. The table below provides each worksheet name and a description of the data under each column heading.

Column headings reporting multi-county data display different data when the relevant political jurisdiction crosses county borders. This occurs only for a small number of county candidate races for superintendent of schools and several school district races; these will be the only instances where the values displayed in these columns will differ from those displayed in their single county equivalents. It is recommended that those interested in school district level data utilize the multi-county variables as opposed to the single county variables when looking at overall results of ballot measures and candidate races.

The data files contain a series of unique identifiers that serve different purposes. In the candidate data file, the first variable (RecordID) simply provides a row count and should not be used to uniquely identify candidates. There are 2 ID variables that correspond to races. The first ID variable (RaceID) identified individual races while assuming that all races are single county. This means that a race for a particular office that crosses county lines will have separate RaceIDs for each county. Multi_RaceID identifies each race uniquely, even if the race crosses county lines. Similarly, Multi_CandID identifies each candidate uniquely. There will only be duplicate Multi_CandIDs if the race in which the candidate appears crosses county lines. In the measures data file, MeasID identifies each measure assuming all measures are from a single county. Multi_MeasID provides unique identifiers for measures that cross county lines. All ID variables contain the corresponding election year as the first 4 digits in order to remain unique in the case that the user combines multiple years of data.

All County, City and School District Candidate Data (Candidates_ _.xls worksheet)

Column Heading	Data Description
RecordID	Unique ID for each record
RaceID	Unique ID for each Race assuming single-county
CO	Numerical code for county, counties sorted in alphabetical order
JUR	Jurisdiction – 1=County; 2=City; 3=School District
CNTYNAME	County name
YEAR	Election Year
DATE	Date of election
PLACE	Political jurisdiction – name of county, CSD, city or school district
CSD	Election for a Community Service District or County Service Area—0=No, 1=Yes
OFFICE	Original office within political jurisdiction
RECODE_OFFICE	Numeric categories for office – 1 = County Supervisor; 2 = City Council; 3 = School Board Member; 4 = CSD/CSA Director; 5 = Other County Office; 6 = Other City Office; 7 = Other School District Office.
RECODE_OFFNAME	Name for recoded office categories
AREA	Area within Office – e.g. supervisorial district, school board seat
TERM	Term of office – full or short
VOTE#	Number of seats to be filled in office (# of candidates to vote for)
LAST	Candidate's last name
FIRST	Candidate's first name
BALDESIG	Candidate's ballot designation
INCUMB	Incumbency status – Y=Incumbent; N=Not incumbent
NUM_INC	Numeric Incumbency status—1=Yes, 2=No
CAND#	Number of candidates running for office
VOTES	Votes for candidate
WRITEIN	Total write-in votes for candidates not listed on ballot
SUMVOTES	Total votes for all candidates running for office, not including write-ins
TOTVOTES	Total votes for all candidates running for office, including write-ins
PERCENT	Percent of total votes received by candidate
ELECTED	Outcome for candidate – 1=Elected to office; 2=Not elected to office; 3=Runoff
RACEID	Numeric identifier for each contest
RVOTES	Rank order of candidates for each contest
RUNOFF	Potential runoff candidates
CHECKRUNOFF	Confirmed runoff candidates
Multi_RaceID	Unique ID identifying races across counties (for multi-county races)
Multi_CandID	Unique ID identifying candidates across counties (for multi-county races)
Multi_CO	Indicates Multi-County Races – 0 = Single County; 1 = Multi-County
Indivtotal_votes	Multi-county votes for candidate
Multitotal_votes	Multi-county total votes all candidates running for office, not including write-ins
Totalwritein_votes	Multi-county total write-in votes
Newtotvotes	Multi-county total votes all candidates running for office, including write-ins
Rindivto	Multi-county rank order of candidates for each contest
Newelected	Multi-county outcome for candidate – 1=Elected to office; 2=Not elected to office; 3=Runoff

All County, City and School District Measure Data (Measures_ _.xls worksheet)

