Biggest Questions for Alex:

* How to do this analysis of how a legislator changes compared to how they might be expected to change. I’m guessing that age might not be a problem because…
* How to cite something that you have found in another book but is a direct citation of something in another book. Is there some sort of “found in” modifier?

Outline:

1. Introduction/Motivation
2. Lit Review
3. Methodology
4. Data
5. Results
6. Discussion
7. Conclusion

Key Ideas:

Ideology

Possible Outcomes:

No difference

More “liberal” (left leaning)

More “conservative” (right leaning)

More “extreme” (Democratic leaders are more left leaning, Republicans more right leaning)

More “centrist” (Democratic leaders are more moderate, Republicans are more moderate)

No difference in one of the parties but a difference in the other party

No difference across all years but a difference across a group of years

Explain How Congressional Leadership Functions:

Senate:

Majority Leader

Majority Whip

Minority Leader

Minority Whip

House:

Speaker

Majority Leader

Majority Whip

Minority Leader

Minority Whip

Should I be including conference leaders? Should I exclude them?

Explain “Ideology”:

-Need to do more research on what is “liberal” and what is “conservative”

Talk about Models of Voting:

Utility maximization (talk to Yan about this)

Spatial model (function of (normally Euclidean) *distance* between outcomes and alternatives, low dimensional)

Look Into Policy Space

Clinton-Jackman-Rivers vs Poole & Roosethal

Talk about why using DW-Nominate Commonspace Scores Dataset:

Allows me to

Allows me to compare across congresses (is this actually a good thing, or should I be focusing on the chambers apart from one another?)

I think it might also be interesting to look at the party unity scores and see if that might be better at explaining who is going to get a leadership position:

http://voteview.com/Party\_Unity.htm

Could also tie this in with polarization – if the leaders end up being extreme (which I think that they are, even though the reason WHY is a little beyond me at the moment)

Median Voter Theory – why might congressional leaders be so-called “middlemen”

Talk about “Austin-Boston” alliance

Moving beyond the three main literatures below, we want to really see how **being** a leader affects your ideology.

Do you move in the same predicted manner?

Do you move more slowly?

Do you move more quickly?

Do you more in the other direction?

What sort of characteristics might you want in a leader? While voters are asking this question of a president, members of Congress are asking this themselves for the leaders they elect to represent them. They often choose more extreme members than the ideological middlemen.

I’m thinking that negotiation is often important, as one of the primary roles of a leader is to work with the other side. They are also

Lit. Review, talk about previous results found (newest study is from 2010)

King and Zeckhauser, 2002

Harris and Nelson, 2008

Jesse and Malhotra, 2010

Are the three that seem to be the most relevant.

But there is probably a good deal to be said about the 1989 race for whip, well documented in Harris, 2006, a case study that looks at how leadership selection works. I would like to do a little more digging to see if I can find another case study as in depth as this one. I’m sure somebody could write an interesting story/case study about the selection of Paul Ryan as Speaker in 2015.

What could also be hinted at in the conclusion is how this change (or lack of a change) would make the member of Congress a better or worse leader for their party, or more or less likely to be reelected (esp. considering extra scrutiny), or just how the parties policies might end up shifting. Are they more effective at arguing for their party and coming back with better results from a negotiation as a result of this change, or do they just put themselves in a position to beat a challenger who might also want their leadership position in Congress (e.g., was John Boehner actually as conservative as he acted, or was he doing that in order to placate the further right wings in congressional politics.



“We see that in the second dimension of DW-Nominate. Representatives with a more negative score tend to be more anti-establishment.” - <http://fivethirtyeight.com/datalab/what-paul-ryan-has-that-kevin-mccarthy-and-john-boehner-dont/>

leaders can vote differently – rule that causes a leader to vote against their own bill, or something similar

common merge key – or easy to generate such a key

look for possible discontinuities

interaction variable vs. entire dataset

this would be easier

just the party leaders at first

talk to Chester

literature review

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