CCES Cumulative Common Content (2006 - 2017)

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This dataset combines twelve years (2006 - 2017) of the Cooperative Congressional Election Study (Principal Investigators: Stephen Ansolabehere, Sam Luks, Brian Schaffner).

The Cooperative Congressional Election Study (CCES) is an online survey conducted around November of each year, asking a range of questions on political behavior and public opinion. Questions can change from year to year; this cumulative file includes standard questions asked multiple years.

This dataset was constructed based off CCES datasets from each year. A set of R scripts formatted, merged, and standardized these datasets to generate a `tibble`-style data frame. In addition, the same dataset is available on `Crunch`, an accessible analytics interface optimized for survey datasets.

Please note that this cumulative dataset makes modifications to the original CCES datasets for comparability. These modifications are only made when differences are deemed sufficiently minor, and are documented in source code (see below). However, for details on the survey methodology and a list of all questions, readers should consult the guides for each year.

To see the source code,

report a bug, or ask a question about the data, please feel free to file an issue from the source code page: https://github.com/kuriwaki/cces_cumulative. Alternatively, please contact me by email.

To obtain the individual year's CCES datasets,

search the CCES dataverse (https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/cces) or access the CCES homepage (https://cces.gov.harvard.edu/). Sign-up to the Crunch dataset from the homepage as well.

To examine the survey methodology,

consult the Methodology section of the most recent Common Content's codebook: https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/GDF6Z0.

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Getting Started

The `.Rds` format can be read into R. This format preserves dataset properties such as the distinction between integers and doubles, and labelled variables. Unlike a `.Rdata` file, an `.Rds` file must be assigned to an object when loading.

```
df <- readRDS("cumulative_2006_2017.Rds")
```

The dataset in R is best viewed in `dplyr`, although it can be analyzed as a standard data frame.

```
library(tidyverse)
df
```

```
# A tibble: 392,755 x 76
    year case_id weight weight_cumulative state  st    cd     dist dist_up
   <int>   <int>  <dbl>             <dbl> <chr>  <chr> <chr> <int>   <int>
 1  2006  439219  1.85              1.35  North~ NC    NC-10    10      10
 2  2006  439224  0.968             0.704 Ohio   OH    OH-3      3       3
 3  2006  439228  1.59              1.16  New J~ NJ    NJ-1      1       1
 4  2006  439237  1.40              1.02  Illin~ IL    IL-9      9       9
 5  2006  439238  0.903             0.656 New Y~ NY    NY-22    22      22
 6  2006  439242  0.839             0.610 Texas  TX    TX-11    11      11
 7  2006  439251  0.777             0.565 Minne~ MN    MN-3      3       3
 8  2006  439254  0.839             0.610 Nevada NV    NV-2      2       2
 9  2006  439255  0.331             0.241 Texas  TX    TX-24    24      24
10  2006  439263  1.10              0.802 Maryl~ MD    MD-2      2       2
# ... with 392,745 more rows, and 67 more variables: cong <int>,
#   cong_up <int>, zipcode <chr>, county_fips <chr>, tookpost <int+lbl>,
#   weight_post <dbl>, starttime <dttm>, pid3 <int+lbl>,
#   pid3_leaner <int+lbl>, pid7 <int+lbl>, ideo5 <fct>, gender <int+lbl>,
#   birthyr <int>, age <int>, race <int+lbl>, hispanic <int+lbl>,
#   educ <int+lbl>, faminc <fct>, economy_retro <int+lbl>,
#   approval_pres <int+lbl>, approval_rep <fct>, approval_sen1 <fct>,
#   approval_sen2 <fct>, approval_gov <int+lbl>, intent_pres_08 <fct>,
#   intent_pres_12 <fct>, intent_pres_16 <fct>, voted_pres_08 <fct>,
#   voted_pres_12 <fct>, voted_pres_16 <fct>, vv_regstatus <fct>,
#   vv_party_gen <fct>, vv_party_prm <fct>, vv_turnout_gvm <fct>,
#   vv_turnout_pvm <fct>, intent_rep <fct>, intent_rep_party <fct>,
#   voted_rep <fct>, voted_rep_party <fct>, intent_gov <fct>,
#   intent_gov_party <fct>, voted_gov <fct>, voted_gov_party <fct>,
#   intent_sen <fct>, intent_sen_party <fct>, voted_sen <fct>,
#   voted_sen_party <fct>, intent_rep_chosen <chr>, intent_rep_fec <chr>,
#   intent_sen_chosen <chr>, intent_sen_fec <chr>,
#   intent_gov_chosen <chr>, intent_gov_fec <chr>, voted_rep_chosen <chr>,
#   voted_rep_fec <chr>, voted_sen_chosen <chr>, voted_sen_fec <chr>,
#   voted_gov_chosen <chr>, voted_gov_fec <chr>, rep_current <chr>,
#   rep_icpsr <int>, sen1_current <chr>, sen1_icpsr <int>,
#   sen2_current <chr>, sen2_icpsr <int>, gov_current <chr>, gov_fec <chr>
```

A Stata dta file is provided as well. `cumulative_2006_2017.dta` can be read by Stata, or in R by the haven package

```
library(haven)
df <- read_dta("cumulative_2006_2017.dta")
```

A note on variable types. The R dataset stores variables in `numeric`, `character`, `factor`, or `labelled` format. The first three classes are commonly used, but the `lablelled` format is more recent. Essentially it is similar to a `factor` but more compatible with Stata and SPSS. It is built around R's `haven` package, which includes more documentation.

