Codebook for "'Are You Too Busy to Listen Up?' Legislative (Dis)engagement from Constituents in Local Public Meetings"

Variable Names, Structure, and Descriptive Summaries

Variable	Variable Label	Structure	Description if Applicable
Independent and Control Variables			
Constituent Race/Ethnicity	race_const black_white_const	White	race_const variable is a categorial variable capturing White, Black, Latin(x), Asian, or Other constituents black_white_const variable is a dummy variable for only Black or White constituents White refers to Non-Hispanic White Other includes individuals perceived as biracial or of Middle Eastern descent, and individuals in which intercoder agreement was weak (less than 3 of the 4 coders agreed on the person's race or ethnicity)
		Black	
		Latin(x)	
		Asian	
		Other	
Member Race/Ethnicity	race_rep black_white_rep white_nonwhite_rep	White	race_rep variable is a categorial variable capturing White, Black, Latin(x), or Asian members black_white_rep variable is a dummy variable for only Black or White members white_nonwhite_rep variable is a dummy variable for White or Non-White (Black, Latin(x), or Asian) members
		Black	
		Latin(x)	
		Asian	
Member Gender	gender_rep	Female	
		Male	
Constituent Gender	gender_const	Female	There was one individual who publicly identified as transgender male; to simplify the structure, this individual was coded as male
		Male	

Frequency of Attendance	freq_const	1	The number of times the constituent has spoken at the present meeting and the 5 prior meetings. This variable serves as a proxy for how often the individual participates in these meetings.
		2	
		3	
		4	
		5	
		6	
Speech on Dominant Topic	domin_topic	No	Whether the constituent speaks on a topic or item that attracts a significant number of constituent speakers and/or generates a significant amount of discussion among council members during that meeting (deliberation occurs for more than 30 minutes).
		Yes	
Same Opinion	same_opinion	No	Whether the constituent expresses a position or opinion that is largely similar to that of the constituent(s) before him/her.
		Yes	
Speech on Race	content_race	No	Whether the constituent speaks on explicitly or implicitly race-related issues. Examples of speech on race-related issues include the racially disparate effects of Stand Your Ground laws or the removal of Confederate statues from public spaces. Messages that focus on issues that appear race-neutral but are racially polarizing are also coded as speech on race-related issues (e.g. comment on an ordinance on marijuana dispensaries, in which many Whites supported the proposal, but Blacks opposed it because of the perceived detrimental effects of the ordinance on their communities).
		Yes	

Speech on Class	content_class	No	Whether the constituent speaks on issues that disproportionately affect working/lower class communities (e.g. the necessity of affordable housing programs, the formation of a tenant's union, the effects of homelessness, etc).
		Yes	
Order	order	1st	The order in which the constituent speaks during a particular hearing or period of the meeting. The first person who speaks during a particular hearing may not be the first person who speaks during the entire meeting. The coding classification does not go beyond the 10th person because there were very few public hearings in which more than 10 people spoke. Thus, any person who was the 11th or 20th person to speak is coded as 10+.
		2nd	
		3rd	
		4th	
		5th	
		6th	
		7th	
		8th	
		9th	
		10th or beyond	
Same Ward	ward_rep	No	Whether the constituent lives in the ward/ district the member represents
		Yes	
		Unknown	
City	city	City A	The city of the meeting the constituent speaks at.
		City B	
		City C	
		City D	
		City E	
		City F	

Speech on Confederate Statues	conf_meeting	No	Whether the constituent spoke on this high-profile issue - the removal of confederate monuments from public spaces - in City F. The hearing attracted 50+ speakers, and observations associated with this issue constitute a significant portion of the data.
		Yes	
Speech during Public Comment	pub_comment	No	Whether the constituent speaks during public comment, the period at the beginning and/or end of council meetings in which the constituent can comment on any issue as long as it relates to city matters
		Yes	
Speech during Public Hearing	pub_hearing	No	Whether the constituent speaks during a public hearing of the council meeting, in which the constituent can only comment on the issue/topic of the hearing
		Yes	
Dependent and Related Variables			
Total Speech Time (continuous)	speech_total	Continuous from 14-340 seconds	Total amount of time in seconds that the constituent speaks for; some constituents have spoken for longer than the time allowed (3 minutes), and some councils have been more lenient than others in enforcing the limits.
Total Speech Time (categorical)	cat_sptotal1	0-60 Seconds	categorical variable reflects total amount of time constituents speaks for according to the 6 categories in the column to the left
		61-120 Seconds	
		121-180 Seconds	
		181-240 Seconds	
		241-300 Seconds	
		300+ Seconds	

