

## Online Appendix – A: Additional Data Analysis

**Table A1: Promotion of Party Secretaries upon Term Completion (Relative Revenue Performance to Competitors; Excluding Top and Bottom Performing Jurisdictions)**

|                                                       | Provincial-level |                  |                   |                   | Prefecture-level    |                    |                    |                   | County-level        |                    |                     |                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
|                                                       | (1)              | (2)              | (3)               | (4)               | (5)                 | (6)                | (7)                | (8)               | (9)                 | (10)               | (11)                | (12)               |
| Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth                        | 0.126<br>(0.087) | 0.040<br>(0.080) | 0.166*<br>(0.092) | 0.049<br>(0.083)  | 0.090***<br>(0.034) | 0.079**<br>(0.036) | 0.026<br>(0.047)   | 0.020<br>(0.050)  | 0.028**<br>(0.013)  | 0.036**<br>(0.017) | 0.016<br>(0.017)    | 0.011<br>(0.020)   |
| Political Connection                                  | 0.072<br>(0.103) | 0.045<br>(0.086) | 0.062<br>(0.105)  | 0.044<br>(0.089)  | -0.041<br>(0.048)   | -0.022<br>(0.055)  | -0.037<br>(0.048)  | -0.019<br>(0.054) | -0.049**<br>(0.022) | 0.001<br>(0.030)   | -0.048**<br>(0.022) | 0.001<br>(0.030)   |
| Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth × Political Connection |                  |                  | -0.099<br>(0.175) | -0.026<br>(0.163) |                     |                    | 0.110**<br>(0.062) | 0.106<br>(0.069)  |                     |                    | 0.033<br>(0.028)    | 0.074**<br>(0.036) |
| Local Characteristics                                 | Yes              | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                |
| Politician Characteristics                            | No               | Yes              | No                | Yes               | No                  | Yes                | No                 | Yes               | No                  | Yes                | No                  | Yes                |
| Province FE                                           | No               | No               | No                | No                | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                |
| Prefecture FE                                         | -                | -                | -                 | -                 | No                  | No                 | No                 | No                | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                |
| Year FE                                               | Yes              | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                |
| Observations                                          | 49               | 49               | 49                | 49                | 504                 | 460                | 504                | 460               | 3,249               | 2,396              | 3,249               | 2,396              |

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

**Table A2: Promotion of Government Executives upon Term Completion (Relative Revenue Performance to Competitors; Excluding Top and Bottom Performing Jurisdictions)**

|                                                       | Provincial-level   |                    |                   |                   | Prefecture-level  |                  |                    |                   | County-level        |                     |                     |                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
|                                                       | (1)                | (2)                | (3)               | (4)               | (5)               | (6)              | (7)                | (8)               | (9)                 | (10)                | (11)                | (12)               |
| Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth                        | -0.128*<br>(0.073) | -0.167*<br>(0.087) | -0.161<br>(0.133) | -0.183<br>(0.160) | 0.005<br>(0.032)  | 0.006<br>(0.032) | -0.057<br>(0.046)  | -0.032<br>(0.045) | 0.020*<br>(0.011)   | 0.036***<br>(0.013) | 0.032**<br>(0.015)  | 0.043**<br>(0.018) |
| Political Connection                                  | 0.189<br>(0.143)   | 0.178<br>(0.163)   | 0.193<br>(0.147)  | 0.179<br>(0.167)  | -0.024<br>(0.045) | 0.007<br>(0.047) | 0.027<br>(0.044)   | 0.008<br>(0.047)  | 0.048***<br>(0.018) | 0.028<br>(0.023)    | 0.047***<br>(0.018) | 0.028<br>(0.023)   |
| Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth × Political Connection |                    |                    | 0.062<br>(0.203)  | 0.029<br>(0.230)  |                   |                  | 0.125**<br>(0.064) | 0.079<br>(0.066)  |                     |                     | -0.026<br>(0.023)   | -0.018<br>(0.028)  |
| Local Characteristics                                 | Yes                | Yes                | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes              | Yes                | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                |
| Politician Characteristics                            | No                 | Yes                | No                | Yes               | No                | Yes              | No                 | Yes               | No                  | Yes                 | No                  | Yes                |
| Province FE                                           | No                 | No                 | No                | No                | Yes               | Yes              | Yes                | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                |
| Prefecture FE                                         | -                  | -                  | -                 | -                 | No                | No               | No                 | No                | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                |
| Year FE                                               | Yes                | Yes                | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes              | Yes                | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                |
| Observations                                          | 54                 | 54                 | 54                | 54                | 577               | 540              | 577                | 540               | 4,031               | 2,722               | 4,031               | 2,722              |

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

**Table A3: Promotion of Party Secretaries upon Term Completion (Relative GDP Performance to Competitors; Excluding Top and Bottom Performing Jurisdictions)**

|                                            | Provincial-level  |                   |                   |                   | Prefecture-level  |                   |                   |                   | County-level        |                   |                     |                   |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
|                                            | (1)               | (2)               | (3)               | (4)               | (5)               | (6)               | (7)               | (8)               | (9)                 | (10)              | (11)                | (12)              |
| Relative GDP Growth                        | 0.142<br>(0.105)  | 0.108<br>(0.078)  | 0.278<br>(0.188)  | 0.115<br>(0.142)  | 0.058<br>(0.036)  | 0.043<br>(0.039)  | 0.021<br>(0.050)  | 0.015<br>(0.053)  | 0.037**<br>(0.014)  | 0.032*<br>(0.018) | 0.030*<br>(0.018)   | 0.020<br>(0.022)  |
| Political Connection                       | -0.006<br>(0.102) | -0.002<br>(0.079) | -0.080<br>(0.121) | -0.006<br>(0.112) | -0.047<br>(0.048) | -0.026<br>(0.054) | -0.046<br>(0.048) | -0.023<br>(0.055) | -0.049**<br>(0.022) | -0.001<br>(0.030) | -0.049**<br>(0.022) | -0.001<br>(0.030) |
| Relative GDP Growth × Political Connection |                   |                   | -0.221<br>(0.249) | -0.012<br>(0.203) |                   |                   | 0.062<br>(0.070)  | 0.052<br>(0.073)  |                     |                   | 0.019<br>(0.031)    | 0.036<br>(0.041)  |
| Local Characteristics                      | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               |
| Politician Characteristics                 | No                | Yes               | No                | Yes               | No                | Yes               | No                | Yes               | No                  | Yes               | No                  | Yes               |
| Province FE                                | No                | No                | No                | No                | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               |
| Prefecture FE                              | -                 | -                 | -                 | -                 | No                | No                | No                | No                | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               |
| Year FE                                    | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               |
| Observations                               | 49                | 49                | 49                | 49                | 503               | 459               | 503               | 459               | 3,195               | 2,363             | 3,195               | 2,363             |