A labelled variable's labels are not shown immediately in the Console:

```
select(df, year, case_id, pid3)
```

```
# A tibble: 392,755 x 3
    year case_id pid3
   <int>   <int> <int+lbl>
 1  2006  439219 1
 2  2006  439224 4
 3  2006  439228 1
 4  2006  439237 1
 5  2006  439238 1
 6  2006  439242 3
 7  2006  439251 2
 8  2006  439254 1
 9  2006  439255 1
10  2006  439263 1
# ... with 392,745 more rows
```

But labels can be displayed by transforming the labelled vector into a factor.

```
library(haven)
select(df, year, case_id, pid3) %>%
  mutate(pid3_fct = as_factor(pid3))
```

```
# A tibble: 392,755 x 4
    year case_id pid3      pid3_fct
   <int>   <int> <int+lbl> <fct>
 1  2006  439219 1         Democrat
 2  2006  439224 4         Other
 3  2006  439228 1         Democrat
 4  2006  439237 1         Democrat
 5  2006  439238 1         Democrat
 6  2006  439242 3         Independent
 7  2006  439251 2         Republican
 8  2006  439254 1         Democrat
 9  2006  439255 1         Democrat
10  2006  439263 1         Democrat
# ... with 392,745 more rows
```

Features of the 2006 - 2017 Cumulative Dataset

Unified Variable Names

Most variables in this dataset come straight from each year's CCES. However, it renames and standardizes variable names, making them accessible in one place. Please see the rest of this guide or the Crunch dataset for a full list and description of variables.

Chosen Candidate Names and Identifiers

One addition to this cumulative dataset are variables of candidate names and identifiers that a respondent chose. In the individual year's CCES datasets, typically the response values for a vote choice question is a generic label, e.g. `Candidate1` and `Candidate2`. Then, separate variables of names and parties correspond to each `Candidate1` and `Candidate2`.

Instead, the cumulative dataset shows both the generic label *and* the chosen candidate's name, party, and identifier, which will vary across individuals.

```
select(df, year, case_id, st, matches("voted_sen"))
```

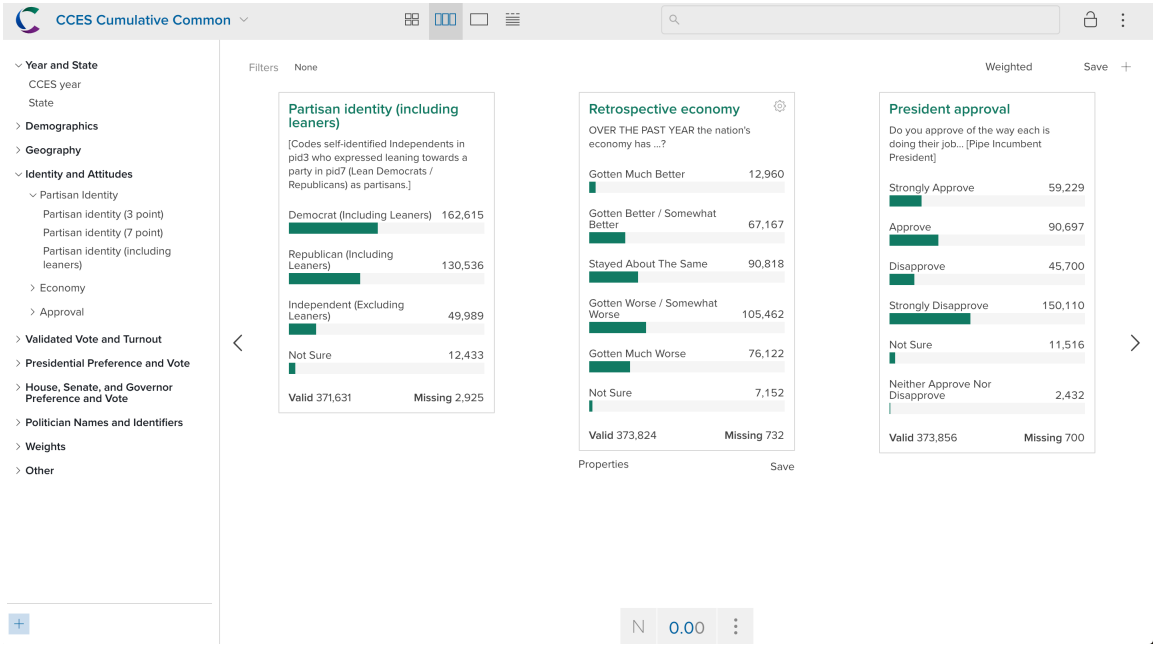
```
# A tibble: 392,755 x 7
    year case_id st    voted_sen       voted_sen_party voted_sen_chosen
   <int>   <int> <chr> <fct>           <fct>           <chr>
 1  2006  439219 NC    <NA>            <NA>            <NA>
 2  2006  439224 OH    [Democrat / Ca~ Democratic      Sherrod C. Brown (~
 3  2006  439228 NJ    [Democrat / Ca~ Democratic      Robert Menendez (D)
 4  2006  439237 IL    <NA>            <NA>            <NA>
 5  2006  439238 NY    [Democrat / Ca~ Democratic      Hillary Rodham Cli~
 6  2006  439242 TX    I Did Not Vote~ <NA>            <NA>
 7  2006  439251 MN    [Republican / ~ Republican      Mark Kennedy (R)
 8  2006  439254 NV    [Democrat / Ca~ Democratic      Jack Carter (D)
 9  2006  439255 TX    [Democrat / Ca~ Democratic      Barbara Ann Radnof~
10  2006  439263 MD    I Did Not Vote~ <NA>            <NA>
# ... with 392,745 more rows, and 1 more variable: voted_sen_fec <chr>
```

