ReadMe for Replication Files of "Majority Party Agenda Setting: Picking Fights or Avoiding Them?"

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1 Introduction

This ReadMe file contains information about the data files, variables, and programs used to execute the analyses included in the manuscript "Majority Party Agenda Setting: Picking Fights or Avoiding Them?"

All data files were saved as both .Rdata files for use in R, and as .csv files for use in other programs. All the analyses were run using R, and an R script (maj_agenda_setting_replication.R) is included for replication.

Further information about how each variable was collected and coded is found in the manuscript.

2 Data Sources

- Data on whip counts from the 105^{th}–107^{th} Congresses were generously made available by C. Lawrence Evans.

- The committee roll call vote data used to calculate minority party committee roll rates for Figure 1 in the paper come from the Harvard Dataverse page for Josh M. Ryan's 2020 paper in Legislative Studies Quarterly, "Bicameralism and Minority Party Influence on Legislative Development: Evidence from House Standing Committee Votes." (`https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/QRU9E6`)

- Roll-call data from the Political Institutions and Public Choice (PIPC) Program `http://www.ou.edu/carlalbertcenter/research/pipc-votes` were used to calculate minority party floor roll rates for Figure 1.

- Data on the presence or absence of minority or dissenting views in House committee reports, as well as cosponsorship data and committee referral, were collected from `https://www.congress.gov/`

- Data on the district-level presidential vote share, used to create the chamber sortedness variable, were collected from the Harvard Dataverse page for Gary Jacobson's 2015 paper in the Journal of Politics, "It's Nothing Personal: The Decline of the Incumbency Advantage in U.S. House Elections." (`https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/29559`)

- Data on the size of the majority party in each Congress were collected from `https://history.house.gov/Institution/Party-Divisions/Party-Divisions/`

- Data on other bill-level and member-level information was collected from the Congressional Bills Project (`http://www.congressionalbills.org/download.html`)

3 Data Files and Variable Descriptions

Data File: figure1_data.rdata (figure1_data.csv)

Description: This data file was used to create Figure 1 in the paper. It is Congress-level summary data on the proportion of House-sponsored measures on which the minority party was rolled. The minority party roll rate is calculated both for passage votes on the floor, and for votes to favorably report the bill from committee.

Variable	**Description**
congress	Numeric variable indicating the number of each Congress (104^{th}-114^{th})
venue	Factor variable indicating whether the value of the minority_roll_rate variable, for each observation, is referring to committee ('Committee') or the House floor ('Floor').
minority_roll_rate	Numeric variable measuring the proportion of bills in each Congress that were passed (or reported out of committee) with a majority of the minority party voting 'nay.'

Data File: whip_count_model_data.rdata (whip_count_model_data.csv)

Description: This data file was used to fit the multilevel logistic regression model presented in Table 1 of the paper (using the glmer() function from the lme4 package in R). The unit of analysis is a bill.

Variable	**Description**
whip	Factor variable indicating whether (1) or not (0) a bill was the subject of a whip count
bipartisan_cosponsors20	Indicator variable for whether (1) or not (0) at least 20% of a bill's cosponsors come from the opposite party of the bill sponsor
minority_or_dissenting_views	Factor variable indicating whether (1) or not (0) minority or dissenting views were attached to a bill's committee report
majority_sponsor	Factor variable indicating whether (1) or not (0) a bill was sponsored by a member of the majority party
reported_favorably	Factor variable indicating whether (1) or not (0) a bill was favorably reported from committee
congress	Factor variable indicating the Congress in which each bill was considered (104^{th}–114^{th})
primary_cmte	Factor variable indicating the primary committee to which each bill was referred
BillID	String variable that identifies each individual bill (formatted in accordance with the Congressional Bills Project)

Data File: new_merged_data.rdata (new_merged_data.csv)

Description: This data file was used to fit the multilevel logistic regression models presented in Tables 2 and 3 of the paper (using the glmer() function from the lme4 package in R). The unit of analysis is a bill.

Variable	**Description**
floor	Factor variable indicating whether (1) or not (0) a bill was considered on the House floor
bipartisan_cosponsors20	Indicator variable for whether (1) or not (0) at least 20% of a bill's cosponsors come from the opposite party of the bill sponsor
minority_or_dissenting_views	Factor variable indicating whether (1) or not (0) minority or dissenting views were attached to a bill's committee report
majority_sponsor	Factor variable indicating whether (1) or not (0) a bill was sponsored by a member of the majority party
reported_favorably	Factor variable indicating whether (1) or not (0) a bill was favorably reported from committee
commemorative	Factor variable indicating whether (1) or not (0) each bill is purely commemorative in nature
mult_ref	Factor variable indicating whether (1) or not (0) each bill was referred to multiple House committees
appropriations	Factor variable indicating whether (1) or not (0) each bill is an appropriations bill
reauthorization	Factor variable indicating whether (1) or not (0) each bill is a reauthorization bill (104^{th}–114^{th})
budget_resolutions	Factor variable indicating whether (1) or not (0) each bill is a budget resolution

Variable	Description
pct_sorted	Numeric variable indicating the proportion of House districts in each Congress in which the partisanship of the House incumbent matches the partisanship of the winner of the two-party presidential vote in that district
maj_pct	Numeric variable indicating the proportion of the House chamber that is held by members of the majority party in each Congress
congress	Factor variable indicating the Congress in which each bill was considered (104^{th}–114^{th})
primary_cmte	Factor variable indicating the primary committee to which each bill was referred
sponsor	Factor variable containing the name of each bill sponsor
BillID	String variable that identifies each individual bill (formatted in accordance with the Congressional Bills Project)