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

**Table A4: Promotion of Government Executives upon Term Completion (Relative GDP Performance to Competitors; Excluding Top and Bottom Performing Jurisdictions)**

|                                                   | Provincial-level  |                   |                   |                   | Prefecture-level  |                  |                  |                  | County-level        |                     |                     |                     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                                                   | (1)               | (2)               | (3)               | (4)               | (5)               | (6)              | (7)              | (8)              | (9)                 | (10)                | (11)                | (12)                |
| Relative GDP Growth                               | -0.108<br>(0.082) | -0.123<br>(0.086) | -0.158<br>(0.190) | -0.166<br>(0.191) | 0.059*<br>(0.035) | 0.060<br>(0.038) | 0.015<br>(0.060) | 0.008<br>(0.065) | 0.045***<br>(0.013) | 0.053***<br>(0.015) | 0.056***<br>(0.016) | 0.063***<br>(0.019) |
| Political Connection                              | 0.177<br>(0.137)  | 0.167<br>(0.152)  | 0.191<br>(0.137)  | 0.177<br>(0.153)  | 0.024<br>(0.045)  | 0.006<br>(0.046) | 0.026<br>(0.044) | 0.009<br>(0.046) | 0.047***<br>(0.018) | 0.030<br>(0.023)    | 0.046***<br>(0.018) | 0.029<br>(0.023)    |
| Relative GDP Growth $\times$ Political Connection |                   |                   | 0.067<br>(0.243)  | 0.058<br>(0.252)  |                   |                  | 0.077<br>(0.075) | 0.089<br>(0.080) |                     |                     | -0.027<br>(0.025)   | -0.024<br>(0.030)   |
| Local Characteristics                             | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes              | Yes              | Yes              | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 |
| Politician Characteristics                        | No                | Yes               | No                | Yes               | No                | Yes              | No               | Yes              | No                  | Yes                 | No                  | Yes                 |
| Province FE                                       | No                | No                | No                | No                | Yes               | Yes              | Yes              | Yes              | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 |
| Prefecture FE                                     | -                 | -                 | -                 | -                 | No                | No               | No               | No               | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 |
| Year FE                                           | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes              | Yes              | Yes              | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 |
| Observations                                      | 54                | 54                | 54                | 54                | 577               | 540              | 577              | 540              | 3,961               | 2,686               | 3,961               | 2,686               |

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

**Table A5: Promotion of Party Secretaries upon Term Completion (Relative Revenue Performance to the Predecessor in the Same Jurisdiction)**

|                                                              | Provincial-level  |                   |                   |                   | Prefecture-level |                   |                  |                   | County-level        |                   |                     |                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
|                                                              | (1)               | (2)               | (3)               | (4)               | (5)              | (6)               | (7)              | (8)               | (9)                 | (10)              | (11)                | (12)              |
| Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth                               | -0.124<br>(0.077) | -0.102<br>(0.073) | -0.054<br>(0.054) | -0.097<br>(0.087) | 0.020<br>(0.030) | 0.023<br>(0.031)  | 0.013<br>(0.038) | 0.021<br>(0.037)  | 0.018*<br>(0.011)   | 0.026*<br>(0.013) | 0.023<br>(0.015)    | 0.029*<br>(0.017) |
| Political Connection                                         | -0.076<br>(0.166) | -0.057<br>(0.192) | -0.059<br>(0.139) | -0.057<br>(0.195) | 0.089<br>(0.055) | 0.111*<br>(0.065) | 0.090<br>(0.055) | 0.111*<br>(0.065) | -0.059**<br>(0.025) | -0.027<br>(0.032) | -0.059**<br>(0.025) | -0.026<br>(0.032) |
| Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth $\times$ Political Connection |                   |                   | -0.212<br>(0.170) | -0.016<br>(0.268) |                  |                   | 0.022<br>(0.061) | 0.007<br>(0.063)  |                     |                   | -0.012<br>(0.023)   | -0.008<br>(0.028) |
| Local Characteristics                                        | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes              | Yes               | Yes              | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               |
| Politician Characteristics                                   | No                | Yes               | No                | Yes               | No               | Yes               | No               | Yes               | No                  | Yes               | No                  | Yes               |
| Province FE                                                  | No                | No                | No                | No                | Yes              | Yes               | Yes              | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               |
| Prefecture FE                                                | -                 | -                 | -                 | -                 | No               | No                | No               | No                | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               |
| Year FE                                                      | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes              | Yes               | Yes              | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               |
| Observations                                                 | 35                | 35                | 35                | 35                | 383              | 368               | 383              | 368               | 2,398               | 1,876             | 2,398               | 1,876             |

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*  $p < 0.1$

**Table A6: Promotion of Government Executives upon Term Completion (Relative Revenue Performance to the Predecessor in the Same Jurisdiction)**

|                                                              | Provincial-level  |                   |                   |                   | Prefecture-level  |                   |                   |                   | County-level     |                  |                   |                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
|                                                              | (1)               | (2)               | (3)               | (4)               | (5)               | (6)               | (7)               | (8)               | (9)              | (10)             | (11)              | (12)             |
| Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth                               | -0.054<br>(0.107) | -0.109<br>(0.148) | -0.171<br>(0.182) | -0.303<br>(0.235) | -0.013<br>(0.025) | -0.012<br>(0.024) | -0.005<br>(0.031) | -0.002<br>(0.031) | 0.010<br>(0.009) | 0.012<br>(0.010) | 0.013<br>(0.013)  | 0.010<br>(0.014) |
| Political Connection                                         | -0.007<br>(0.202) | -0.003<br>(0.239) | -0.002<br>(0.197) | 0.040<br>(0.255)  | -0.002<br>(0.048) | -0.023<br>(0.052) | -0.003<br>(0.048) | -0.024<br>(0.052) | 0.024<br>(0.020) | 0.028<br>(0.025) | 0.024<br>(0.020)  | 0.028<br>(0.025) |
| Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth $\times$ Political Connection |                   |                   | 0.204<br>(0.274)  | 0.347<br>(0.320)  |                   |                   | -0.020<br>(0.046) | -0.024<br>(0.048) |                  |                  | -0.007<br>(0.018) | 0.005<br>(0.020) |
| Local Characteristics                                        | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes              | Yes              | Yes               | Yes              |
| Politician Characteristics                                   | No                | Yes               | No                | Yes               | No                | Yes               | No                | Yes               | No               | Yes              | No                | Yes              |
| Province FE                                                  | No                | No                | No                | No                | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes              | Yes              | Yes               | Yes              |
| Prefecture FE                                                | -                 | -                 | -                 | -                 | No                | No                | No                | No                | Yes              | Yes              | Yes               | Yes              |
| Year FE                                                      | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes              | Yes              | Yes               | Yes              |
| Observations                                                 | 37                | 37                | 37                | 37                | 490               | 481               | 490               | 481               | 3,307            | 2,377            | 3,307             | 2,377            |

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

**Table A7: Promotion of Party Secretaries upon Term Completion (Relative GDP Performance to the Predecessor in the Same Jurisdiction)**

|                                                   | Provincial-level  |                   |                     |                     | Prefecture-level  |                   |                     |                    | County-level        |                   |                     |                   |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
|                                                   | (1)               | (2)               | (3)                 | (4)                 | (5)               | (6)               | (7)                 | (8)                | (9)                 | (10)              | (11)                | (12)              |
| Relative GDP Growth                               | -0.056<br>(0.076) | -0.073<br>(0.081) | -0.116**<br>(0.053) | -0.153**<br>(0.077) | -0.030<br>(0.030) | -0.029<br>(0.030) | 0.014<br>(0.033)    | 0.011<br>(0.032)   | 0.012<br>(0.012)    | 0.009<br>(0.014)  | 0.011<br>(0.015)    | -0.001<br>(0.018) |
| Political Connection                              | 0.033<br>(0.168)  | 0.071<br>(0.199)  | 0.048<br>(0.167)    | 0.115<br>(0.211)    | 0.085<br>(0.056)  | 0.108*<br>(0.065) | 0.089<br>(0.056)    | 0.109*<br>(0.065)  | -0.062**<br>(0.025) | -0.032<br>(0.032) | -0.062**<br>(0.025) | -0.032<br>(0.032) |
| Relative GDP Growth $\times$ Political Connection |                   |                   | 0.168<br>(0.203)    | 0.219<br>(0.243)    |                   |                   | -0.121**<br>(0.056) | -0.113*<br>(0.058) |                     |                   | 0.002<br>(0.025)    | 0.030<br>(0.031)  |
| Local Characteristics                             | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               |
| Politician Characteristics                        | No                | Yes               | No                  | Yes                 | No                | Yes               | No                  | Yes                | No                  | Yes               | No                  | Yes               |
| Province FE                                       | No                | No                | No                  | No                  | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               |
| Prefecture FE                                     | -                 | -                 | -                   | -                   | No                | No                | No                  | No                 | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               |
| Year FE                                           | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               |
| Observations                                      | 35                | 35                | 35                  | 35                  | 381               | 366               | 381                 | 366                | 2,344               | 1,845             | 2,344               | 1,845             |

