Legislating landlords: Private interests, issue emphasis, and policy positions

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This README file contains information on all R and Python scripts used to produce tables and plots reported in the main paper and Supporting Information.

The R package versions required to reproduce all results are listed at the start of each script. If the code does not run, package updates might have resulted in these errors. The authors ran all code scripts successfully on 6 May 2024. To reproduce the code, you can install the R version listed in the R script or use the *groundhog* package.[1] In order to run the R scripts, we recommend creating RProject[2] in the folder containing all data and scripts. Alternatively, you can use the *here*[3] package or set the working directory with the `setwd()` function. We strongly recommend downloading files in the original format from the Dataverse (select "Download" -> "Original File Format").

If you want to reproduce the entire analysis, just run the script **00_reproduce_analysis.R**. Below, we describe each file, the required input data, and outputs (temporary data, figures, tables).

00_reproduce_analysis.R
Running this script executed all scripts in the correct order. The script lists all packages (and CRAN versions) used in one or more R scripts in the folder. Please make sure to install these packages before rerunning our analysis. If you have the *rmarkdown* package installed, the script will also create html log files of all scripts. Note that some the these R scripts require datasets that cannot be uploaded to Dataverse due to Twitter's/X' data sharing policy. You can check the html log files included in the Dataverse folder for a confirmation of the replicability.

01a_merge_metadata.R
- Merge and wrangle metadata. All files need to execute this script are stored in the Dataverse.
- Outputs: Figure 01; Figure A04

01b_merge_metadata_texts.R
- Merge metadata with texts (tweets and parliamentary questions).
- Outputs: Figure A03

[1] Change `library(name_of_package)` to `groundhog::groundhog.library(name_of_package, date = "2024-05-06")` after installing groundhog: `install.packages("groundhog")`. More details are provided in the R scripts and at https://groundhogr.com/using/
[2] https://support.posit.co/hc/en-us/articles/200526207-Using-RStudio-Projects
[3] https://here.r-lib.org

02a_data_prep.R

- Script that loads the annotated tweets and parliamentary questions and creates training, test, and evaluation datasets for the classifiers. Note: these data cannot be shared publicly (but the resulting fine-tuned DistilBERT housing classifier is included in the Dataverse).

02b_fine-tune_distilbert_classifier.ipynb

- Script to fine-tune DistilBERT classifier with datasets created in 02a_data_prep.R. The resulting fine-tuned classifier is included in the Dataverse repository.

02c_classify_housing_distilbert.ipynb

- Apply fine-tuned classifier to the entire text corpus.

03_sentiment_models.ipynb

- Apply sentiment classifier to housing-related tweets and parliamentary questions.

04a_analysis_descriptive.R

- Create descriptive statistics reported in paper and appendix
- Outputs: Figure 03; Figure A01

04b_analysis_salience.R

- Descriptive statistics and regression models related to the salience of housing
- Outputs: Figure 04; Figure 06; Figure A06; Figure A08; Figure A10; Figure A12; Table A01; Table A02; Table A05; Table A09; Table A13; Table A15

04c_analysis_positions.R

- Descriptive statistics and regression models related to positions on housing
- Outputs: Figure 02; Figure 05; Figure 07; Table 01; Table 02; Table 03; Table 04; Table 06; Figure A05; Figure A07; Figure A09; Figure A13; Table A04; Table A05; Table A06; Table A07; Table A08; Table A10; Table A14

04d_analysis_keyatm.R

- Prepare keyATM dfm and run models and regressions using the output of the keyword-assisted topic models
- Outputs: Figure 08; Figure A11; Table A16

05_assess_changes_register_of_interest.R

- Assess changes in the Register of Interest after the scandals.
- Outputs: Table A11; Table A12

06_compare_classifiers.R

- Compare fine-tuned DistilBERT model with bag-of-words SVM
- Outputs: Table A03