State legislatures

1. Compare states with legislatures/capitals that are in the “best” city in the state to states where they are not (e.g. Minnesota and Iowa to Illinois).
   1. Hard to define “best” for many states. Could look at population, income, some index of amenities, maybe there are ranking lists somewhere. Population and income are probably easiest, income per capita might be too endogenous.
   2. Should check metro areas (make sure not to miss St. Paul/Minneapolis distinctions)
   3. A more continuous measure could be state capital city’s deviation from average cities in the state (or some distance measure from the “best” city).
   4. Maybe % of migration to the state that goes to each city. Could standardize within states to make these more comparable.
   5. % of largest cities population
2. Are there any unexpected shocks? Iowa City used to be the capital. Could look for histories of state capitals.
3. Part-time vs full-time is another useful distinction. I saw some map/list about part-time vs full-time legislatures.
4. Outcome metrics: want something that is specific to government efficacy not GDP/economic indicators. Seems hard to control for some states having better economies.
   1. Are budgets balanced? Hard with some states having (constitutional) balanced budget requirements. Would maybe need to remove them.
   2. Approval rates
   3. Debt or debt to GDP ratio
   4. “Quality” of legislators (advanced degrees, personal wealth/income {ideally non-inherited wealth/income})
   5. This is maybe harder than I thought
5. How to choose the time period?

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/rankings/government>

<http://247wallst.com/special-report/2016/12/06/the-best-and-worst-run-states-in-america-2/>