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*  $p < 0.1$

**Table A8: Promotion of Government Executives upon Term Completion (Relative GDP Performance to the Predecessor in the Same Jurisdiction)**

|                                               | Provincial-level  |                   |                   |                   | Prefecture-level |                   |                   |                   | County-level      |                   |                    |                    |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                                               | (1)               | (2)               | (3)               | (4)               | (5)              | (6)               | (7)               | (8)               | (9)               | (10)              | (11)               | (12)               |
| Relative GDP Growth                           | -0.082<br>(0.123) | -0.106<br>(0.138) | -0.047<br>(0.222) | 0.039<br>(0.236)  | 0.026<br>(0.029) | 0.025<br>(0.029)  | 0.043<br>(0.037)  | 0.036<br>(0.036)  | 0.018*<br>(0.010) | 0.019*<br>(0.011) | 0.032**<br>(0.012) | 0.029**<br>(0.014) |
| Political Connection                          | -0.025<br>(0.200) | -0.015<br>(0.234) | -0.033<br>(0.200) | -0.033<br>(0.235) | 0.004<br>(0.049) | -0.018<br>(0.052) | 0.004<br>(0.049)  | -0.018<br>(0.052) | 0.021<br>(0.020)  | 0.023<br>(0.025)  | 0.019<br>(0.020)   | 0.022<br>(0.025)   |
| Relative GDP Growth<br>× Political Connection |                   |                   | -0.055<br>(0.287) | -0.280<br>(0.355) |                  |                   | -0.037<br>(0.055) | -0.025<br>(0.054) |                   |                   | -0.034*<br>(0.020) | -0.022<br>(0.022)  |
| Local Characteristics                         | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                | Yes                |
| Politician Characteristics                    | No                | Yes               | No                | Yes               | No               | Yes               | No                | Yes               | No                | Yes               | No                 | Yes                |
| Province FE                                   | No                | No                | No                | No                | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                | Yes                |
| Prefecture FE                                 | -                 | -                 | -                 | -                 | No               | No                | No                | No                | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                | Yes                |
| Year FE                                       | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                | Yes                |
| Observations                                  | 37                | 37                | 37                | 37                | 490              | 481               | 490               | 481               | 3,221             | 2,332             | 3,221              | 2,332              |

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1



**Table A9: Promotion of Party Secretaries upon Term Completion (Ranking of Revenue Performance to Competitors)**

|                                                                  | Provincial-level |                   |                   |                   | Prefecture-level  |                  |                     |                   | County-level         |                     |                    |                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
|                                                                  | (1)              | (2)               | (3)               | (4)               | (5)               | (6)              | (7)                 | (8)               | (9)                  | (10)                | (11)               | (12)              |
| Relative Ranking of Fiscal Revenue Growth                        | 0.001<br>(0.002) | -0.001<br>(0.002) | 0.000<br>(0.002)  | -0.002<br>(0.002) | 0.001<br>(0.001)  | 0.001<br>(0.001) | -0.000<br>(0.001)   | 0.000<br>(0.001)  | 0.001***<br>(0.000)  | 0.001***<br>(0.000) | 0.001**<br>(0.000) | 0.001*<br>(0.001) |
| Political Connection                                             | 0.057<br>(0.079) | 0.031<br>(0.070)  | -0.106<br>(0.255) | -0.250<br>(0.249) | -0.013<br>(0.042) | 0.032<br>(0.052) | -0.230**<br>(0.098) | -0.136<br>(0.115) | -0.057***<br>(0.017) | -0.011<br>(0.023)   | -0.064<br>(0.042)  | -0.050<br>(0.054) |
| Relative Ranking of Fiscal Revenue Growth × Political Connection |                  |                   | 0.003<br>(0.004)  | 0.005<br>(0.005)  |                   |                  | 0.004**<br>(0.002)  | 0.003<br>(0.002)  |                      |                     | 0.000<br>(0.001)   | 0.001<br>(0.001)  |
| Local Characteristics                                            | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes              | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes               |
| Politician Characteristics                                       | No               | Yes               | No                | Yes               | No                | Yes              | No                  | Yes               | No                   | Yes                 | No                 | Yes               |
| Province FE                                                      | No               | No                | No                | No                | Yes               | Yes              | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes               |
| Prefecture FE                                                    | -                | -                 | -                 | -                 | No                | No               | No                  | No                | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes               |
| Year FE                                                          | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes              | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes               |
| Observations                                                     | 65               | 65                | 65                | 65                | 665               | 607              | 665                 | 607               | 4,742                | 3,509               | 4,742              | 3,509             |

Note: The relative ranking is normalized by the number of competitors. Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

**Table A10: Promotion of Government Executives upon Term Completion (Ranking of Revenue Performance to Competitors)**

|                                                                         | Provincial-level   |                     |                   |                   | Prefecture-level |                  |                  |                   | County-level        |                    |                     |                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                                                                         | (1)                | (2)                 | (3)               | (4)               | (5)              | (6)              | (7)              | (8)               | (9)                 | (10)               | (11)                | (12)                |
| Relative Ranking of Fiscal Revenue Growth                               | -0.005*<br>(0.003) | -0.006**<br>(0.003) | -0.006<br>(0.005) | -0.006<br>(0.005) | 0.001<br>(0.001) | 0.000<br>(0.001) | 0.001<br>(0.001) | 0.001<br>(0.001)  | 0.001**<br>(0.000)  | 0.001**<br>(0.000) | 0.001***<br>(0.000) | 0.002***<br>(0.001) |
| Political Connection                                                    | 0.248*<br>(0.143)  | 0.224<br>(0.141)    | 0.194<br>(0.411)  | 0.239<br>(0.428)  | 0.037<br>(0.039) | 0.041<br>(0.041) | 0.035<br>(0.097) | 0.072<br>(0.099)  | 0.047***<br>(0.015) | 0.032*<br>(0.019)  | 0.120***<br>(0.036) | 0.115***<br>(0.043) |
| Relative Ranking of Fiscal Revenue Growth $\times$ Political Connection |                    |                     | 0.001<br>(0.007)  | -0.000<br>(0.008) |                  |                  | 0.000<br>(0.002) | -0.001<br>(0.002) |                     |                    | -0.001**<br>(0.001) | -0.002**<br>(0.001) |
| Local Characteristics                                                   | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes               | Yes              | Yes              | Yes              | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                 |
| Politician Characteristics                                              | No                 | Yes                 | No                | Yes               | No               | Yes              | No               | Yes               | No                  | Yes                | No                  | Yes                 |
| Province FE                                                             | No                 | No                  | No                | No                | Yes              | Yes              | Yes              | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                 |
| Prefecture FE                                                           | -                  | -                   | -                 | -                 | No               | No               | No               | No                | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                 |
| Year FE                                                                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes               | Yes              | Yes              | Yes              | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                 |
| Observations                                                            | 68                 | 68                  | 68                | 68                | 773              | 726              | 773              | 726               | 5,742               | 3,920              | 5,742               | 3,920               |

Note: The relative ranking is normalized by the number of competitors. Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*  $p < 0.1$

