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The Editors
American Journal of Political Science

Dear Editors,

I am writing to submit our manuscript entitled “Legislature Size and Welfare: Evidence from Brazil” for consideration as an *American Journal of Political Science* research article. We present a game theory model showing that larger city councils increase local public goods provision. Partisanship is the main mechanism we explore in our article. Our evidence comes from exogenous changes in Brazilian electoral legislation, which granted additional legislators to hundreds of municipalities based on population thresholds. Our regression discontinuity models indicate that increasing local legislatures leads to higher primary school enrollment and lower infant mortality rates without any significant decrease in the quality of public service. We also survey former city councilors and analyze the content of 346,553 bills to provide further evidence for our mechanism.

Our findings contribute to large literatures on multilateral bargaining, citizen welfare, and municipal party politics. We believe our paper appeals especially to researchers in Comparative Politics, particularly those studying legislative activity and representative institutions. We incentivise scholars in these areas to investigate the relationship between fragmented parliaments and strong executives more closely, and also to search for other mechanisms that may link legislature features with public service provision.

We also provide extensive supplementary material with data, code, and additional analyses, for consultation on [this GitHub repository](#). The appendix describes our model and data sources in detail, and it also includes a series of additional tests that show the robustness of our results.

Each of the authors confirms that this manuscript has not been previously published and is not currently under consideration by any other journal. All of the authors have approved the contents of this paper and have agreed to the *American Journal of Political Science*’s submission policies.

Should you select our manuscript for peer review, we would like to kindly suggest the following potential reviewers/referees because they would have the requisite background to evaluate our findings and interpretation objectively.

- Claudio Ferraz. Professor of Economics at the Vancouver School of Economics, University of British Columbia. Email: claudio.ferraz@ubc.ca.
- Thomas Fujiwara. Associate Professor of Economics and International Affairs, Princeton University. Email: fujiwara@princeton.edu
- F. Daniel Hidalgo. Cecil and Ida Green Associate Professor of Political Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Email: dhidalgo@mit.edu.
- Guillermo Toral. Assistant Professor of Political Science, Vanderbilt University. Email: guillermo.toral@vanderbilt.edu.

To the best of our knowledge, none of the above-suggested persons have any conflict of interest, financial or otherwise. All of them have written extensively about public service provision and government accountability in Brazil using modern causal inference methods.

Each named author has equally contributed to conducting the underlying research and drafting this manuscript. To the best of our knowledge, the authors have no conflict of interest, financial or otherwise.

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Sincerely Yours,

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