Codebook for Replication Data: How Public Opinion Constrains The Supreme Court

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Where appropriate, please also cite the original source of the data.

Case Salience

A case is coded as salient if it was reported on the front page of the *New York Times* the day following the decision (Epstein & Segal 2000). The original data come from `http://epstein.law.northwestern.edu/research/salience.html`. We then updated the data using Epstein, Segal, Spaeth & Walker (2007).

Unit of Analysis

term The unit of analysis corresponds to the Court term and ranges from 1956 to 2000. As noted below, some of the predictor variables follow the calendar year. When a predictor follows the calendar year it overlaps with the Court decision variables in October, November, and December, but also incorporates information from the preceding 9 months.

Supreme Court Liberalism

The data come from Spaeth (2006). These data are now available at `http://supremecourtdatabase.org`. However, we used a previous release (`allcourt`) accessed from `http://www.as.uky.edu/polisci/ulmerproject/sctdata.htm`.

The unit of analysis is the docket number, in conjunction with split votes (analu=0, 1, or 4), for all orally-argued cases (dec_type = 1, 5, 6, 7).

all The percentage of liberal decisions each term for all cases.

sal The percentage of liberal decisions each term for all salient cases.

nosal The percentage of liberal decisions each term for all non-salient cases.

A reversal indicates that the petitioning party received a favorable disposition on the merits according to Spaeth (2006) (win=1).

all_rev The percentage of liberal decisions each term, among all cases that reversed the lower court's ruling.

sal_rev The percentage of liberal decisions each term, among all salient cases that reversed the lower court's ruling.

nosal_rev The percentage of liberal decisions each term, among all non-salient cases that reversed the lower court's ruling.

Supreme Court Ideology

sc_med The median Segal–Cover Ideology score. These ideology scores are based on editorials about the justices during their nomination process (Segal & Cover 1989, Segal, Epstein, Cameron & Spaeth 1995). The data were accessed from `http://www.stonybrook.edu/polsci/jsegal/qualtable.pdf`.

zsc_med The median Segal–Cover Ideology score standardized to a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1.

mq_med The median Martin–Quinn Ideology score (Martin & Quinn 2002). These ideology scores offer a dynamic measure of the justices' revealed preferences. The data were accessed from `http://mqscores.wustl.edu/measures.php`.

zmq_med The median Martin–Quinn Ideology score standardized to a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1.

Public Opinion

mood Annual Public Policy Mood (2006 Release), Updated from James A. Stimson. 1999. *Public Opinion in America: Moods, Cycles, and Swings, 2nd Ed.* Boulder: Westview Press. Accessed from `http://www.unc.edu/~jstimson/time.html`. This variable follows the calendar year.

mood_ct Annual Public Policy Mood, *by Supreme Court Term*. Provided by Jim Stimson (7/29/2008). This variable is contemporaneous with the dependent variables.

Social Forces

These variables all follow the calendar year.

unem The annual unemployment rate. The percent unemployed was calculated using the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: CPS Household Survey data on the number of unemployed and the total civilian labor force.

perchcpi The annual percent change in the inflation rate. Percent change was calculated using the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index of all urban consumers and for all items.

def_budg The percent of the federal budget spent on defense. The percentage was calculated using budget data come from the Policy Agendas Project (`http://www.policyagendas.org/datasets/index.html`).

policylib An annual measure of national policy liberalism. Policy liberalism was created by Erikson, MacKuen & Stimson (2002) and updated by Kelly (2005). This variable codes Mayhew's (1991) updated list of crucial policy laws as liberal or conservative (`http://pantheon.yale.edu/~dmayhew/`).

homicide The homicide rate per 100,000 individuals. Data from the FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, 1950-2005. Accessed from the Bureau of Justice Statistics `www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/homicide` (Date of Release: 1/17/2007).

inequality Inequality is measured with the Gini ratio for families. U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements, Table F-4 (`www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/histinc/f04.xls`).

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