Multi-Level Election Archive (MLEA) Codebook

Variable	Definition and notes	Source
data_source	Name of original data source from which we obtained election result information	Coded by authors
id	Numeric value identifying each unique office-district in MLEA. If two elective offices have identical districts (e.g., Senate and Gubernatorial elections in the US) they are assigned unique district identifiers. The term "district fixed-effects" thus refers to office-district fixed-effects. This variable is constructed with three pieces of information: country, office type, and district. In order to keep the id constant for districts that have multiple years of election data we use either uniquely identifying district codes or, if those are unavailable, district names from the original data source. Formula: Banks*1000000 + election_type*100000 + polity_name (encoded)	Coded by authors
elecno	Elections for each district-office ordered 1, 2, etc.	Coded by authors
Country	Country name	Coded by authors
Banks	Numeric country code	World Bank
election_type	Numeric value given to each type of office: 1=national executive 2/3=national lower/upper 4= region executive 5/6= region lower/upper 7/8=local executive/legislative	Coded by authors
polity_name	District name	See "data_source"
time	Election year and month Formula: year*100 + month	Coded by authors
year	Election year	See "data_source"
month	Election month; 1 if unknown	Coded by authors
mn	Election month; missing if unknown	See "data_source"
comp_largest	100 – vote share of the largest party	Coded by authors
electorate_ln	Electorate, transformed by the natural logarithm (the benchmark measure).	Coded by authors
electorate	The number of eligible voters in a district. If unavailable, this may be proxied by the population of the district in time-periods when suffrage is universal.	See "data_source"
ballots_or_votes	The number of ballots or votes received in an election	See "data_source"
pop_type	A variable indicating the best type of voter-related data available, ranked this way: "eligible voters" = best "population" "ballots cast"	Coded by authors

	"valid votes" = worst	
secret	Coded 1 if ballot is secret. 0 otherwise	Przeworski (2013)
maj1	Coded 1 if electoral system is majoritarian with block ballot	Colomer et al. (2006)
maj2	Coded 1 if electoral system is majoritarian with cumulative ballot. These multi-member districts allow voters to cast multiple votes for one or more candidates	Colomer et al. (2006)
maj3	Single member districts	Colomer et al. (2006)
pr1	Coded 1 if electoral system is proportional with mean district magnitude less than 9	Colomer et al. (2006)
pr2	Coded 1 if electoral system is proportional with mean district magnitude greater than 9 and closed lists	Colomer et al. (2006)
pr3	Coded 1 if electoral system is proportional with mean district magnitude greater than 9 and open lists	Colomer et al. (2006)
mix	Coded 1 if electoral system includes parallel SMD and MMD seats (with or without compensation for disproportionality induced by SMD elections) and data sources do not allow us to determine which districts are SMD	Colomer et al. (2006)
ind	Indirect elections	Colomer et al. (2006)
comp_largest_L	100 – vote share of the largest party in the previous election (lagged dependent variable)	Coded by authors
pev_change	Electorate recoded as first-difference	Coded by authors
pev_more	Amplitude of positive change in electorate (ln), 0 if negative	Coded by authors
pev_less	Amplitude of negative change in electorate (ln), 0 if positive	Coded by authors
dm_ln	The number of positions contested, transformed by the natural logarithm	Coded by authors
mag	The number of positions contested	See "data_source"
OECD	Coded 1 if Country was part of the OECD before 1990, 0 if otherwise	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (http://www.oecd.org/about/membersandpartners/list-oecd-member-countries.htm)
Polity4_imp	The POLITY2 variable, which reflects the extent of democracy and autocracy in a country; ranges from -10 to +10	(Marshall, Gurr & Jaggers 2013)
bottomtiername	Name of bottom tier unit in which the district (ward) resides. Note: Local UK elections occur at the level of wards, which elect members to various tiers of government.	Rallings, Thrasher & Ware (2006)
Brazil_state	Name of Brazilian state in which the district (state or municipality) resides.	Brambor and Ceneviva (2012), Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatistica)
round	Coded 2 if the second of two rounds, 1 if otherwise	See "data_source"