**Table A11: Promotion of Party Secretaries upon Term Completion (Ranking of GDP Performance to Competitors)**

|                                                              | Provincial-level  |                  |                   |                   | Prefecture-level  |                  |                   |                   | County-level         |                     |                     |                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                                                              | (1)               | (2)              | (3)               | (4)               | (5)               | (6)              | (7)               | (8)               | (9)                  | (10)                | (11)                | (12)                |
| Relative Ranking of GDP Growth                               | 0.005*<br>(0.003) | 0.003<br>(0.002) | 0.004<br>(0.004)  | 0.001<br>(0.003)  | 0.001<br>(0.001)  | 0.001<br>(0.001) | 0.001<br>(0.001)  | 0.001<br>(0.001)  | 0.002***<br>(0.000)  | 0.001***<br>(0.000) | 0.002***<br>(0.000) | 0.002***<br>(0.001) |
| Political Connection                                         | 0.026<br>(0.080)  | 0.013<br>(0.060) | -0.028<br>(0.252) | -0.140<br>(0.233) | -0.016<br>(0.042) | 0.030<br>(0.052) | -0.074<br>(0.106) | -0.020<br>(0.117) | -0.057***<br>(0.018) | -0.014<br>(0.023)   | -0.012<br>(0.045)   | 0.015<br>(0.056)    |
| Relative Ranking of GDP Growth $\times$ Political Connection |                   |                  | 0.001<br>(0.005)  | 0.003<br>(0.005)  |                   |                  | 0.001<br>(0.002)  | 0.001<br>(0.002)  |                      |                     | -0.001<br>(0.001)   | -0.001<br>(0.001)   |
| Local Characteristics                                        | Yes               | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 |
| Politician Characteristics                                   | No                | Yes              | No                | Yes               | No                | Yes              | No                | Yes               | No                   | Yes                 | No                  | Yes                 |
| Province FE                                                  | No                | No               | No                | No                | Yes               | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 |
| Prefecture FE                                                | -                 | -                | -                 | -                 | No                | No               | No                | No                | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 |
| Year FE                                                      | Yes               | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 |
| Observations                                                 | 65                | 65               | 65                | 65                | 664               | 606              | 664               | 606               | 4,662                | 3,461               | 4,662               | 3,461               |

Note: The relative ranking is normalized by the number of competitors. Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

**Table A12: Promotion of Government Executives upon Term Completion (Ranking of GDP Performance to Competitors)**

|                                                              | Provincial-level     |                      |                     |                     | Prefecture-level  |                  |                   |                   | County-level        |                     |                     |                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                                                              | (1)                  | (2)                  | (3)                 | (4)                 | (5)               | (6)              | (7)               | (8)               | (9)                 | (10)                | (11)                | (12)                |
| Relative Ranking of GDP Growth                               | -0.007***<br>(0.002) | -0.006***<br>(0.002) | -0.011**<br>(0.004) | -0.010**<br>(0.004) | -0.000<br>(0.001) | 0.000<br>(0.001) | -0.001<br>(0.001) | -0.001<br>(0.001) | 0.001***<br>(0.000) | 0.001***<br>(0.000) | 0.002***<br>(0.000) | 0.002***<br>(0.001) |
| Political Connection                                         | 0.211<br>(0.132)     | 0.192<br>(0.133)     | -0.131<br>(0.365)   | -0.106<br>(0.369)   | 0.035<br>(0.039)  | 0.041<br>(0.041) | -0.053<br>(0.103) | -0.043<br>(0.105) | 0.048***<br>(0.015) | 0.033*<br>(0.019)   | 0.089**<br>(0.037)  | 0.095**<br>(0.045)  |
| Relative Ranking of GDP Growth $\times$ Political Connection |                      |                      | 0.007<br>(0.007)    | 0.006<br>(0.007)    |                   |                  | 0.002<br>(0.002)  | 0.002<br>(0.002)  |                     |                     | -0.001<br>(0.001)   | -0.001<br>(0.001)   |
| Local Characteristics                                        | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 |
| Politician Characteristics                                   | No                   | Yes                  | No                  | Yes                 | No                | Yes              | No                | Yes               | No                  | Yes                 | No                  | Yes                 |
| Province FE                                                  | No                   | No                   | No                  | No                  | Yes               | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 |
| Prefecture FE                                                | -                    | -                    | -                   | -                   | No                | No               | No                | No                | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 |
| Year FE                                                      | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 |
| Observations                                                 | 68                   | 68                   | 68                  | 68                  | 773               | 726              | 773               | 726               | 5,638               | 3,865               | 5,638               | 3,865               |

Note: The relative ranking is normalized by the number of competitors. Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*  $p < 0.1$

**Table A13: Promotion of Prefecture-Level Politicians upon Term Completion (Relative Revenue Performance to Competitors; by Age Eligibility for Promotion)**

|                                                       | Prefecture Party Secretary |                  |                   |                   |                              |                  |                   |                   | Prefecture Mayor           |                  |                   |                   |                              |                   |                   |                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                                       | Age Eligible for Promotion |                  |                   |                   | Age Ineligible for Promotion |                  |                   |                   | Age Eligible for Promotion |                  |                   |                   | Age Ineligible for Promotion |                   |                   |                   |
|                                                       | (1)                        | (2)              | (3)               | (4)               | (5)                          | (6)              | (7)               | (8)               | (9)                        | (10)             | (11)              | (12)              | (13)                         | (14)              | (15)              | (16)              |
| Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth                        | 0.053<br>(0.036)           | 0.057<br>(0.035) | 0.027<br>(0.039)  | 0.040<br>(0.039)  | 0.018<br>(0.090)             | 0.026<br>(0.086) | -0.050<br>(0.111) | -0.040<br>(0.108) | 0.012<br>(0.029)           | 0.012<br>(0.029) | 0.036<br>(0.034)  | 0.032<br>(0.034)  | 0.035<br>(0.126)             | 0.047<br>(0.142)  | 0.039<br>(0.161)  | 0.062<br>(0.171)  |
| Political Connection                                  | -0.028<br>(0.053)          | 0.019<br>(0.061) | -0.155<br>(0.113) | -0.067<br>(0.119) | -0.060<br>(0.109)            | 0.013<br>(0.129) | -0.379<br>(0.249) | -0.306<br>(0.247) | 0.030<br>(0.041)           | 0.042<br>(0.043) | 0.124<br>(0.097)  | 0.123<br>(0.098)  | 0.209<br>(0.140)             | 0.379*<br>(0.216) | 0.228<br>(0.567)  | 0.455<br>(0.587)  |
| Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth × Political Connection |                            |                  | 0.002<br>(0.002)  | 0.002<br>(0.002)  |                              |                  | 0.007<br>(0.004)  | 0.006<br>(0.004)  |                            |                  | -0.002<br>(0.002) | -0.002<br>(0.002) |                              |                   | -0.000<br>(0.010) | -0.001<br>(0.010) |
| Local Characteristics                                 | Yes                        | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                          | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                        | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                          | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               |
| Politician Characteristics                            | No                         | Yes              | No                | Yes               | No                           | Yes              | No                | Yes               | No                         | Yes              | No                | Yes               | No                           | Yes               | No                | Yes               |
| Province FE                                           | Yes                        | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                          | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                        | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                          | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               |
| Prefecture FE                                         | Yes                        | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                          | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                        | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                          | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               |
| Year FE                                               | Yes                        | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                          | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                        | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                          | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               |
| Observations                                          | 474                        | 474              | 474               | 474               | 133                          | 133              | 133               | 133               | 655                        | 655              | 655               | 655               | 71                           | 71                | 71                | 71                |

