# Codebook: Campaign Spending of Incumbents and Challengers in U.S. Congressional Elections

The following dataset has variables related to elections for the U.S. House. This includes spending patterns of incumbents and challengers and more. The data is at the electoral district level. Each observation represents a specific election. Each line of the data includes information about the district, the incumbent, and the challenger (if there is one). Note that some variables are in a logarithmic scale.

# 1    Variables

**year** - year of election, from 1956 to 1996.

**congress** - the congress number being elected (e.g., the 103rd Congress).

**chalspend** -challenger spending - dollars spent by the challenger in the election (log thousands of dollars).

**incspend** -incumbent spending- dollars spent by the challenger in the election (log thousands of dollars).

**difflog**- difference in spending between the incumbent and the challenger (each in log thousand of dollars).

**presvote**- presidential vote - vote share for the presidential candidate of the incumbent congressional candidates' party in the two most recent elections in the district.

**voteshare**- vote share- share of votes for the incumbent (votes for the incumber divided by the total of votes given to candidates from the two major parties).

**inparty** - the variable equals 1 when the party of the incumbent is the president's party; 0 otherwise.

**incparty** - incumbent's party - the variable equals 1 when the incumbent belongs to the Democratic Party, and 0 when it belongs to the Republican Party.

**seniority**- seniority of the incumbent - number of terms the incumbent has served in congress.

**midterm** - midterm election - the variable equals 1 when the election is a midterm election ; 0 otherwise.

**chalquality**- challenger quality - the variable equals 1 when the challenger has previously won an elected position; 0 otherwise.

**south** - Southern states - the variable equals 1 when the election is conducted in southern state; 0 otherwise.

**population** - log(population) at the district level.

**urban** - urban population at the district level (logged).

**age65** - population over 65 at the district level (logged).

**milpop** - military population at the district level (logged).

**unemployed**- number of people unemployed at the district level (logged).