Distraction during 30 second intervals	distract30	Continuous from 0-30	Distraction during 0-30 seconds of constituent speech
	distract31_60	Continuous from 0-30	Distraction during 31-60 seconds of constituent speech
	distract61_90	Continuous from 0-30	Distraction during 61-90 seconds of constituent speech
	distract91_120	Continuous from 0-30	Distraction during 91-120 seconds of constituent speech
	distract121_150	Continuous from 0-30	Distraction during 121-150 seconds of constituent speech
	distract151_180	Continuous from 0-30	Distraction during 151-180 seconds of constituent speech
Distraction beyond 180 seconds	distract180plus	Continuous from 0-138 seconds	Distraction from 180 seconds of constituent speech
Distraction during full time intervals	atleast60	Continuous from 0-60 seconds	Distraction during 0-60 seconds of speech for constituents who speak for at least 60 seconds
	atleast90	Continuous from 0-90 seconds	Distraction during 0-90 seconds of speech for constituents who speak for at least 90 seconds
	atleast120	Continuous from 0-120 seconds	Distraction during 0-120 seconds of speech for constituents who speak for at least 120 seconds
	atleast150	Continuous from 0-150 seconds	Distraction during 0-150 seconds of speech for constituents who speak for at least 150 seconds
	atleast180	Continuous from 0-180 seconds	Distraction from 0-180 seconds of speech for constituents who speak for at least 180 seconds
	morethan180	Continuous from 0-180+ seconds	Distraction during 0-180+ seconds of speech for constituents who speak for more than 180 seconds
Distraction (Main Analyses)	new30sec	First 30 Seconds	**See Table 1**
	new1minute	First 60 Seconds	
	new2minutes	61-120 Seconds	

	new3minutes	121-180 Seconds	
	total_perc2	0-1 (Proportion)	
Distracting Activities Disaggregated by Type	talk	0-168 seconds	Total number of seconds member was engaged in peripheral conversations during entire constituent speech
	talk_dum	No	Whether member had peripheral conversations while constituent was speaking
		Yes	
	talk_perc	0-1	Proportion of the constituent's speaking time in which the member engaged in peripheral conversations
	write	0-150 seconds	Total number of seconds member was writing unrelated information during entire constituent speech
	write_dum	No	Whether the member was writing information unrelated to the content of the constituent's speech while constituent was speaking
		Yes	
	write_perc	0-1	Proportion of the constituent's speaking time in which the member was writing information unrelated to the content of the constituent's speech
	leave_seat	0-187 seconds	Total number of seconds remained out of seat during entire constituent speech
	leaveseat_dum	No	Whether the member left and remained out of seat while the constituent was speaking
		Yes	
	leaveseat_perc	0-1	Proportion of the constituent's speaking time in which the member left and remained out of seat
	distract_gen	0-282 seconds	Total number of seconds member was engaged in other general activities of distraction during entire constituent speech

	distractgen_dum	No	Whether the member engaged in other general activities of distraction while constituent was speaking
		Yes	
	distractgen_perc	0-1	Proportion of the constituent's speaking time in which the member engaged in other general activities of distraction
Total Distraction Time	distract_total1	From 0-285 seconds	Total seconds member was distracted during the entire constituent speech (sums across 30-second time intervals)
	distract_total2	From 0-285 seconds	Total seconds member was distracted during the entire constituent speech (sums across disaggregated distracting activities) Distract_total1 should equal distract_total2