Fernando Mello

Project title: Control versus benefit: Do voters punish incumbents who
vote against accountability laws?
Country setting: Brazil
Data source: Original survey data collected in September, 2018, a month
before the national election in Brazil
Data Unit: Individual level response to the survey
Description: In October, 2018, Brazil has a general election, in which
voters will choose the President, governors, senators and federal
deputy. This project is part of a larger project, which aims to
understand why politicians vote on bills to increase accountability
against themselves, tying their own hands. The main goal of the project
is to check if politicians, mainly federal deputies, are punished by
voters if they vote against bills to increase accountability. I want to
check if this has any effect on the probability of voters to support the
incumbent, given that federal deputies in Brazil are known for bringing
distributive projects to their constituencies.

I want to follow the work of Matthew S. Winters and Rebecca Weitz-
Shapiro (2013). My idea is to randomly vary two characteristics, if the
politicians vote in favor or against the law of criminal organizations –
which allowed plea bargaining agreement and is considered a decisive
bill in the fight against corruption – and if the politician is cited in
a large and well-known corruption scandal, called Carwash Operation. I
believe this is an important question both for distributive politics and
corruption studies. The question I am working at the moment is the
following:

*Imagine a person named João (or Joana), who is a person like you,
living in a neighborhood like yours, but in a different city in Brazil.
The federal deputy who represent João's city is running for reelection
in October. In João's city, it is well known that he always bring
important projects to the city, especially on education and health. The
deputy has voted in favor (or against) the bill of criminal
organization, which allowed plea bargaining during his term in office.
He is also cited (or empty) in the Carwash Operation. In this city, the
election for deputy is expected to be very close. In your opinion, what
is the likelihood that João(a) will vote for this mayor in the next
election: very likely, somewhat likely, unlikely, not at all likely?"*