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**Public Opinion:**

**Dataset Variable Codebook**

\*Year: Indicates the calendar year.

\*\*Speech\_Year: Counting variable based on the Speech from the Throne from the first speech in 1911 to the last speech in the dataset in 2008, by speech from 1 to 104.

\*\*Date: Date the Speech from the Throne was given indicating the start date for polling in the DD/MM/YYYY format. Note, when a speech occurred in the same month as a poll, that poll is included in the preceding Speech\_Year.

Major\_Topic: Policy Agendas major topic code.

MIP: Responses to Gallup’s “most important problem” question, normalized† out of 100%.

MII: Responses to Ipsos-MORI’s “most important issue” question, normalized† out of 100%.

\* Included in the Yearly Dataset

\*\* Included in the Speech\_Year Dataset

†Because some polls permit respondents to specify multiple answers to the MIP question, it is necessary to normalize across polls with varying total percentages of responses (i.e. some polls report responses in excess of 100 per cent). First, the total of response percentages, across all major topics, was calculated. Then, each of the individual response percentages were divided by the summed total of percentages for the given poll, to generate the normalized percentage for that major topic. The normalized value is the proportion of all responses that were in that major topic. The normalized percentages sum to 100 per cent. These normalized percentages were then averaged across each year to generate the annualized proportions reported in this dataset.

Note: For more information on this data and the comparability of MIP and MII Responses please see and cite:

Jennings, Will and Christopher Wlezien. 2011. “Distinguishing Between Most Important Problems and Issues?” *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 75(3): pp. 545-555.