Crunch

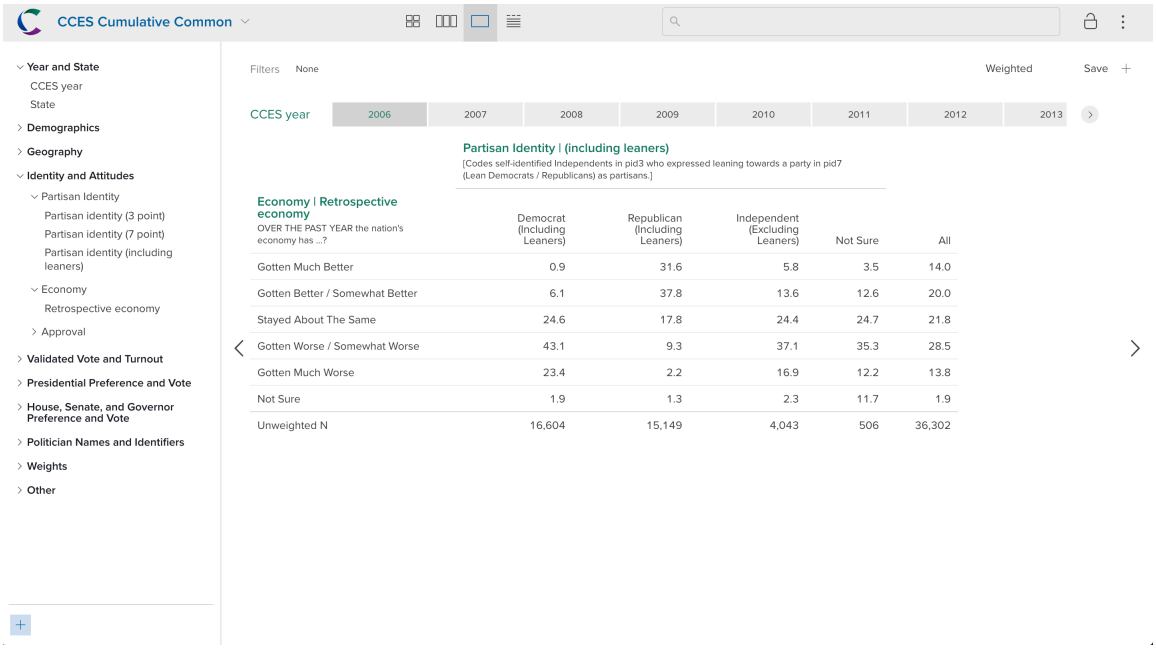
A version of the dataset is also included in Crunch, a database platform that makes it easy to view and analyze survey data either with our without any programming experience. Crunch is in beta at the time of writing.

1. Obtain Access: For View access to the dataset (free), please sign up here: https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_066hQi4Eeco3Kap. For questions and more access, please contact the CCES Team.

2. Browse: Crunch offers a web GUI for quickly browsing variables:



3. Analyze: The crunch interface allows Viewers to make cross-tabs and bar graphs quickly.



Crunch datasets can also be manipulated from a R package, `crunch` https://github.com/Crunch-io/rcrunch.

Variables

The sections below provide summary more information on each variable.

- The title shows the name as used in the dataset, suitable for coding ("alias" in Crunch terminology). followed by a more descriptive. name suitable for presentation ("name" in Crunch terminology).
- Question wordings, where applicable, immediately follow. Otherwise an description is provide in square brackets (`[ ]`). All square brackets, both in the description and the response options, indicate descriptions that are summaries of what the respondent saw rather than the question verbatim.
- A tabulation of response options (or summary statistics for numeric variables) follow. Numbers are unweighted counts.
- The "Years" bullet lists the years of the CCES in which data on the variable is available at all. If a year is not listed, either the question was not asked in the year or was not incorporated in the creation of this dataset.
- Finally, the "Limitations" bullet notes some of the caveats required when interpreting this variable. As this dataset is combinations of different surveys, some year-specific details on implementation are inevitably lost. For example, for all 2016 responses "Not Asked" and "Skipped" are both coded as a `NA` (missing) to stay consistent with past years that did not make that finer distinction.

Administration

`year`: CCES year

[Year of CCES Common Content]

```
year     n
2006 36421
2007  9999
2008 32800
2009 13800
2010 55400
2011 20150
2012 54535
2013 16400
2014 56200
2015 14250
2016 64600
2017 18200
```

`starttime`: Start time

[Pre-election wave start time (up to second)]

```
                Min.               1st Qu.                Median
"2006-10-07 00:02:34" "2010-10-06 15:30:40" "2012-10-10 08:29:31"
                Mean               3rd Qu.                  Max.
"2012-09-06 15:09:20" "2014-10-27 12:03:25" "2017-12-12 23:16:03"
```

- Years: All of 2006-2017

`tookpost`: Took post-election wave

[Whether or not the respondent took the post-election wave of the survey (in even years)]

```
                          tookpost      n
Did Not Take Post-Election Survey  50872
        Took Post-Election Survey 249084
                            <NA>  92799
```

- Years: 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016 (Post-election wave only exists for even years)

Weights

`weight`: Survey weight (Year-Specific)

[weights from pre-election survey of each year]

```
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
0.0000  0.4076  0.7219  1.0000  1.1887 15.0006
```

- Years: All of 2006-2017
- In even years, they are re-computed after vote validation has been computed and those re-computed weights are taken here when available. The weights applied to the sample (which is originally drawn from a matched sample) are constructed to make each year's respondents' pool representative of the national adult population. See the methodology section of the 2016 Guide for details.
- Limitations: Only specific to each year. Built off of the entire pre-election wave sample, but not necessarily to adjust post-election wave respondents. See `weight_post`

`weight_cumulative`: Survey weight (Cumulative)

[weight variable with simple adjustment: multiplied a constant within year to make years comparable]

```
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
0.0000  0.2464  0.4803  0.8089  0.9657 19.3959
```

- Years: All of 2006-2017
- Limitations: Only a simple transformation of `weight`

`weight_post`: Survey weight for post-election wave

[weight for post-election wave respondents. Only available for some of the even years.]

```
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.    NA's
   0.00    0.43    0.71    1.00    1.13   15.00  294978
```

- Years: 2012, 2016
- Limitations: Only available for some even years.

