Codebook

Political, Legal, Economic, and Social Inequality State Supreme Court Database
Version 5

Dataset Description

This dataset contains information on votes in the 50 state supreme court cases between 1990 and 2015. The unit of analysis is an individual judge's vote on a case.
N = 37,496

These data were collected with support from the National Science Foundation and the Russell Sage Foundation:

Gibson, James L., and Michael J. Nelson. Co-Principal Investigators. "Testing Models of Representation and Institutional Design in State Courts' Consideration of Inequality." National Science Foundation, 2015-2020. Approximately $226,355. SES-1456568 and SES-1456580.

Gibson, James L., and Michael J. Nelson. Co-Principal Investigators. "Judging Inequality." Russell Sage Foundation. 2018-2021. Approximately $150,000. G-1962.

Identifiers

uniqueid
: Text. The unique identifier for the case in Year State Citation Issue format (e.g. 1990 Ala. Lexis 747Election Law)

lexiscite
: Text. The LexisNexis citation for each case

Case Issue

issue
: Categorical. The case issue area.

Election Law
Mandatory Arbitration
Employment at Will
Attorneys Fees
Class Action
Damage Caps
School Finance
Collective Bargaining
Gay Rights

Judge and State Details

judgecode
: Text. The unique identifier for the judge in ST-## format (e.g., AL-13).

judgelastname
: Text. The judge's last name.

state
: Categorical. The state in which the judge served on the state supreme court.

Alabama
Alaska
Arizona
Arkansas
California
Colorado
Connecticut
Delaware
Florida
Georgia
Hawaii
Idaho
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Kentucky
Louisiana
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Mississippi
Missouri
Montana
Nebraska
Nevada
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New Mexico
New York
North Carolina
North Dakota

Ohio
Oklahoma
Oregon
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
South Carolina
South Dakota
Tennessee
Texas
Utah
Vermont
Virginia
Washington
West Virginia
Wisconsin
Wyoming

proeqvote

Numeric. Whether the judge voted in favor of equality.

0 Votes against equality
1 Votes in favor of equality

retentiontype

Numeric. The method by which the judge is retained.

0 No election
1 Partisan election
2 Nonpartisan election
3 Retention election

cfscore

Numeric. The Bonica and Woodruff (2014) cfscore ideology score for the judge. Supplemented with imputed scores for judges not in the Bonica/Woodruff dataset.

jgop

Numeric. Whether the judge is a Republican.

0 Democrat
1 Republican

instateug

Numeric. Whether the judge's undergraduate institution is in their state of service.

0 Out of state school
1 In-state school

instatelaw

Numeric. Whether the judge's law school is in their state of service.

0 Out of state school
1 In-state school

confed

Numeric. Whether the state in which the case was argued is one of the 11 Confederate states.

0 Not a Confederate state
1 Is a Confederate state

salary

Numeric. The judge's salary rescaled from 0 to 1.

ranney

Numeric. The Ranney index score for a state's political competitiveness. 0 indicates complete Republican control and 1 indicates complete Democratic control.

cwpo

Numeric. Caughey-Warshaw public opinion score.

fwineqop

Numeric. Franko-Witko inequality opinion score.

Outcome

eqbelow

Numeric. Whether the lower court favored equality.

0 Did not favor equality
1 Favored equality

haveequal

Numeric. Whether the haves party seeks equality.

0 Seeks inequality
1 Seeks equality

majproc

Numeric. Whether the court decided the case on procedural (standing, mootness, justiciability).

0 No
1 Yes

Case Topic

workersrights

Numeric. Whether the case was a rights of workers and employees case.

0 Other

1 Rights of Workers and Employees

accesstojustice

Numeric. Whether the case was an access to justice case.

0 Other

1 Access to Justice

weight

Numeric. The weights associated with three issue domains.