Centralization is the desire “to shift the locus of effective decision-making authority to the center … to the president” (Moe and Wilson 1994, 18). Here the primary example is the president’s use of the Office of Management and Budget to review agency rules before finalization (Haeder and Yackee 2015, 2018). The role of the courts in agency oversight is also deemed significant. Cranes-Wrone (2003, 206), for instance, finds that “the composition of the courts has a significant effect on bureaucratic decisions, and the effect is comparable in magnitude to [other] widely recognized determinates of administrative behavior.”

information advantage (Hammond and Knott 1996), and often unclear goals (Wilson 1989; Carrigan 2017) are several reasons why some scholars believe that the bureaucracy retains a good deal of independence during some agency policymaking.

agencies are likely to respond differently when they are faced with unidirectional versus contradictory pressures from external actors (Gilad 2015).