Codebook for Congressional Elections Dataset

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Description:

This dataset combines fundraising and candidate positioning data from the Database on Ideology, Money in Politics, and Elections (DIME) with candidate-level vote shares congressional primary and general elections.

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1 Variable Codings

1) `cycle`: Four digit number that indicates the two-year election cycle during which the contribution was recorded.

2) `bonica_rid`: Unique ID assigned to candidates/recipients. Each candidate/recipient receives a unique ID that is constant across election cycles, levels of government, and offices sought. With the exception of party-switchers the bonica.rid values have a one-to-one correspondence with the ICPSR2 scores. (Use this variable to merge with the database of contribution records).

3) `bonica_rid_cycle`: Combines bonica.rid and cycle into a single candidate-cycle identifier.

4) `ICPSR`: Adjusted ICPSR legislator ID. Candidates that have never served in Congress are assigned IDs based off of their FEC IDs. The four-digit election cycle is appended to the end of each ID to distinguish separate entries from the same candidate. Candidates that are active in multiple election cycles will have multiple IDs.

5) `ICPSR2`: Adjusted ICPSR legislator ID. Each candidate receives a unique ID that is constant across election cycles. Following Poole and Rosenthal, party switchers are assigned new ICPSR2 IDs after switching parties.

6) `recipient_candid`: The candidate ID assigned by the FEC.

7) `recipient_fecid`: The ID assigned by the FEC to the candidates campaign committee.

8) `Name`: Name of the candidate.

9) `party`: Party of candidate/recipient (Democrat = 'D', Republican = 'R', Independent/Third Party = 'I').

10) `state`: Two-letter state abbreviations.

11) `district`: District ID: two-letter state code followed by congressional district number. District numbers for senate candidates take on the value of 'S' followed by the year of the seat will be up for election.

12) `dcp`: Identifier for primary contest, grouped by district, cycle, and party.

13) `seat`: Office sought. (House = 'federal:house'; Senate = 'federal:senate').

14) `Incum_Chall`: Incumbency status. ('I' = Incumbent, 'C' = Challenger, 'O' = Open Seat Candidate, " - not up for election).

15) `cand_gender`: Candidate gender codings. (With the exceptions of candidates that have served in Congress, all gender codes are based on an automated coding scheme that incorporates information gender ratios of first names as reported by the U.S. Census and gender-specific titles (e.g. Mrs., Mr., Jr., Sr.) reported in the contribution records.

16) `recipient_cfscore`: Estimated ideology of candidate/recipient based on donations received.

17) `contributor_cfscore`: Estimated ideology of candidate/recipient based on personal donations given to other candidates/recipients.

18) `dwnom1`: (PR) First dimension common-space DW-NOMINATE score. (Based on joint scaling of the 1st to the 112th Congresses.)

19) `num_distinct_donors`: Number of district donors (included in the scaling model) that gave to the candidate election cycle.

20) `total_receipts`: total dollars raised by candidate during an election cycle.

21) `contribs_from_candidate`: total receipts from candidate contributions.

22) `total_pac_contribs`: total PAC receipts.

23) `unitemized`: total unitemized receipts.

24) `total_indiv_contrib`: total individual receipts.

25) `total_disbursements`: Total campaign disbursements (in dollars) for the given election cycle.

26) `ppct`: Candidate's percentage of votes in primary election.

27) `pwinner`: ('W' = won primary election; 'L' = lost primary election.)

28) `gpct`: Candidate's percentage of votes in general elections.

29) `gwinner`: ('W' = won general election; 'L' = lost general election.)

30) `CandStatus`: indicates the status of the candidate's campaign assigned by the FEC. ('C' = Statutory candidate; 'F' = Statutory candidate for future election; 'N' = Not yet a statutory candidate; 'P' = Statutory candidate in prior cycle).

31) `num_prim_opps`: Number candidates competing in primary election.

32) `dem_pres_vs`: district-level percentage of the two-party vote share won by the Democratic presidential nominee in the most recent presidential election cycle. Four digit number that indicates the two-year election cycle during which the contribution was recorded.