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Codebook for the Party Voting Dataset

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Overview of the dataset

This dataset contains a variety of measures that relate to party voting in the U.S. Congress. The data are presented in two formats. The files "House Party Voting.xls" and "Senate Party Voting.xls" are in Excel while the files "hprty.txt" and "sprty.txt" are in ASCII. The data extend from the 40th – 109th Congresses. Contact Garry Young (YoungG@gwu.edu) if you are interested in the pre-40th Congress period or otherwise have questions about the data.

Some of these variables, such as the party unity scores are familiar in the literature. Variables L – AI were developed by Cooper and Young. Most of these are discussed in the following: Joseph Cooper and Garry Young. 2002. "Party and Preference in Congressional Decision Making: Roll Call Voting in the U.S. House of Representatives, 1889-1997." in Mathew McCubbins and David Brady, eds. *Party, Process, and Political Change in Congress: New Directions in Studying the History of the U.S. Congress* Stanford: Stanford University Press; & Joseph Cooper and Garry Young. 1997. "Partisanship, Bipartisanship, and Crosspartisanship in Congress Since the New Deal," in Lawrence Dodd and Bruce Oppenheimer, *Congress Reconsidered* 6th Ed. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press.

A Note on Party Labels

For party labels we relied on Kenneth Martis's *Historical Atlas of Political Parties in the United States Congress, 1789- 1989,* NY: MacMillan Pub. Co, 1989. These labels often conflict with those listed by ICPSR.

Variable List

A. Congress

B. Party Vote
The percentage of all roll call votes where at least 50% of the Democrats opposed at least 50% of the Republicans.

C. Dem Unity
Democratic Party Unity. On the set of party votes, the average percentage of Democrats who voted with their party majority. By definition this ranges from 50-100.

D. Rep Unity
Republican Party Unity. On the set of party votes, the average percentage of Republicans who voted with their party majority. By definition this ranges from 50-100.

E. Dem Cohes
Democratic Party Cohesion. On the set of all votes, the average absolute percentage of Democrats voting yes subtracted from Democrats voting no. For example, in a case where 80 Democrats vote yes and 20 vote no, the cohesion score for the single vote is 60.

F. Rep Cohes
Republican Party Cohesion. On the set of all votes, the average absolute percentage of Republicans voting yes subtracted from Republicans voting no.

G. Dem Supp
Democratic Party Support. On the set of party votes, the average percentage of the time a Democrat votes with his party majority, averaged across all Democrats. Absences are not included in the calculation. This score resembles the unity score except the support score is calculated by member rather than by vote.

H. Rep Supp
Republican Party Support. On the set of party votes, the average percentage of time a Republican votes with her party majority, averaged across all Republicans. Absences are not included in the calculation.

I. Likeness
The extent to which two parties voted together or apart, calculated as the absolute difference between the percentage of Democrats voting yes and the percentage of Republicans voting yes, subtracted from 100 and averaged across all votes. For example, if on a given vote 80% of the Dems vote yes while 60% of the Reps vote yes, the likeness score for the single vote is = 100-20 = 80.

J. Dem Bip Un
Democratic Bipartisan Unity. Same as Democratic Party Unity except it is calculated on the set of non-party votes, i.e., votes where 50%+ of the Democrats vote with 50%+ of the Republicans.

K. Rep Bip Un
Republican Bipartisan Unity. Same as Republican Party Unity except it is calculated on the set of non-party votes, i.e., votes where 50%+ of the Democrats vote with 50%+ of the Republicans.

L. Dem Fl 90
Democratic Fluidity Score, 90+. Fluidity scores are based on party support scores. They indicate the percentage of a party made up of a particular level of supporter. The score Dem Fl 90 thus shows the percentage of Democrats who supported the party on at least 90% of all party votes.

M. Dem Fl 80
The percentage of Democrats who supported their party on at least 80% but less than 90% of all party votes.

N. Dem Fl 70
The percentage of Democrats who supported their party on at least 70% but less than 80% of all party votes.

O. Dem Fl 60
The percentage of Democrats who supported their party on at least 60% but less than 70% of all party votes.

P. Dem Fl 50
The percentage of Democrats who supported their party on at least 50% but less than 60% of all party votes.

Q. Dem Fl < 50
The percentage of Democrats who supported their party on less than 50% of all party votes.

R. Rep Fl 90
The percentage of Democrats who supported their party on at least 90% of all party votes.

S. Rep Fl 80
The percentage of Republicans who supported their party on at least 80% but less than 90% of all party votes.

T. Rep Fl 70
The percentage of Republicans who supported their party on at least 70% but less than 80% of all party votes.

U. Rep Fl 60
The percentage of Republicans who supported their party on at least 60% but less than 70% of all party votes.

V. Rep Fl 50
The percentage of Republicans who supported their party on at least 50% but less than 60% of all party votes.

W. Rep Fl < 50
The percentage of Republicans who supported their party on less than 50% of all party votes.

X. Win
The percentage of the time a majority of the majority party is on the winning side on party votes.

Y. Adjusted Win
The win score adjusted by the level of party voting: (Win * Party Voting)/100.

Z. SemiCert
Semicertainty. The percentage of a chamber majority composed of majority party members whose support scores are 80%+. For example, if the House majority party has 230 members with 80%+ support scores, the semicertainty score is 106.

AA. Party Rule
Percentage of the time that members from the majority party make up at least a majority of the vote on a party vote.

AB. Adjusted Party Rule
The party rule score adjusted by the level of party voting: (Party Rule * Party Voting)/100.

AC. Exp Margin
Expected Margin. The number of expected votes the majority party is expected to garner on party votes, given their level of unity.

AD. SPrtStruc
Simple Partisan Structuring. Calculated as (Democratic Partisan Unity + Republican Partisan Unity) - 100.

AE. SBiPStruc
Simple Bipartisan Structuring. Calculated as (Democratic Bipartisan Unity – Republican Bipartisan Unity) - 100.

AF. SPrtRes
Simple Partisan Residual. Calculated as (100 – Simple Partisan Structuring).

AG. SBiPRes
Simple Bipartisan Residual. Calculated as (100 – Simple Bipartisan Structuring).

AH. OPrtStruc
Overall Partisan Structuring. The Simple Partisan Structuring score adjusted for the level of party voting. Calculated as (Simple Partisan Structuring * Party Voting)/100).

AI. ObiPStruc
Overall Bipartisan Structuring. The Simple Bipartisan Structuring score adjusted for the level of non-party voting. Calculated as (Simple Bipartisan Structuring * (100-Party Voting).

AJ. OXPStruc
Overall CrossPartisan Structuring. Calculated as (Simple Partisan Residual * Party Voting) + (Simple Bipartisan Residual * (100-Party Voting)) respectively.

AK. Majority
Majority Party. 100=Democrats, 200=Republicans.

AL. # in Maj
Number in Majority Party.

AM. # Dems
Number of Democrats.

AN. # Reps
Number of Republicans.

AO. # Oth
Number of third party members.

AP. # Chamber
Number in chamber.