Geography

A series of variables for the respondent's location

- `state`: State (FIPS): [State (Imputed from input zipcode)]
- `st`: State abbreviation (FIPS): [State (Imputed from input zipcode)]
- `dist`: Congressional district number in current Congress: [Current Congressional District Number (Imputed from input zipcode)]
- `dist_up`: Congressional district number for upcoming Congress: [Upcoming Congressional District Number (Imputed from input zipcode)]
- `cd`: Congressional district in current Congress: [Current Congressional District (Imputed from input zipcode)]
- `zipcode`: Zipcode of residence: So that we can ask you about the news and events in your area, in what zip code do you currently reside?
- `county_fips`: County of residence: [County (Imputed from input zipcode)]

```
Observations: 392,755
Variables: 7
$ state       <chr> "California", "Pennsylvania", "Texas", "Texas", "T...
$ st          <chr> "CA", "PA", "TX", "TX", "TX", "NY", "NC", "NC", "M...
$ cd          <chr> "CA-2", "PA-5", "TX-16", "TX-19", "TX-6", "NY-28",...
$ dist        <int> 2, 5, 16, 19, 6, 28, 11, 7, 1, 17, 15, 1, 2, 6, 1,...
$ dist_up     <int> 1, 3, 16, 19, 6, 27, 11, 7, 2, 20, 12, 1, 2, 8, 1,...
$ zipcode     <chr> "95969", "16255", "79924", "79423", "76123", "1413...
$ county_fips <chr> "06007", "42031", "48141", "48303", "48439", "3606...
```

- Years: All of 2006-2017
- Limitations: Some years do not provide the variable relevant to `dist_up`, in which case the current district (`dist`) is assigned automatically. Thus, `dist_up` may not reflect, for example, district changes in off-cycle redistricting. Only residence (not registration) geographies included here; see individual years' for registration geographies.

Demographics

`gender`: Gender

Are you male or female?

```
 gender      n
   Male 184273
 Female 208482
```

- Years: All of 2006-2017

`birthyr`: Year of birth

In what year were you born?

```
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
   1900    1950    1960    1962    1975    1999
```

- Years: All of 2006-2017

`age`: Age

[Approximate age computed from the year of survey minus Year of Birth]

```
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
  18.00   37.00   52.00   49.84   62.00  109.00
```

- Years: All of 2006-2017

`educ`: Education

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

```
                educ      n
               No HS  11781
 High School Graduate 108706
         Some College  99659
               2-Year  37584
               4-Year  88755
            Post-Grad  46203
                <NA>     67
```

- Years: All of 2006-2017

`race`: Race

What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

```
            race      n
           White 292782
           Black  43531
        Hispanic  30959
           Asian   7335
 Native American   3096
           Mixed   7441
           Other   7002
  Middle Eastern    609
```

- Years: All of 2006-2017
- Limitations: The "Hispanic" value may undercount self-identified Hispanics. See `hispanic`

`hispanic`: Hispanic

Are you of Spanish, Latino, or Hispanic origin or descent? [Asked if response to race is not Hispanic]

```
 hispanic      n
      Yes   9094
       No 264014
     <NA> 119647
```

- Years: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017
- In years in which this question was fielded, this question supplements the `race` variable by asking does who did *not* respnd "Hipsanic" in the `race` question.

`faminc`: Family Income

Thinking back over the last year, what was your family's annual income? [Brackets coarsened]

faminc	n
Less than 10k	15880
10k - 20k	28630
20k - 30k	40176
30k - 40k	40586
40k - 50k	36487
50k - 60k	35620
60k - 70k	26004
70k - 80k	28193
80k - 100k	32741
100k - 120k	23952
120k - 150k	18936
150k+	21259
Prefer not to say	43063
Skipped	12
<NA>	1216

- Years: All of 2006-2017
- Limitations: The income brackets provided in the question has changed slightly over time. The brackets in this cumulative dataset coarsens the brackets so that the bracket labeling are all correct, but with loss of some granularity. In particular, the brackets from 2006 - 2010 are different from those before. From 2011-2016, brackets over 150k were asked in a follow-up question when the respondent initially selected "over 150k". These are all grouped in this cumulative dataset.
- The 2009 CCES did not have an option for 60-70k.

Validations

`vv_regstatus`: Validated registration status

[Validation results. Missing if validation was not conducted in the year. Categories are aggregated. Both Matched-not registered and unmatched are labeled as a no record.]

vv_regstatus	n
Active	178356
No Record Of Registration	61861
Unregistered	13826
Dropped	5294
Inactive	3047
Multiple Appearances	1151
<NA>	129220

- Years: 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016
- Limitations: Collapses some response options

`vv_party_gen`: Validated registered party

[Validation results. Only available for some staets and years]

vv_party_gen	n
No Record Of Party Registration	60890
Unknown	51379
Democratic Party	27058
Republican Party	21522
No Party Affiliation	9835
Declined To State	1579
Other	1286
Independent Party	1176
Liberatarian Party	376
Green Party	194
Constitution Party	27
Reform Party	9
Socialist Party	3
Cns	1
<NA>	217420

- Years: 2012, 2014, 2016
- Limitations: Not available for some even years

`vv_party_prm`: Validated registered Primary party

[Validation results. Only available for some staets and years]

vv_party_prm	n
No Record Of Party Registration	157120
Republican Party	10010
Democratic Party	8202
Other	3
<NA>	217420

- Years: 2012, 2014, 2016
- Limitations: Not available for some even years

Turnout

`vv_turnout_gvm`: Validated turnout General Election

[Validation results. All vote methods (polling, mail, early, unknown, etc..) are aggregated as a vote.]

vv_turnout_gvm	n
Voted	169204
No Record Of Voting	129019
No Voter File	1733
<NA>	92799

- Years: 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016
- Limitations: Collapses most response options. In particular, the particular voting method is collapsed into one category, even though `gvm` stands for General Election voting method. Also, the result of not matching to a voter file is collapsed with the result of matching to a voter file and having no indication of turning out to vote. The distinction is unclear in earlier years, and is thus collapsed for all years here. For finer distinctions, see the individual year's CCES.