urban_perc	Proportion of population that is urban	US Census, Brambor and Ceneviva (2012), Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatistica)
incomepc_ln	Personal income per capita, transformed by the natural logarithm	US Bureau of Economic Analysis, Brambor and Ceneviva (2012), Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatistica)
literacy	% of population that is literate	Brambor and Ceneviva (2012), Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatistica)
universal_suffrage	Coded 0 until universal adult suffrage is established, 1 thereafter. Coded 0 if female and male suffrage are introduced separately	Coded by authors based on Przeworski (2013)
female_suffrage	Coded 0 until universal female adult suffrage is established, 1 thereafter. Coded 0 if female and male suffrage are introduced simultaneously	Coded by authors based on Przeworski (2013)
youth_suffrage	Coded 0 until suffrage is extended to youth (variously defined between the ages of 18-25), 1 thereafter. If there is more than one episode of youth suffrage extension in a country's history, the largest such extension is regarded as the treatment and other episodes are ignored	Coded by authors based on Przeworski (2013)
comp_incumb	100 – vote share of the incumbent party (i.e., the party with the largest vote share in the previous election)	Coded by authors
comp_diff	100 – the difference between the two parties with the top two vote shares	Coded by authors
turnover	1 if change in party control, 0 if otherwise (applies only to SMDs)	Coded by authors
comp_largest_binary	Coded 0 if one party obtained all of the votes, 1 if otherwise	Coded by authors
electorate_ln2	Electorate, transformed by the natural logarithm and then squared	Coded by authors
land_area_ln	Land area in square kilometers, transformed by the natural logarithm	Brambor and Ceneviva (2012), Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatistica)
area_sqm_ln	Land area in square miles, transformed by the natural logarithm	US National Atlas (http://www.nationalatlas.gov/articles/mapping/a_general.html)
college	% of people 25 and older who have a bachelor's degree	US Census
highschool	% of people 25 and older who have a high school degree	US Census
US_state	FIPS code for US state in which the district (state, city council ward, etc.) resides.	US Census
share1	Vote share of the largest vote-getting party	See "data_source"
party1	Numeric code for the largest vote-getting party	See "data_source"

party1_name	Name of the largest vote-getting party	See "data_source"
share2	Vote share of the second largest vote-getting party	See "data_source"
party2	Numeric code for the second largest vote-getting party	See "data_source"
party2_name	Name of the second largest vote-getting party	See "data_source"
share_incumb	Vote share of the incumbent party (i.e., the party with the largest vote share in the previous election)	See "data_source"
party_incumb	Numeric code for the incumbent party	See "data_source"
party_incumb_name	Name of the incumbent party	See "data_source"
turnout	Percent of eligible voters who voted	See "data_source"
comp_incumbdiff	100 – (the vote share of the incumbent party minus that of the non-incumbent party with the highest vote share)	Coded by authors
comp_incumbdiff2	100 – (the vote share of the incumbent party minus that of the non-incumbent party with the highest vote share), capped at 100	Coded by authors
turnover_broad	1 if change in party control, 0 if otherwise (coded even if not SMD)	Coded by authors
elec	Total number of electors in an indirect election	Constituency-Level Elections Archive (Kollman et al. 2011)
ev	Number of electors won by the winning party in an indirect election	Constituency-Level Elections Archive (Kollman et al. 2011)
f	Qualifications of the right to vote in national elections; the first digit reflects the extent of male suffrage (0=none, 7=nearly all), and the second digit reflects whether women are qualified on an equal basis (=2), more narrow basis (=1), or cannot vote (=no second digit)	Przeworski (2013)
ext_type	Type of franchise extension during that year, in national elections 0=none 1=by class (i.e. the first digit of "f" rose) 2=by gender (i.e. the second digit of "f" rose) 3=by class and gender (i.e. both digits of "f" rose)	Przeworski (2013)
oth_exclusions	Captures other franchise exclusions in national elections not reflected by the variable "f"	Przeworski (2013)
franchise_age	Minimum voting age in national elections	Przeworski (2013)
compulsory	1 if voting in any national elections is compulsory	Przeworski (2013)
eligible_pr	Ratio of the number of people eligible to vote to the total population of the country	Przeworski (2013)
legpart_pr	Ratio of voters in legislative elections to the total population of the country	Przeworski (2013)
prespart_pr	Ratio of voters in presidential elections to the total population of the country	Przeworski (2013)
participation_f	Participation ratio for legislative or presidential elections divided by the eligibility ratio	Przeworski (2013)
male_suffrage	Coded 0 until universal male adult suffrage is established, 1 thereafter. Coded 0 if female and male suffrage are introduced simultaneously	Coded by authors based on Przeworski (2013)

bottomtiertype	Type of bottom tier council to which the UK official was elected	Rallings, Thrasher & Ware (2006)
toptieradministrator	Coded 1 if UK official was elected to a top tier council, 0 otherwise	Rallings, Thrasher & Ware (2006)
toptiername	Name of top tier unit in which the district (ward) resides.	Rallings, Thrasher & Ware (2006)
countyname	Name of the county in which the district (ward) resides	Rallings, Thrasher & Ware (2006)
council_electorate	The number of eligible voters in all wards of the council to which the UK official was elected	Rallings, Thrasher & Ware (2006)
regionname	Name of the region (e.g. Scotland) in which the district (ward) resides	Rallings, Thrasher & Ware (2006)
candidateincumbent	Coded 1 if candidate was an incumbent, 0 otherwise	Rallings, Thrasher & Ware (2006)
wardname	Name of the ward, i.e. the level at which people elect UK officials to bottom and top tier councils	Rallings, Thrasher & Ware (2006)
US_state_pop	Population of the state in which the district resides	US Census
US_seats	Number of US House of Representative seats currently apportioned to the state in which the district resides	US Census
US_state_abb	Two-letter abbreviation for the state in which the district resides	US Census

Note: Highlighted variables are not used in the analyses.