Column Heading	Data Description
MeasID	Unique identifier for each measure assuming single-county
YEAR	Election Year
CO	Numerical code for county, counties sorted in alphabetical order
JUR	Jurisdiction – 1=County; 2=City; 3=School District
CNTYNAME	County name
DATE	Date of election
PLACE	Political jurisdiction – name of county, CSD, city or school district
CSD	Election for a Community Service District or County Service Area—0=No, 1=Yes
MEASTYPE	Regular measure or recall measure (M=Regular Measure; R=Recall)
LTR	Letter or number designation of measure
BALQUEST	Ballot question text as it appeared on ballot
Orig_TYPE	Original numeric code for measure type, used prior to 1999.
RECTYPE	Numeric code for measure type – see "Measure Type and Topic Codes" (for years 1995- 2012)
RECTYPENAME	Name of measure type (for years 1995- 2012)
Orig_TOPIC	Original numeric code for measure topic, used prior to 1999.
RECTOPIC	Numeric code for measure type – see "Measure Type and Topic Codes" (for years 1995- 2012)
RECTOPNAME	Name of measure topic (for years 1995- 2012)
YES	Votes in favor or measure
NO	Votes opposed to measure
TOTAL	Total votes for measure
PERCENT	Percent of votes in favor of measure
REQ	Required passage for measure – M=Majority; F = Fifty-five; T=Two-thirds
OUTCOME	Numeric code for passfail – 1=Pass;2=Fail
PASSFAIL	Outcome of measure – Pass = Pass Majority REQ ; Fail = Fail Majority REQ; PassT = Pass Two-thirds REQ; FailT = Fail Two-thirds REQ; PassF = Pass Fifty-five REQ; FailF = Fail Fifty-five REQ
Multi_CO	Indicates Multi-County Elections – 0 = Single County; 1 = Multi-County
Multi_MeasID	Unique ID identifying Measures across counties (for multi-county measures)
YES_sum	Multi-county votes in favor of measure
NO_sum	Multi-county votes opposed to measure
Total_sum	Total multi-county votes for measure
Percent_sum	Multi-county percent of votes in favor of measure
Outcome_sum	Multi-county numeric code for passfail – 1=Pass;2=Fail
Passfail_sum	Multi-county outcome of measure
typerec	Collapsed numeric code for measure type
topicrec	Collapsed numeric code for measure topic
OTH	Ballot choices for measures other than favor or oppose

MEASURE TYPE AND TOPIC CODES SUMMARY – 1995-2016 CEDA

TYPE						
	1	Taxes	2	Business Tax	6	Gasoline Tax
			3	Property Tax	7	Miscellaneous Tax
			4	Sales Tax	8	Development Tax
			5	Utility Tax	9	Transient Occupancy Tax
	10	Bonds	11	GO Bond	13	Mello/Roos Bond
			12	Revenue Bond	14	Authorize Expenditure*
	20	Charter Amendment				
	30	Advisory				
	40	Initiative				
	50	Recall				
	60	Gann Limit				
	70	Ordinance				
	80	Policy/Position Statement				

TOPIC						
	10	Education	11	Bonds	14	Special Tax*
			12	Districts/Governance	15	Curriculum/Policy Issues
			13	Recalls		
	20	Land Use	21	Growth Cap/Boundary	26	Voter Approval Requirement
			22	Zoning/Project Approval	27	Military Base Conversion
			23	Open Space	28	Sale/Leasing*
			24	Private Projects*	29	Redevelopment
			25	Public Projects*		
	30	Safety	31	Jails/Courts	36	Emergency Medical/Paramedic
			32	Police	37	Firearms
			33	Fire	38	Civil Fines/ Criminal Penalties
			34	Multiple Emergency Services	39	Private Security*
			35			
	40	Governance	41	Benefits/Compensation*	46	Recall
			42	Personnel/Labor Relations	47	Contracting/Bidding/Leasing
			43	Organizational Structure	48	Elections
			44	Formation/Annex./Consol.	49	Budget Processes/Expenditures
			45	Political Reform/Term Limits		
	50	Environment	51	Parks/Recreation*	54	Regulation/Mitigation
			52	Growth Cap*	55	Borrowing/Funding*
			53	Agency Creation/Structure		
	60	Transport	61	Mass Transit	63	Traffic Regulation/Reduction
			62	Roads	64	Agencies
	70	Facilities	71	Libraries	76	Sports Facilities
			72	Health Facilities	77	Convention Centers
			73	Museum/Cultural/Comm Ctrs	78	Parks & Recreation
			74	Public Works	79	Jails/Courts
			75	Zoos		
	80	Housing	81	Affordable		
			82	Rent Control		
	90	Gambling				
	100	General Services	101	Flood Control/Drainage	106	Social/Welfare
			102	Wastewater/Sewage	107	
			103	Solid Waste	108	
			104	Water	109	Postal Services*
			105	Maintenance		
	110	Revenues	111	Tax Repeal/Reduction/Limit.	115	Revenue Use*
			112	Tax Creation/Incr./Contin.	116	Appropriation Limit Increase*
			113	Prop 218 Voter Approval	117	Bond Interest Payment*
			114	Voter Approval Requirement		
	200	Other	201	Revenue Use**	205	Promotion of Tourism*
			202	Tax Repeal/Reduction/Limit**	206	Fireworks*
			203	Tax Creation/Incr./Contin.**	207	Bond Interest Payment**
			204	Noise/Nuisance Abatement*	208	Appropriation Limit Increase**

* No longer used

**Sub-topic is now part of Revenues