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

**Table A14: Promotion of Prefectural-Level Politicians upon Term Completion (Relative GDP Performance to Competitors; by Age Eligibility for Promotion)**

|                                                   | Prefecture Party Secretary |                   |                   |                   |                              |                  |                   |                   | Prefecture Mayor           |                  |                  |                  |                              |                   |                   |                   |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                                   | Age Eligible for Promotion |                   |                   |                   | Age Ineligible for Promotion |                  |                   |                   | Age Eligible for Promotion |                  |                  |                  | Age Ineligible for Promotion |                   |                   |                   |
|                                                   | (1)                        | (2)               | (3)               | (4)               | (5)                          | (6)              | (7)               | (8)               | (9)                        | (10)             | (11)             | (12)             | (13)                         | (14)              | (15)              | (16)              |
| Relative GDP Growth                               | -0.004<br>(0.040)          | -0.006<br>(0.040) | -0.017<br>(0.045) | -0.019<br>(0.044) | 0.070<br>(0.101)             | 0.078<br>(0.101) | 0.068<br>(0.126)  | 0.080<br>(0.126)  | 0.026<br>(0.033)           | 0.024<br>(0.033) | 0.024<br>(0.037) | 0.020<br>(0.037) | 0.056<br>(0.296)             | 0.137<br>(0.290)  | 0.080<br>(0.307)  | 0.150<br>(0.303)  |
| Political Connection                              | -0.033<br>(0.053)          | 0.017<br>(0.061)  | -0.104<br>(0.127) | -0.051<br>(0.131) | -0.062<br>(0.105)            | 0.009<br>(0.128) | -0.069<br>(0.269) | 0.019<br>(0.290)  | 0.028<br>(0.040)           | 0.042<br>(0.043) | 0.020<br>(0.096) | 0.023<br>(0.094) | 0.205<br>(0.144)             | 0.377*<br>(0.219) | 0.474<br>(0.433)  | 0.557<br>(0.452)  |
| Relative GDP Growth $\times$ Political Connection |                            |                   | 0.001<br>(0.002)  | 0.001<br>(0.002)  |                              |                  | 0.000<br>(0.004)  | -0.000<br>(0.004) |                            |                  | 0.000<br>(0.002) | 0.000<br>(0.002) |                              |                   | -0.005<br>(0.007) | -0.003<br>(0.009) |
| Local Characteristics                             | Yes                        | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                          | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                        | Yes              | Yes              | Yes              | Yes                          | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               |
| Politician Characteristics                        | No                         | Yes               | No                | Yes               | No                           | Yes              | No                | Yes               | No                         | Yes              | No               | Yes              | No                           | Yes               | No                | Yes               |
| Province FE                                       | Yes                        | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                          | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                        | Yes              | Yes              | Yes              | Yes                          | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               |
| Prefecture FE                                     | Yes                        | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                          | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                        | Yes              | Yes              | Yes              | Yes                          | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               |
| Year FE                                           | Yes                        | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                          | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                        | Yes              | Yes              | Yes              | Yes                          | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               |
| Observations                                      | 473                        | 473               | 473               | 473               | 133                          | 133              | 133               | 133               | 655                        | 655              | 655              | 655              | 71                           | 71                | 71                | 71                |

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

**Table A15: Promotion of County-Level Politicians upon Term Completion (Relative Revenue Performance to Competitors; by Age Eligibility for Promotion)**

|                                                       | County Party Secretary     |                     |                    |                    |                              |                   |                   |                   | County Head                |                    |                     |                     |                              |                  |                   |                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                                       | Age Eligible for Promotion |                     |                    |                    | Age Ineligible for Promotion |                   |                   |                   | Age Eligible for Promotion |                    |                     |                     | Age Ineligible for Promotion |                  |                   |                   |
|                                                       | (1)                        | (2)                 | (3)                | (4)                | (5)                          | (6)               | (7)               | (8)               | (9)                        | (10)               | (11)                | (12)                | (13)                         | (14)             | (15)              | (16)              |
| Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth                        | 0.043***<br>(0.015)        | 0.042***<br>(0.015) | 0.041**<br>(0.017) | 0.040**<br>(0.017) | 0.042<br>(0.049)             | 0.045<br>(0.050)  | 0.004<br>(0.054)  | 0.006<br>(0.054)  | 0.024**<br>(0.011)         | 0.024**<br>(0.011) | 0.037***<br>(0.014) | 0.040***<br>(0.014) | 0.147<br>(0.185)             | 0.134<br>(0.167) | 0.212<br>(0.199)  | 0.141<br>(0.199)  |
| Political Connection                                  | -0.039*<br>(0.023)         | -0.009<br>(0.025)   | -0.039*<br>(0.023) | -0.009<br>(0.025)  | -0.087<br>(0.080)            | -0.068<br>(0.089) | -0.086<br>(0.079) | -0.068<br>(0.090) | 0.028<br>(0.017)           | 0.032*<br>(0.019)  | 0.086**<br>(0.041)  | 0.099**<br>(0.041)  | 0.039<br>(0.260)             | 0.009<br>(0.346) | 0.399<br>(0.616)  | 0.042<br>(0.739)  |
| Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth × Political Connection |                            |                     | 0.007<br>(0.030)   | 0.004<br>(0.030)   |                              |                   | 0.128<br>(0.113)  | 0.135<br>(0.114)  |                            |                    | -0.001<br>(0.001)   | -0.001*<br>(0.001)  |                              |                  | -0.007<br>(0.011) | -0.001<br>(0.013) |
| Local Characteristics                                 | Yes                        | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                | Yes                          | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                        | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                          | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               |
| Politician Characteristics                            | No                         | Yes                 | No                 | Yes                | No                           | Yes               | No                | Yes               | No                         | Yes                | No                  | Yes                 | No                           | Yes              | No                | Yes               |
| Province FE                                           | Yes                        | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                | Yes                          | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                        | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                          | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               |
| Prefecture FE                                         | Yes                        | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                | Yes                          | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                        | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                          | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               |
| Year FE                                               | Yes                        | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                | Yes                          | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                        | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                          | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               |
| Observations                                          | 2,920                      | 2,920               | 2,920              | 2,920              | 588                          | 588               | 588               | 588               | 3,743                      | 3,743              | 3,743               | 3,743               | 173                          | 173              | 173               | 173               |

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

**Table A16: Promotion of County-Level Politicians upon Term Completion (Relative GDP Performance to Competitors; by Age Eligibility for Promotion)**

|                                            | County Party Secretary     |                     |                     |                     |                              |                   |                   |                   | County Head                |                     |                     |                     |                              |                   |                   |                   |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                            | Age Eligible for Promotion |                     |                     |                     | Age Ineligible for Promotion |                   |                   |                   | Age Eligible for Promotion |                     |                     |                     | Age Ineligible for Promotion |                   |                   |                   |
|                                            | (1)                        | (2)                 | (3)                 | (4)                 | (5)                          | (6)               | (7)               | (8)               | (9)                        | (10)                | (11)                | (12)                | (13)                         | (14)              | (15)              | (16)              |
| Relative GDP Growth                        | 0.050***<br>(0.015)        | 0.049***<br>(0.015) | 0.059***<br>(0.019) | 0.057***<br>(0.019) | 0.014<br>(0.046)             | 0.017<br>(0.046)  | 0.000<br>(0.048)  | 0.003<br>(0.048)  | 0.040***<br>(0.012)        | 0.039***<br>(0.012) | 0.044***<br>(0.015) | 0.044***<br>(0.015) | 0.048<br>(0.251)             | -0.013<br>(0.219) | 0.133<br>(0.320)  | 0.031<br>(0.285)  |
| Political Connection                       | -0.043*<br>(0.023)         | -0.014<br>(0.025)   | -0.043*<br>(0.023)  | -0.014<br>(0.025)   | -0.067<br>(0.080)            | -0.058<br>(0.090) | -0.070<br>(0.079) | -0.061<br>(0.090) | 0.032*<br>(0.017)          | 0.034*<br>(0.019)   | 0.050<br>(0.043)    | 0.054<br>(0.043)    | 0.135<br>(0.259)             | 0.112<br>(0.322)  | 0.377<br>(0.563)  | 0.251<br>(0.531)  |
| Relative GDP Growth × Political Connection |                            |                     | -0.024<br>(0.032)   | -0.024<br>(0.032)   |                              |                   | 0.054<br>(0.112)  | 0.054<br>(0.113)  |                            |                     | -0.000<br>(0.001)   | -0.000<br>(0.001)   |                              |                   | -0.005<br>(0.010) | -0.003<br>(0.009) |
| Local Characteristics                      | Yes                        | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                          | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                        | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                          | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               |
| Politician Characteristics                 | No                         | Yes                 | No                  | Yes                 | No                           | Yes               | No                | Yes               | No                         | Yes                 | No                  | Yes                 | No                           | Yes               | No                | Yes               |
| Province FE                                | Yes                        | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                          | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                        | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                          | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               |
| Prefecture FE                              | Yes                        | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                          | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                        | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                          | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               |
| Year FE                                    | Yes                        | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                          | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                        | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                          | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               |
| Observations                               | 2,878                      | 2,878               | 2,878               | 2,878               | 582                          | 582               | 582               | 582               | 3,688                      | 3,688               | 3,688               | 3,688               | 172                          | 172               | 172               | 172               |