`vv_turnout_pvm`: Validated turnout Primary Election (Congressional)

[Validation results]

vv_turnout_pvm	n
No Record Of Voting	185927
Voted	76245
No Voter File	1363
<NA>	129220

- Years: 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016
- Limitations: See `vv_turnout_gvm`

Identity and Attitudes

Partisan Identity

`pid3`: Partisan identity (3 point)

Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a . . . ?

```
       pid3      n
   Democrat 139175
 Republican 102907
Independent 109594
      Other  15437
   Not Sure  16742
       <NA>   8900
```

- Years: All of 2006-2017
- Limitations: Response options offer slightly by year. For example, the `Not Sure` option is not a response option in years 2006 and 2010. Open-text responses not included. 2010 values are from the post-election wave.

`pid7`: Partisan identity (7 point)

[Based on branching from Partisan Identity question]

```
                     pid7     n
           Strong Democrat 93511
  Not Very Strong Democrat 47615
             Lean Democrat 39249
               Independent 52414
           Lean Republican 42003
Not Very Strong Republican 37883
         Strong Republican 65725
                  Not Sure 11430
                      <NA>  2925
```

- Years: All of 2006-2017
- Limitations: See `pid3`

`pid3_leaner`: Partisan identity (including leaners)

[Codes self-identified Independents in pid3 who expressed leaning towards a party in pid7 (Lean Democrats / Republicans) as partisans.]

```
                   pid3_leaner      n
   Democrat (Including Leaners) 180375
 Republican (Including Leaners) 145611
Independent (Excluding Leaners)  52414
                     Not Sure  11430
                         <NA>   2925
```

- Years: All of 2006-2017
- Limitations: See `pid3`

`ideo5`: Ideology (5 point)

In general, how would you describe your own political viewpoint?

```
            ideo5      n
     Very Liberal  32708
          Liberal  68662
         Moderate 124331
     Conservative  93216
 Very Conservative  45010
         Not Sure  27473
             <NA>   1355
```

- Years: All of 2006-2017

Economy

`economy_retro`: Retrospective economy

OVER THE PAST YEAR the nation's economy has . . . ?

```
                  economy_retro      n
              Gotten Much Better  17802
 Gotten Better / Somewhat Better  85451
           Stayed About The Same 101238
   Gotten Worse / Somewhat Worse 105357
               Gotten Much Worse  74562
                        Not Sure   7577
                            <NA>    768
```

- Years: All of 2006-2017
- Limitations: Response options varies by year. Some are collapsed into one category (e.g. `Gotten Better`, presented in some years, and `Gotten Somewhat Better`, presented in other years, are collapsed into `Gotten Better / Somewhat Better`). Some are left as is. For example, `Not Sure` was not an option in 2009.

Approval

`approval_pres`: President approval

Do you approve of the way each is doing their job. . . [Pipe Incumbent President]

```
                approval_pres      n
              Strongly Approve  77853
              Somewhat Approve  95237
           Somewhat Disapprove  41782
           Strongly Disapprove 165996
                     Not Sure  10742
Neither Approve Nor Disapprove    443
                         <NA>    702
```

- Years: All of 2006-2017
- Limitations: `Neither approve nor disapprove` only included in 2007.
- This question is asked in a grid format, along with Governors, Congress, and Courts.

approval_rep: House Representative approval

Do you approve of the way each is doing their job... [Pipe Incumbent Representative's Name]

approval_rep	n
Strongly Approve	57429
Approve / Somewhat Approve	122307
Disapprove / Somewhat Disapprove	68245
Strongly Disapprove	61369
Never Heard / Not Sure	75301
Neither Approve Nor Disapprove	1798
<NA>	6306

- Years: All of 2006-2017
- Limitations: `Neither approve nor disapprove` only included in 2007.
- This question is asked in a grid format, along with Senators (`approval_sen1`, `approval_sen2`).
- To see who [Representative] refers to for a particular respondent, see `rep_inc` (incumbent identifier in `rep_icpsr`)

approval_sen1: Senator 1 approval

Do you approve of the way each is doing their job... [Pipe Incumbent Senator 1's Name]

approval_sen1	n
Strongly Approve	51467
Approve / Somewhat Approve	124184
Disapprove / Somewhat Disapprove	78204
Strongly Disapprove	76409
Never Heard / Not Sure	56753
Neither Approve Nor Disapprove	1413
<NA>	4325

- Years: All of 2006-2017
- Limitations: : Response options varies by year. Some are collapsed into one category (e.g. `Approve`, presented in some years, and `Somewhat Approve`, presented in other years, are collapsed into `Approve / Somewhat Approve`). `Neither approve nor disapprove` only included in 2007.
- To see who [Senator 1] refers to for a particular respondent, see `sen1_inc` (incumbent identifier in `sen1_icpsr`)

approval_sen2: Senator 2 approval

Do you approve of the way each is doing their job... [Pipe Incumbent Senator 2's Name]

approval_sen2	n
Strongly Approve	53919
Approve / Somewhat Approve	119806
Disapprove / Somewhat Disapprove	76720
Strongly Disapprove	77082
Never Heard / Not Sure	58971
Neither Approve Nor Disapprove	1158
<NA>	5099

- See `approval_sen2`

approval_gov: Governor approval

Do you approve of the way each is doing their job... Governor of [Pipe State]

approval_gov	n
Strongly Approve	57460
Somewhat Approve	121801
Somewhat Disapprove	74177
Strongly Disapprove	101957
Not Sure	33980
Neither Approve Nor Disapprove	1414
<NA>	1966

- Years: All of 2006-2017
- Limitations: See approval_pres
- To see who the Governor refers to for a particular respondent, see gov_inc (incumbent identifier in gov_fec, if applicable).

