DATA DOCUMENTATION FOR PRESIDENTIAL FORECAST DATA

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INTRODUCTION

Data Files: This folder includes one file for each presidential forecast model included in Montgomery, Hollenbach and Ward (2012). A short description of the variables used for each model is included below.

ABRAMOWITZ DATA

- **q2gdp** - quarter 2 GDP growth
- **term** - indicator for first or second term
- **juneapp** - June approval rating
- See Abramowitz (2008) for more detail

CAMPBELL DATA

- **INPTYVOTE** – incumbent party vote
- **SEPTPOLL** – Early September Preference Poll
- **GDPQTR2HALF** – 2nd qtr. real GDP growth (annualized) ? 2.5 with half-credit for successor candidates
- **PRECNVENTION** – Pre-Convention Preference Poll
- **CONBUMP** – Net Convention Bump
- See Campbell (2008) for more detail

ERIKSON WLEZIEN DATA

- **IncumbentPoll** – Trial heat poll results for the incumbent
- **l1CumLEIGrowth** - Cumulative LEI growth lagged by one
- See Erikson and Wlezien (2008) for more detail

Fair Data

- **VP** – Democratic share of the two-party presidential vote
- **G** – Growth rate of real per capita GDP in the first three quarters of the on-term election year (annual rate)
- **I** – 1 if there is a Democratic presidential incumbent at the time of the election and ?1 if is a Republican presidential incumbent
- **P** - absolute value of the growth rate of the GDP deator in the first 15 quarters of the administration (annual rate) except for 1920, 1944, and 1948, where the values are zero
- **Z** – number of quarters in the rst 15 quarters of the administration in which the growth rate of real per capita GDP is greater than 3.2 percent at an annual rate except for 1920, 1944, and 1948, where the values are zero
- **DUR** – 0 if either party has been in the White House for one term, 1 (-1) if the Democratic (Republican) party has been in the White House for two consecutive terms, 1.25 (-1.25) if the Democratic (Republican) party has been in the White House for three consecutive terms, 1.50 (-1.50) if the Democratic (Republican) party has been in the White House for four consecutive terms, and so on
- **DPER** – 1 if a Democratic presidential incumbent is running again, -1 if a Republican presidential incumbent is running again, and 0 otherwise
- **WAR** – 1 for the elections of 1918, 1920, 1942, 1944, 1946, and 1948, and 0 otherwise
- See Fair (2010) for more detail

Hibbs Data

- All variables are taken from Douglas Hibb's website
- Please see Hibbs (2011) for more detail

Lewis-Beck Tien Data

- **POP2PVOT** – Two party vote
- **JOBHOUSU** – jobs growth, in percentage change in jobs over the first 3.5 years of the presidents term
- **CLOSEINC** – Incumbent party advantage, scored 1 if the incumbent party candidate is the elected President
- **JULYPOP** – Presidential popularity in July of election year, measured by Gallop
- **GNPCHAN** – Gross national product, as percentage change (non-annualized) in GNP (constant dollars) from the fourth quarter of the year prior to the election to the second quarter of the election year, data from the Survey of Current Business
- **IINCXGDP** – Interaction of GDPCHAN variable of elected president running (scored 1) or not (scored 0.5)
- See Lewis-Beck and Tien (2008) for more detail

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