

*Recent scholarship argues that "myopic" voters – those who focus almost entirely on incumbent performance in the months just before the election – do not create incentives for elected officials to act responsively. Instead I use original data to show that myopic voters in Brazil hold their mayors accountable for spikes in workplace deaths; in turn, elected officials respond by minimizing fatal accidents throughout the term. These dynamics, however, do not apply to officeholders from all political parties; as in the U.S., certain parties "own" issues and are uniquely held to account for bad outcomes in those issue areas. The findings have implications for understanding the impact of democracy on labor standards, as well as for assessing the conditions under which electoral sanctions improve incumbent performance*