Presidential Vote

A note on `intent` and `voted`

In this dataset we make the distinction between "intent" / "preference" vs. "voted" / "vote choice". "Intent" (or "preference") refers to the response to the prospective question of the sort "who would you vote for?" in the *pre-election* wave. "Vote choice" refers to the response to the retrospective question of the sort "in the election this November, who did you vote for?" Response to the vote choice questions coalesces both *post-election* wave responses (the bulk of the responses) and pre-election respondents who reported having already voted early.

`intent_pres_08`: 2008 President preference (before voting)

For which candidate for President of the United States would you vote?

intent_pres_08	n
John McCain	13322
Barack Obama	12897
Ron Paul	535
Ralph Nader	209
Bob Barr	258
Cynthia McKinney	74
Other	352
I Won't Vote In This Election	851
I'm Not Sure	1697
<NA>	362560

- Years: 2008

`intent_pres_12`: 2012 President preference (before voting)

In the race for President of the United States, who do you prefer?

intent_pres_12	n
Mitt Romney (Republican)	20738
Barack Obama (Democratic)	24401
Other	1781
I Will Not Vote In This Election	1467
I'm Not Sure	3856
<NA>	340512

- Years: 2012

`intent_pres_16`: 2016 President preference (before voting)

Which candidate did you prefer for President of the United States?

intent_pres_16	n
Donald Trump (Republican)	19227
Hillary Clinton (Democrat)	27502
Gary Johnson (Libertarian)	3145
Jill Stein (Green)	1400

```
                        Other   1880
I Won't Vote In This Election   3312
                 I'm Not Sure   6536
                         <NA> 329753
```

- Years: 2016

voted_pres_08: 2008 President vote choice (after voting)

2008: For which candidate for President of the United States did you vote? [see guide for wording in all years]

```
            voted_pres_08      n
Barack Obama (Democratic)  73986
 John McCain (Republican)  68398
             Someone Else   4204
             Did Not Vote  18227
             Don't Recall   1787
                     <NA> 226153
```

- Years: 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012
- Limitations: Response options offer slightly by year; some are collapsed into one.

voted_pres_12: 2012 President vote choice (after voting)

2012: For whom did you vote for President of the United States? 2016: In 2012, who did you vote for in the election for President? [see guide for wording in all years]

```
              voted_pres_12      n
               Barack Obama  82681
                Mitt Romney  64956
       Other / Someone Else   5890
               Did Not Vote   2758
    Not Sure / Don't Recall   1990
I Did Not Vote In This Race     81
                      <NA> 234399
```

- Years: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016
- Limitations: Response options offer slightly by year; some are collapsed into one.
- This variable coalesces two variables: Either the response to the early vote question in the pre-election wave if the respondent indicates they have already voted, or if not, the response in the post-election wave.

voted_pres_16: 2016 President vote choice (after voting)

2017: In the election for U.S. President, who did you vote for? [If reported voting] 2016: For whom did you vote for President of the United States? [Post-election]

```
          voted_pres_16      n
           Donald Trump  24578
         Hilary Clinton  29395
   Other / Someone Else   5473
           Did Not Vote    229
Not Sure / Don't Recall    326
                   <NA> 332754
```

- Years: 2016, 2017
- This variable coalesces two variables in the CCES: Either the response to the early vote question in the pre-election wave if the respondent indicates they have already voted, or if not, the response in the post-election wave.

House, Senate and Governor Voting

Preference

`intent_rep`: House preference (before voting)

In the general election for U.S. House of Representatives in your area, who do you prefer? See `intent_rep_party` for party affiliation.

```
                           intent_rep      n
            [Democrat / Candidate 1] 103873
          [Republican / Candidate 2]  97039
               [Other / Candidate 3]   4071
  $HouseCand4Name ($HouseCand4Party)     18
                               Other   1720
                         I'm Not Sure  60579
                              No One  15860
  $HouseCand5Name ($HouseCand5Party)     20
       I Won't Vote In This Election   2269
  $HouseCand6Name ($HouseCand6Party)     19
  $HouseCand7Name ($HouseCand7Party)     15
  $HouseCand8Name ($HouseCand8Party)     14
  $HouseCand9Name ($HouseCand9Party)      1
$HouseCand10Name ($HouseCand10Party)      1
$HouseCand11Name ($HouseCand11Party)      3
                                <NA> 107253
```

- Years: 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016
- Limitations: Only available for even years. The third party candidate not specified for early years. The fourth candidate and onwards not shown for most years. Response options differ by year.
- Note that it is not always the case that 1 is a Democrat and 2 is a Republican. When two Democrats are on the general ballot (e.g. in top-two primary states like California), both candidates are Democrats. Use `intent_rep_party` for party affiliation.
- Note that for each respondent, a name (and party affiliation) is shown in place of the square bracket values. To see the candidate chosen, see `intent_rep_chosen`. `[Other / Candidate 3]` refers to the third option presented, whereas `Other` refers to the unnamed choice after all numbered candidates.