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1



**Table A17: Promotion of County-Level Politician upon Term Completion (Relative Revenue Performance to Competitors; County vs. Urban District)**

|                                                              | Party Secretary     |                    |                     |                   |                     |                   |                     |                   | County Head         |                  |                      |                     |                     |                  |                     |                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|                                                              | County              |                    |                     |                   | Urban District      |                   |                     |                   | County              |                  |                      |                     | Urban District      |                  |                     |                  |
|                                                              | (1)                 | (2)                | (3)                 | (4)               | (5)                 | (6)               | (7)                 | (8)               | (9)                 | (10)             | (11)                 | (12)                | (13)                | (14)             | (15)                | (16)             |
| Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth                               | 0.039***<br>(0.014) | 0.035**<br>(0.017) | 0.051***<br>(0.017) | 0.040*<br>(0.020) | 0.033<br>(0.021)    | 0.036<br>(0.027)  | 0.036<br>(0.026)    | 0.021<br>(0.031)  | 0.033***<br>(0.011) | 0.019<br>(0.014) | 0.059***<br>(0.015)  | 0.050***<br>(0.019) | 0.008<br>(0.018)    | 0.028<br>(0.022) | 0.006<br>(0.024)    | 0.028<br>(0.030) |
| Political Connection                                         | -0.050**<br>(0.021) | -0.005<br>(0.028)  | -0.051**<br>(0.021) | -0.006<br>(0.028) | -0.079**<br>(0.036) | -0.048<br>(0.049) | -0.078**<br>(0.036) | -0.053<br>(0.049) | 0.039**<br>(0.017)  | 0.014<br>(0.022) | 0.035**<br>(0.017)   | 0.011<br>(0.022)    | 0.091***<br>(0.033) | 0.068<br>(0.045) | 0.090***<br>(0.034) | 0.067<br>(0.046) |
| Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth $\times$ Political Connection |                     |                    | -0.034<br>(0.027)   | -0.013<br>(0.035) |                     |                   | -0.009<br>(0.044)   | 0.044<br>(0.060)  |                     |                  | -0.060***<br>(0.022) | -0.068**<br>(0.027) |                     |                  | 0.005<br>(0.040)    | 0.002<br>(0.049) |
| Local Characteristics Politician Characteristics             | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes              | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes              | Yes                 | Yes              |
| Province FE                                                  | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes              | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes              | Yes                 | Yes              |
| Prefecture FE                                                | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes              | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes              | Yes                 | Yes              |
| Year FE                                                      | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes              | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes              | Yes                 | Yes              |
| Observations                                                 | 3,428               | 2,549              | 3,428               | 2,549             | 1,302               | 952               | 1,302               | 952               | 4,166               | 2,854            | 4,166                | 2,854               | 1,563               | 1,057            | 1,563               | 1,057            |

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

**Table A18: Promotion of County-Level Politician upon Term Completion (Relative GDP Performance to Competitors; County vs. Urban District)**

|                                            | Party Secretary     |                   |                     |                   |                     |                    |                    |                     | County Head        |                   |                    |                   |                     |                    |                     |                    |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
|                                            | County              |                   |                     |                   | Urban District      |                    |                    |                     | County             |                   |                    |                   | Urban District      |                    |                     |                    |
|                                            | (1)                 | (2)               | (3)                 | (4)               | (5)                 | (6)                | (7)                | (8)                 | (9)                | (10)              | (11)               | (12)              | (13)                | (14)               | (15)                | (16)               |
| Relative GDP Growth                        | 0.039***<br>(0.014) | 0.034*<br>(0.018) | 0.038**<br>(0.018)  | 0.029<br>(0.021)  | 0.036*<br>(0.021)   | 0.064**<br>(0.026) | 0.056**<br>(0.027) | 0.087***<br>(0.033) | 0.028**<br>(0.013) | 0.027*<br>(0.015) | 0.034*<br>(0.018)  | 0.031<br>(0.020)  | 0.044**<br>(0.019)  | 0.054**<br>(0.023) | 0.054**<br>(0.024)  | 0.074**<br>(0.031) |
| Political Connection                       | -0.050**<br>(0.021) | -0.007<br>(0.028) | -0.050**<br>(0.021) | -0.006<br>(0.028) | -0.076**<br>(0.037) | -0.050<br>(0.050)  | -0.068*<br>(0.037) | -0.041<br>(0.050)   | 0.039**<br>(0.017) | 0.016<br>(0.022)  | 0.038**<br>(0.017) | 0.016<br>(0.022)  | 0.094***<br>(0.034) | 0.073<br>(0.046)   | 0.098***<br>(0.035) | 0.079*<br>(0.047)  |
| Relative GDP Growth × Political Connection |                     |                   | 0.001<br>(0.032)    | 0.015<br>(0.039)  |                     |                    | -0.054<br>(0.046)  | -0.056<br>(0.058)   |                    |                   | -0.013<br>(0.026)  | -0.009<br>(0.031) |                     |                    | -0.027<br>(0.038)   | -0.049<br>(0.046)  |
| Local Characteristics Politician           | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes               | Yes                | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                |
| Province FE                                | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes               | Yes                | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                |
| Prefecture FE                              | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes               | Yes                | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                |
| Year FE                                    | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes               | Yes                | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                |
| Observations                               | 3,425               | 2,547             | 3,425               | 2,547             | 1,225               | 906                | 1,225              | 906                 | 4,152              | 2,844             | 4,152              | 2,844             | 1,472               | 1,011              | 1,472               | 1,011              |

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

**Table A19: Promotion of County-Level Politician upon Term Completion (Relative Revenue Performance to Competitors; Minority vs. Non-Minority Jurisdictions)**

