
Network Regression on Cosponsorship and Religion in United States Congress

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Abstract

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Keywords

Cosponsorship, Networks, Religion, Polarization

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Introduction

Extensive literature supports the importance of cosponsorship as the core activity in building the legislative agenda. As Schiller (1995) outlines, sponsorship is one of the few legislative activities which legislators have almost total control. Legislatures can decide to introduce and support legislation that appeases their constituents, progresses their political career, and initiates institutional change on a variety of policies. While legislators can be thought of as individual sponsoring and cosponsoring bills, when combined the collaborative process of agenda setting reflects shared interests and communal values. The agenda setting stage is believed to be critical in the legislative process due to its ability to control or manage what issues gain government attention.

As cosponsorship is the most used tie in the legislative network, there is a growing body of literature that explores a variety of identity based characteristics on cosponsorship networks. This research has focused primarily on political identities (i.e. partisanship and political ideology) [should i cite who?] and visible identity characteristics (i.e. age, race, gender, and ethnicity). Both have provided extensive support of Huckfeldt's (1984) claim that one's community and one's individual characteristics influence their political actions.

However, existing scholarship falls short on researching the effects of religious affiliation on the congressional cosponsorship network. Given its intrinsic function as a core component of an individual's identity and its known effect on political ideology (McTague & Pearson-Merowitz 2013), there is a theoretical framework that religion influences legislators actions. This paper provides empirical evidence on how the congressional cosponsorship network is affected by legislators' religious identity.

In this paper, we examine the United States 112th Congress (2011-2013) and the 117th Congress (2021-2023). Data on sponsorship and cosponsorship (roughly 30,000 bills each session) is used in conjunction with network analysis to model the influence of religion in each respective session. We then cross compare the resulting networks to understand how the effect of religious affiliation on congressional ties has changed over the past ten years. With this, we also contribute to the existing body of literature on recent trends in polarization, specifically the growing political division created by religion.

Figure 1

Literature Review

Figures are supported from R code:

...and can be referenced (Figure 1) by including the `\\label{}` tag in the `fig.cap` attribute of the R chunk: `fig.cap = "Fancy Caption\\label{fig:plot}"`. It is a quirky hack at the moment, see [here](#).

Analogously, use Rmarkdown to produce tables as usual:

```
if (!require("xtable")) install.packages("xtable")

## Loading required package: xtable
```

```
xt <- xtable(head(cars), caption = "A table", label = "tab:table")
print(xt, comment = FALSE)
```

	speed	dist
1	4.00	2.00
2	4.00	10.00
3	7.00	4.00
4	7.00	22.00
5	8.00	16.00
6	9.00	10.00

Table 1. A table

Referenced via [1](#). You can also use the YAML option `header-includes` to includes custom L^AT_EX packages for tables (keep in mind that pandoc uses `longtables` by default, and it is hardcoded; some things may require including the package `longtable`). E.g., using `ctable`:

```
header-includes:
- \usepackage{ctable}
```

Then, just write straight-up L^AT_EXcode and reference is as usual (`\ref{tab:ctable}`):

```
\ctable[cap = {Short caption},
        caption = {A caption for this table.},
        label={tab:ctable},]
{cc}
{
  \tnote[$\ast$]{Footnote 1}
  \tnote[$\dagger$]{Other footnote}
  \tnote[b]{Mistakes are possible.}
}{
  \FL
  COL 1\tmark[a] & COL 2\tmark[$\ast$]
  \ML
  6.92\tmark[$\dagger$] & 0.09781 \\\
  6.93\tmark[$\dagger$] & 0.09901 \\\
  97 & 2000
  \LL
}
```

It is also possible to set the YAML option `longtable: true` and use markdown tables (or the `knitr::kable` function): `knitr::kable(head(cars))` produces the same table as the `xtable` example presented before.

Cross-referencing

The use of the Rmarkdown equivalent of the \LaTeX cross-reference system for figures, tables, equations, etc., is encouraged (using `[@<name>]`, equivalent of `\ref{<name>}` and `\label{<name>}`). That works well for citations in Rmarkdown, not so well for figures and tables. In that case, it is possible to revert to standard \LaTeX syntax.

Double Spacing

If you need to double space your document for submission please use the `doublespace` option in the header.

Bibliography

Link a `.bib` document via the YAML header, and bibliography will be printed at the very end (as usual). The default bibliography style is provided by Wiley as in `WileyNJD-AMA.bst`, do not delete that file.

Use the Rmarkdown equivalent of the \LaTeX citation system using `[@<name>]`. Example: (Taylor and Green, 1937), (Knupp, 1999; Kamm, 2000).

To include all citation from the `.bib` file, add `\nocite{*}` before the end of the document.

Further information

All \LaTeX environments supported by the main template are supported here as well; see the `.tex` sample file [here](#) for more details and example.

```
print(x)
```

References

- Kamm J (2000) Evaluation of the Sedov-von Neumann-Taylor blast wave solution. Technical Report Technical Report LA-UR-00-6055, Los Alamos National Laboratory.
- Knupp P (1999) Winslow smoothing on two-dimensional unstructured meshes. *Eng Comput* 15: 263–268.
- Taylor G and Green A (1937) Mechanism of the production of small eddies from large ones. *P Roy Soc Lond A Mat* 158(895): 499–521.

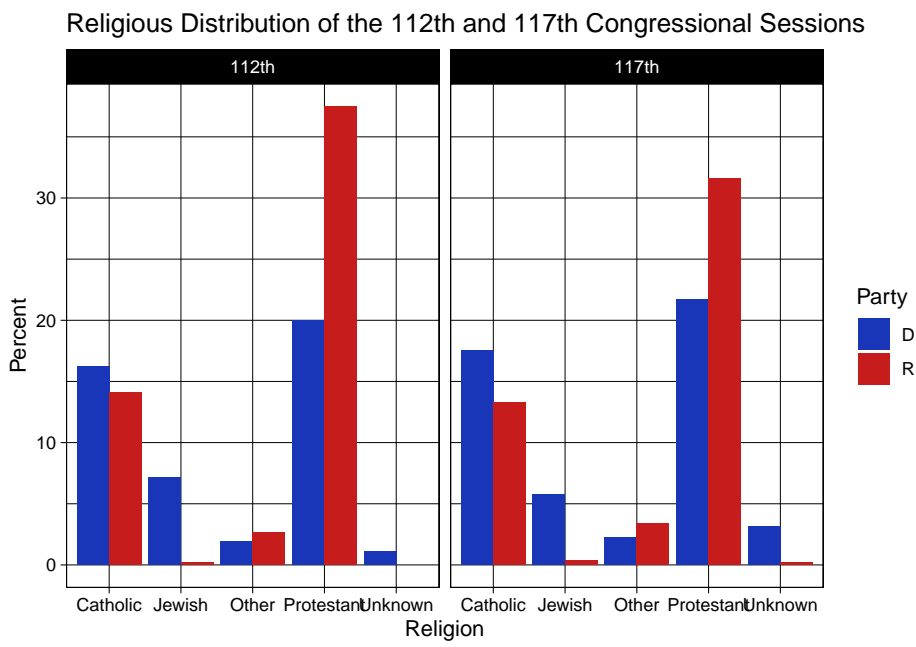


Figure 1. Fancy Caption