`intent_sen`: Senate preference (before voting)

In the race for U.S. Senator in your state, who do you prefer? See `intent_sen_party` for party affiliation.

```
                   intent_sen      n
       [Democrat / Candidate 1]  78318
     [Republican / Candidate 2]  68733
          [Other / Candidate 3]   4113
```

$SenCand4Name ($SenCand4Party)	19
Other	1188
I'm Not Sure	31681
No One	9493
I Won't Vote In This Election	1145
<NA>	198065

- Years: 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016
- Limitations: See `intente_rep`. When both senate seats are up for re-election in the same year, only responses to the first senate seat is incorporated. For the second senate seat, see individual year's CCES.

`intent_gov`: Governor preference (before voting)

In the race for Governor in your state, who do you prefer? See `intent_gov_party` for party affiliation.

intent_gov	n
[Democrat / Candidate 1]	55600
[Republican / Candidate 2]	50244
[Other / Candidate 3]	3681
Other	882
I'm Not Sure	18342
No One	5723
I Won't Vote In This Election	466
<NA>	257817

- Years: 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016
- Limitations: See `intente_rep`. For governor elections in odd years, see individual year's CCES.

Vote Choice

`voted_rep`: House vote choice (after voting)

For whom did you vote for U.S. House? See `voted_rep_party` for party affiliation.

voted_rep	n
[Democrat / Candidate 1]	94662
[Republican / Candidate 2]	94122
[Other / Candidate 3]	2571
$HouseCand4Name ($HouseCand4Party)	15
Other	2434
I Did Not Vote In This Race	11591
$HouseCand5Name ($HouseCand5Party)	22
Not Sure	4020
$HouseCand6Name ($HouseCand6Party)	15
$HouseCand7Name ($HouseCand7Party)	13
$HouseCand8Name ($HouseCand8Party)	16
$HouseCand9Name ($HouseCand9Party)	2
$HouseCand10Name ($HouseCand10Party)	2
$HouseCand11Name ($HouseCand11Party)	3
<NA>	183267

- Years: 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016
- This variable coalesces two variables in the CCES for years 2012 and onwards: Either the response to the early vote question in the pre-election wave if the respondent indicates they have already voted, or if not, the response in the post-election wave.
- Note that it is not always the case that 1 is a Democrat and 2 is a Republican. When two Democrats are on the general ballot (e.g. in top-two primary states like California), both candidates are Democrats. Use `voted_rep_party` for party affiliation.

`voted_sen`: Senate vote choice (after voting)

For whom did you vote for U.S. Senator? See `voted_sen_party` for party affiliation.

voted_sen	n
[Democrat / Candidate 1]	68808
[Republican / Candidate 2]	63844
[Other / Candidate 3]	2743
Other	1624
Not Sure	1849
$SenCand4Name ($SenCand4Party)	11
I Did Not Vote In This Race	4108
<NA>	249768

- Years: 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016
- This variable coalesces two variables in the CCES for years 2012 and onwards: Either the response to the early vote question in the pre-election wave if the respondent indicates they have already voted, or if not, the response in the post-election wave.

`voted_gov`: Governor vote choice (after voting)

For whom did you vote for Governor? See `voted_gov_party` for party affiliation.

voted_gov	n
[Democrat / Candidate 1]	46504
[Republican / Candidate 2]	45056
[Other / Candidate 3]	2466
Other	1162
I Did Not Vote In This Race	4509
Not Sure	911
<NA>	292147

- Years: 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016
- This variable coalesces two variables in the CCES for years 2012 and onwards: Either the response to the early vote question in the pre-election wave if the respondent indicates they have already voted, or if not, the response in the post-election wave.

Text

Identifiers

The case identifier `case_id` is unique within the year and is identical to the case identifiers in the individual year's CCES. It should be used in conjunction with `year` for a unique identifier for the whole dataset. Some individuals across years may be the same YouGov panel respondent with different identifiers; for example the 2007 CCES draws from the 2006 CCES respondents.

```
Observations: 392,755
Variables: 2
$ year    <int> 2006, 2006, 2006, 2006, 2006, 2006, 2006, 2006, 2006, ...
$ case_id <int> 439219, 439224, 439228, 439237, 439238, 439242, 439251...
```

Current Representatives

Name and Party

The four names in the three offices that represent the respondent *at the time of the survey*. Parties are not shown if the particular year's CCES did not show party. Party names are also abbreviated down to initials (`D` for Democrat, `R` for Republican, `I` for Independent) in this dataset.

```
Observations: 392,755
Variables: 4
$ rep_current  <chr> "Patrick T. McHenry (R)", "Michael R. Turner (R)"...
$ sen1_current <chr> "Elizabeth Dole (R)", "Mike DeWine (R)", "Robert ...
$ sen2_current <chr> "Richard Burr (R)", "George V. Voinovich (R)", "F...
$ gov_current  <chr> "Michael Easley (D)", "Bob Taft (R)", "Jon Corzin...
```

Incumbent Identifiers

Unique identifiers (ICPSR / Nominate for Congress, FEC for Governor) for the current representatives. Identifiers are not part of the individual year's CCES but merged on for this cumulative dataset only.

The matching of identifiers to respondent occurs through matching by district, by district and last name, or both:

- For House representatives, we join on `cong`, `st`, and `dist` to a NOMINATE database that only consists of unique observations according to the key. For duplicates with regards to these three variables (e.g. in the rare case where a new representative comes into office mid-session), we match on `cong`, `st`, `dist` and last name.
- For Senators, we join entirely on `cong`, `st`, and last name
- For Governors, we join only on `st` and last name. In this period, there are no two governors in the same state that share the same last name.

```
Observations: 392,755
Variables: 4
$ rep_icpsr  <int> 20522, 20342, 29132, 29911, 29380, 20531, 29126, 29...
$ sen1_icpsr <int> 40303, 15020, 29373, 15021, 14858, 49306, 40101, 15...
$ sen2_icpsr <int> 29548, 49903, 14914, 40502, 40105, 40305, 40302, 29...
$ gov_fec    <chr> "NC5998", NA, "NJ6395", "IL7", NA, "TX3156", "MN472...
```

- Years: All of 2006-2017
- Limitations: Matching procedure may be incomplete or inaccurate.