|                                                          | County Party Secretary |                     |                      |                    |                   |                   |                   |                   | County Head         |                    |                     |                     |                  |                  |                   |                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                                          | Non-Minority           |                     |                      |                    | Minority          |                   |                   |                   | Non-Minority        |                    |                     |                     | Minority         |                  |                   |                   |
|                                                          | (1)                    | (2)                 | (3)                  | (4)                | (5)               | (6)               | (7)               | (8)               | (9)                 | (10)               | (11)                | (12)                | (13)             | (14)             | (15)              | (16)              |
| Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth                           | 0.043***<br>(0.011)    | 0.042***<br>(0.014) | 0.046***<br>(0.014)  | 0.037**<br>(0.016) | -0.033<br>(0.049) | -0.042<br>(0.064) | 0.001<br>(0.061)  | -0.000<br>(0.077) | 0.023**<br>(0.009)  | 0.026**<br>(0.011) | 0.036***<br>(0.012) | 0.039***<br>(0.015) | 0.070<br>(0.063) | 0.036<br>(0.090) | 0.107<br>(0.088)  | 0.134<br>(0.123)  |
| Political Connection                                     | -0.058***<br>(0.018)   | -0.003<br>(0.024)   | -0.058***<br>(0.018) | -0.003<br>(0.024)  | -0.010<br>(0.071) | -0.099<br>(0.098) | -0.012<br>(0.072) | -0.102<br>(0.097) | 0.046***<br>(0.015) | 0.028<br>(0.019)   | 0.046***<br>(0.015) | 0.028<br>(0.019)    | 0.114<br>(0.075) | 0.052<br>(0.130) | 0.115<br>(0.075)  | 0.039<br>(0.128)  |
| Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth<br>× Political Connection |                        |                     | -0.009<br>(0.023)    | 0.013<br>(0.029)   |                   |                   | -0.101<br>(0.101) | -0.127<br>(0.123) |                     |                    | -0.032*<br>(0.019)  | -0.029<br>(0.022)   |                  |                  | -0.090<br>(0.125) | -0.207<br>(0.184) |
| Local Characteristics                                    | Yes                    | Yes                 | Yes                  | Yes                | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes              | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               |
| Politician Characteristics                               | No                     | Yes                 | No                   | Yes                | No                | Yes               | No                | Yes               | No                  | Yes                | No                  | Yes                 | No               | Yes              | No                | Yes               |
| Province FE                                              | Yes                    | Yes                 | Yes                  | Yes                | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes              | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               |
| Prefecture FE                                            | Yes                    | Yes                 | Yes                  | Yes                | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes              | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               |
| Year FE                                                  | Yes                    | Yes                 | Yes                  | Yes                | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes              | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               |
| Observations                                             | 4,374                  | 3,254               | 4,374                | 3,254              | 365               | 254               | 365               | 254               | 5,411               | 3,710              | 5,411               | 3,710               | 326              | 206              | 326               | 206               |

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

**Table A20: Promotion of County-Level Politician upon Term Completion (Relative GDP Performance to Competitors; Minority vs. Non-Minority Jurisdictions)**

|                                            | County Party Secretary |                     |                      |                     |                   |                   |                   |                   | County Head         |                     |                     |                     |                  |                   |                   |                   |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                            | Non-Minority           |                     |                      |                     | Minority          |                   |                   |                   | Non-Minority        |                     |                     |                     | Minority         |                   |                   |                   |
|                                            | (1)                    | (2)                 | (3)                  | (4)                 | (5)               | (6)               | (7)               | (8)               | (9)                 | (10)                | (11)                | (12)                | (13)             | (14)              | (15)              | (16)              |
| Relative GDP Growth                        | 0.040***<br>(0.011)    | 0.044***<br>(0.014) | 0.050***<br>(0.014)  | 0.052***<br>(0.017) | 0.045<br>(0.063)  | 0.043<br>(0.077)  | -0.004<br>(0.083) | 0.005<br>(0.111)  | 0.035***<br>(0.011) | 0.036***<br>(0.012) | 0.042***<br>(0.014) | 0.045***<br>(0.016) | 0.054<br>(0.054) | 0.075<br>(0.077)  | 0.056<br>(0.086)  | 0.055<br>(0.123)  |
| Political Connection                       | -0.058***<br>(0.018)   | -0.007<br>(0.024)   | -0.058***<br>(0.018) | -0.007<br>(0.024)   | -0.007<br>(0.073) | -0.089<br>(0.105) | -0.008<br>(0.073) | -0.094<br>(0.106) | 0.048***<br>(0.015) | 0.032*<br>(0.019)   | 0.048***<br>(0.015) | 0.032<br>(0.019)    | 0.107<br>(0.080) | -0.003<br>(0.149) | 0.107<br>(0.081)  | -0.004<br>(0.149) |
| Relative GDP Growth × Political Connection |                        |                     | -0.031<br>(0.025)    | -0.023<br>(0.031)   |                   |                   | 0.122<br>(0.122)  | 0.079<br>(0.151)  |                     |                     | -0.018<br>(0.021)   | -0.019<br>(0.024)   |                  |                   | -0.004<br>(0.110) | 0.043<br>(0.180)  |
| Local Characteristics                      | Yes                    | Yes                 | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               |
| Politician Characteristics                 | No                     | Yes                 | No                   | Yes                 | No                | Yes               | No                | Yes               | No                  | Yes                 | No                  | Yes                 | No               | Yes               | No                | Yes               |
| Province FE                                | Yes                    | Yes                 | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               |
| Prefecture FE                              | Yes                    | Yes                 | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               |
| Year FE                                    | Yes                    | Yes                 | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes              | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               |
| Observations                               | 4,303                  | 3,212               | 4,303                | 3,212               | 356               | 248               | 356               | 248               | 5,317               | 3,661               | 5,317               | 3,661               | 315              | 199               | 315               | 199               |

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

**Table A21: Promotion of Party Secretaries on Yearly Data (Relative Revenue Performance to Competitors)**

|                                                       | Provincial-level  |                   |                   |                   | Prefecture-level     |                      |                      |                      | County-level        |                    |                    |                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
|                                                       | (1)               | (2)               | (3)               | (4)               | (5)                  | (6)                  | (7)                  | (8)                  | (9)                 | (10)               | (11)               | (12)             |
| Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth                        | -0.012<br>(0.016) | -0.006<br>(0.015) | 0.008<br>(0.031)  | 0.010<br>(0.027)  | 0.004<br>(0.006)     | 0.005<br>(0.007)     | 0.005<br>(0.010)     | 0.003<br>(0.010)     | 0.016***<br>(0.005) | 0.012**<br>(0.005) | 0.014**<br>(0.006) | 0.011<br>(0.007) |
| Political Connection                                  | -0.020<br>(0.024) | -0.018<br>(0.021) | -0.019<br>(0.024) | -0.016<br>(0.021) | -0.063***<br>(0.012) | -0.081***<br>(0.013) | -0.063***<br>(0.012) | -0.081***<br>(0.013) | -0.024*<br>(0.012)  | 0.008<br>(0.015)   | -0.024*<br>(0.012) | 0.007<br>(0.015) |
| Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth × Political Connection |                   |                   | -0.042<br>(0.044) | -0.036<br>(0.038) |                      |                      | -0.002<br>(0.013)    | 0.004<br>(0.013)     |                     |                    | 0.003<br>(0.009)   | 0.005<br>(0.011) |
| Local Characteristics                                 | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                | Yes              |
| Politician Characteristics                            | No                | Yes               | No                | Yes               | No                   | Yes                  | No                   | Yes                  | No                  | Yes                | No                 | Yes              |
| Province FE                                           | No                | No                | No                | No                | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                | Yes              |
| Prefecture FE                                         | -                 | -                 | -                 | -                 | No                   | No                   | No                   | No                   | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                | Yes              |
| Year FE                                               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                | Yes              |
| Observations                                          | 274               | 274               | 274               | 274               | 2,386                | 2,237                | 2,386                | 2,237                | 13,627              | 10,076             | 13,627             | 10,076           |

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

**Table A22: Promotion of Government Executives on Yearly Data (Relative Revenue Performance to Competitors)**

|                                                       | Provincial-level  |                   |                   |                   | Prefecture-level     |                      |                      |                      | County-level        |                    |                     |                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
|                                                       | (1)               | (2)               | (3)               | (4)               | (5)                  | (6)                  | (7)                  | (8)                  | (9)                 | (10)               | (11)                | (12)               |
| Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth                        | -0.026<br>(0.019) | -0.019<br>(0.015) | -0.023<br>(0.026) | -0.010<br>(0.020) | 0.000<br>(0.009)     | 0.002<br>(0.009)     | 0.014<br>(0.013)     | 0.021<br>(0.014)     | 0.010**<br>(0.004)  | 0.011**<br>(0.005) | 0.011*<br>(0.006)   | 0.015**<br>(0.006) |
| Political Connection                                  | 0.060<br>(0.038)  | 0.054<br>(0.040)  | 0.060<br>(0.038)  | 0.055<br>(0.041)  | -0.101***<br>(0.018) | -0.139***<br>(0.017) | -0.102***<br>(0.018) | -0.140***<br>(0.018) | 0.030***<br>(0.011) | 0.002<br>(0.013)   | 0.030***<br>(0.011) | 0.002<br>(0.013)   |
| Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth × Political Connection |                   |                   | -0.007<br>(0.036) | -0.021<br>(0.031) |                      |                      | -0.027*<br>(0.016)   | -0.035**<br>(0.017)  |                     |                    | -0.002<br>(0.009)   | -0.008<br>(0.010)  |
| Local Characteristics                                 | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                |
| Politician Characteristics                            | No                | Yes               | No                | Yes               | No                   | Yes                  | No                   | Yes                  | No                  | Yes                | No                  | Yes                |
| Province FE                                           | No                | No                | No                | No                | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                |
| Prefecture FE                                         | -                 | -                 | -                 | -                 | No                   | No                   | No                   | No                   | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                |
| Year FE                                               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes                |
| Observations                                          | 272               | 272               | 272               | 272               | 2,389                | 2,272                | 2,389                | 2,272                | 15,032              | 10,320             | 15,032              | 10,320             |

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

**Table A23: Promotion of Party Secretaries on Yearly Data (Relative GDP Performance to Competitors)**

|                                                   | Provincial-level  |                   |                   |                   | Prefecture-level     |                      |                      |                      | County-level        |                     |                     |                    |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
|                                                   | (1)               | (2)               | (3)               | (4)               | (5)                  | (6)                  | (7)                  | (8)                  | (9)                 | (10)                | (11)                | (12)               |
| Relative GDP Growth                               | 0.002<br>(0.012)  | 0.010<br>(0.011)  | -0.008<br>(0.021) | 0.003<br>(0.021)  | -0.006<br>(0.006)    | -0.006<br>(0.006)    | -0.010<br>(0.009)    | -0.012<br>(0.010)    | 0.013***<br>(0.004) | 0.013***<br>(0.005) | 0.014***<br>(0.005) | 0.015**<br>(0.006) |
| Political Connection                              | -0.019<br>(0.025) | -0.019<br>(0.023) | -0.018<br>(0.025) | -0.018<br>(0.023) | -0.064***<br>(0.012) | -0.081***<br>(0.013) | -0.064***<br>(0.012) | -0.080***<br>(0.013) | -0.022*<br>(0.013)  | 0.007<br>(0.015)    | -0.022*<br>(0.013)  | 0.007<br>(0.015)   |
| Relative GDP Growth $\times$ Political Connection |                   |                   | 0.018<br>(0.025)  | 0.013<br>(0.024)  |                      |                      | 0.009<br>(0.011)     | 0.012<br>(0.012)     |                     |                     | -0.002<br>(0.009)   | -0.006<br>(0.011)  |
| Local Characteristics                             | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                |
| Politician Characteristics                        | No                | Yes               | No                | Yes               | No                   | Yes                  | No                   | Yes                  | No                  | Yes                 | No                  | Yes                |
| Province FE                                       | No                | No                | No                | No                | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                |
| Prefecture FE                                     | -                 | -                 | -                 | -                 | No                   | No                   | No                   | No                   | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                |
| Year FE                                           | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                |
| Observations                                      | 274               | 274               | 274               | 274               | 2,385                | 2,237                | 2,385                | 2,237                | 13,319              | 9,886               | 13,319              | 9,886              |

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

**Table A24: Promotion of Government Executives on Yearly Data (Relative GDP Performance to Competitors)**

|                                               | Provincial-level  |                   |                   |                   | Prefecture-level     |                      |                      |                      | County-level        |                     |                     |                     |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                                               | (1)               | (2)               | (3)               | (4)               | (5)                  | (6)                  | (7)                  | (8)                  | (9)                 | (10)                | (11)                | (12)                |
| Relative GDP Growth                           | -0.012<br>(0.011) | -0.008<br>(0.011) | -0.014<br>(0.022) | -0.008<br>(0.021) | 0.006<br>(0.008)     | 0.005<br>(0.008)     | 0.007<br>(0.012)     | 0.008<br>(0.013)     | 0.014***<br>(0.004) | 0.016***<br>(0.004) | 0.014***<br>(0.005) | 0.017***<br>(0.006) |
| Political Connection                          | 0.058<br>(0.038)  | 0.054<br>(0.040)  | 0.058<br>(0.038)  | 0.054<br>(0.040)  | -0.101***<br>(0.018) | -0.139***<br>(0.017) | -0.101***<br>(0.018) | -0.139***<br>(0.018) | 0.032***<br>(0.011) | 0.005<br>(0.013)    | 0.032***<br>(0.011) | 0.005<br>(0.013)    |
| Relative GDP Growth<br>× Political Connection |                   |                   | 0.003<br>(0.032)  | 0.000<br>(0.031)  |                      |                      | -0.002<br>(0.015)    | -0.005<br>(0.016)    |                     |                     | -0.000<br>(0.008)   | -0.003<br>(0.009)   |
| Local Characteristics                         | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 |
| Politician Characteristics                    | No                | Yes               | No                | Yes               | No                   | Yes                  | No                   | Yes                  | No                  | Yes                 | No                  | Yes                 |
| Province FE                                   | No                | No                | No                | No                | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 |
| Prefecture FE                                 | -                 | -                 | -                 | -                 | No                   | No                   | No                   | No                   | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 |
| Year FE                                       | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes               | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 | Yes                 |
| Observations                                  | 272               | 272               | 272               | 272               | 2,388                | 2,270                | 2,388                | 2,270                | 14,694              | 10,129              | 14,694              | 10,129              |

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1



## **Online Appendix – B: The coding rules for career changes**

We identify six different categories of career changes among politicians in our dataset: promotion, transfer, retirement, dismissal for misconduct, demotion, and death. All codes apply to the status of a given official within 12 months of exiting her/his current post. For example, if a leader is transferred out of jurisdiction X to a post of equal rank in March of 2004, but is promoted in June of 2004, we code the outcome of her term in jurisdiction X as a promotion. Our coding rules are as follows:

### **1. Promotion:**

Promotion is defined as an appointment to a higher-ranking post by the end of the following year. For example, when county (prefecture) party secretaries or county heads (mayors) become deputy-mayor (governor) or deputy party secretary at the prefecture (provincial) level or above, we consider these transitions as promotions. We also coded the move from government executives to the post of CCP secretary in the same level of jurisdiction as promotion, because in the Chinese system, the local government executive is ranked below the party secretary on a given local CCP committee and is normally appointed as the deputy-secretary of the committee. The party secretary is always considered as the most powerful leader in any jurisdiction.

The promotion of provincial officials is more complex in part because we have to consider whether politicians often hold concurrent positions in central level party organs. For example, if a provincial party secretary becomes a member of the Politburo, we code this career move as a promotion even if they were transferred to serve as the party secretary in a different province. We also code the appointment as chairman or vice-chairman of the NPC and CPPCC as a promotions,

which is consistent with the formal rank of these officials or organizational charts.

## 2. Transfer:

Lateral move between positions were coded as transfers. For example, when a county executive or a county party secretary at any level obtained a position as the head of a bureau within a municipality or prefecture, we coded this career move as transfer, because municipal bureau heads u share the same administrative rank as party secretaries or government executives at the county level. The same coding rule applies when a prefectural mayor or party secretary is appointed as the head of a provincial bureau.

## 3. Retirement:

We coded retirement as either a complete exit from all party or government positions, or an appointment in advisory position in the Local People's Congress or the CPPCC at the same level of jurisdiction.

## 4. Dismissal for misconduct:

We coded dismissal for misconduct when an official is removed from office due to an investigation for corruption, negligence of duty, or other wrongdoing.

## 5. Demotion:

A demotions occurs when an official is removed from his/her current position to another party or government position at the lower level.

#### 6. Death:

We coded death when an official passed away while in office due to natural death or disease.