The unique identifiers can be used to join with other databases to append additional information such as committee membership and ideology scores, such as

> Lewis, Jeffrey B., Keith Poole, Howard Rosenthal, Adam Boche, Aaron Rudkin, and Luke Sonnet (2017). Voteview: Congressional Roll-Call Votes Database. https://voteview.com/

Candidates

The text responses that the respondent chose in each of the `intent_` / `voted_` questions, if the respondent was a candidate. For example, respondent with `case_id = 163051575` in the 2012 CCES chose the first option in the House representative preference question. `intent_rep_chosen` shows that for this particular respondent, the first option was `Maxine Waters (Democrat)` who has a FEC Identifier of `H4CA23011`.

```
df %>%
  filter(year == 2012, st == "CA", dist_up == 43) %>%
  select(matches("intent_rep"))
```

```
# A tibble: 91 x 4
   intent_rep             intent_rep_party intent_rep_chos~ intent_rep_fec
   <fct>                  <fct>            <chr>            <chr>
 1 [Democrat / Candidate~ Democratic       Maxine Waters (~ H4CA23011
 2 I'm Not Sure           <NA>             <NA>             <NA>
 3 No One                 <NA>             <NA>             <NA>
 4 [Democrat / Candidate~ Democratic       Maxine Waters (~ H4CA23011
 5 [Republican / Candida~ Democratic       Bob Flores (D)   H2CA43385
 6 I'm Not Sure           <NA>             <NA>             <NA>
 7 Other                  <NA>             <NA>             <NA>
 8 [Republican / Candida~ Democratic       Bob Flores (D)   H2CA43385
 9 [Republican / Candida~ Democratic       Bob Flores (D)   H2CA43385
10 [Democrat / Candidate~ Democratic       Maxine Waters (~ H4CA23011
# ... with 81 more rows
```

The name and party are those as provided in the CCES datasets (e.g. in the form `HouseCand1Name`). The FEC ID is not part of the CCES but joined in this dataset.

For all three offices, the matching generally occurs by `year`, `st`, `dist_up` (not `dist`, because `dist_up`, refers to the district of the upcoming session) and `party`. `party` is the party affiliation as indicated in the CCES. For years 2008 and 2010, the first option is automatically labelled as a Democrat and the second option as a Republican, although these may be inaccurate at times.

The FEC database runs up until 2014 (thus more recent candidates do *not* get a FEC ID) originates from

> Bonica, Adam , 2015, "Database on Ideology, Money in Politics, and Elections (DIME)", doi:10.7910/DVN/O5PX0B, Harvard Dataverse, V2

which helpfully includes candidates office sought, district (for House members), party affiliation, and cycle in which the candidate filed. The variable `cycle` in Bonica's data is used to join on the CCES dataset's `year` variable.

Only candidates who are unique within the district and party are considered for the first join. However, many candidates are not unique within the district-party, as many co-partisans may file in the same district. The second matching process thus considers the full name of the candidate

listed in the CCES and the candidates in the FEC database. *Within* the subset of year, district, and party, a Jaro-Winker string distance (that ranges from 0 to 1) is computed for both last name and the first name - middle name. If the sum of the two string distances are more than 0.2 for all possible combinations, no match is returned. If there is a unique combination that achieves a unique minimum that is below 0.2, that combination is declared a match. If there are multiple matches with the same minimum string distance, one is randomly chosen.

Chosen

```
Observations: 392,755
Variables: 6
$ intent_rep_chosen <chr> "Richard C. Carsner (D)", "Stephanie Studeba...
$ intent_sen_chosen <chr> NA, "Sherrod C. Brown (D)", "Robert Menendez...
$ intent_gov_chosen <chr> NA, "Ted Strickland (D)", NA, "Rod Blagojevi...
$ voted_rep_chosen  <chr> "Richard C. Carsner (D)", "Stephanie Studeba...
$ voted_sen_chosen  <chr> NA, "Sherrod C. Brown (D)", "Robert Menendez...
$ voted_gov_chosen  <chr> NA, "Ted Strickland (D)", NA, "Rod Blagojevi...
```

- Years: 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016
- Early years may mislabel the candidate's party, especially when the two candidates are of the same party (as in top-two primary states)

Candidate Identifiers

```
Observations: 392,755
Variables: 6
$ intent_rep_fec <chr> "H6NC10141", "H6OH03142", "H0NJ01066", "H8IL090...
$ intent_sen_fec <chr> NA, "S6OH00163", "S6NJ00289", NA, NA, NA, "S6MN...
$ intent_gov_fec <chr> NA, "OH19691", NA, "IL7", "NY19490", NA, "MN472...
$ voted_rep_fec  <chr> "H6NC10141", "H6OH03142", "H0NJ01066", "H8IL090...
$ voted_sen_fec  <chr> NA, "S6OH00163", "S6NJ00289", NA, "S0NY00188", ...
$ voted_gov_fec  <chr> NA, "OH19691", NA, "IL7", "NY19490", NA, "MN472...
```

- Years: 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016
- Limitations: Matching may be inaccurate (see previous section on matching methodology). In particular, a lack of a FEC ID may either indicate a failure of the matching procedure, or that the candidate in question did not file under the FEC. The match rate in the current procedure is upwards of 80 percent in the current procedure.