Court Curbing Lower State Courts in the US
Meghan E. Leonard
Hayley Munir
Michael Catalano

Data file: LCC_Billlevel.dta

Variable (Obs)	Code	Explanation	Unit of analysis	Source*
state_fips (1494)	01 ALABAMA 02 ALASKA 04 ARIZONA 05 ARKANSAS 06 CALIFORNIA 08 COLORADO 09 CONNECTICUT 10 DELAWARE 12 FLORIDA 13 GEORGIA 15 HAWAII 16 IDAHO 17 ILLINOIS 18 INDIANA 19 IOWA 20 KANSAS 21 KENTUCKY 22 LOUISIANA 23 MAINE 24 MARYLAND 25 MASSACHUSETTS 26 MICHIGAN 27 MINNESOTA 28 MISSISSIPPI 29 MISSOURI 30 MONTANA 31 NEBRASKA 32 NEVADA 33 NEW HAMPSHIRE 34 NEW JERSEY 35 NEW MEXICO 36 NEW YORK 37 NORTH CAROLINA 38 NORTH DAKOTA 39 OHIO 40 OKLAHOMA 41 OREGON 42 PENNSYLVANIA 44 RHODE ISLAND 45 SOUTH CAROLINA 46 SOUTH DAKOTA 47 TENNESSEE 48 TEXAS	Numerical state identifier	Individual bill-level	Renumbered from the state variable in the New Data to use fips coding

	49 UTAH 50 VERMONT 51 VIRGINIA 53 WASHINGTON 54 WEST VIRGINIA 55 WISCONSIN 56 WYOMING		
type_code (1247)	1 Decision-making	Numerical identifier for Type	Individual bill-level
	2 Discipline		
	3 Impeachment		
	4 Jurisdiction		
	5 Qualification & Terms		
	6 Recusal		
	7 Removal		
	8 Rule Making Authority		
	9 Salary and Budget		
	10 Selection		
	11 Structure Changes		
	12 Other		
court_affected (1247)	1 State supreme court	The court or courts the bill is designed to affect or change	Individual bill-level
	2 Intermediate appellate court		
	3 Trial court – general		
	4 Trial court – limited		
	5 All courts in the state		
	6 Appellate courts only		
	7 Trial courts only		
	8 All but state high court		
sponsorparty (704)	0 Democratic 1 Republican		Individual bill-level
memberofjudiciarycommittee (1023)	0 Not a member	Sponsor membership on the judiciary committee where available	Individual bill-level
	1 Member of judiciary		
	. missing value		
memberofleadership (1031)	0 Not a member	Sponsor membership of leadership where available	Individual bill-level
	1 Member of leadership		
	. missing value		
leg_prof (1247)		Squire state legislative professionalism score	State level
sponsor_court_distance	. missing value	Ideological distance between the sponsor and	Individual bill-level

(891)		the median state supreme court ideology (CF scores)		
uh_perc_d (1494)		The variable measures the percentage of Democrats in each state's upper house.	State level	Data from Ballotpedia
court_affect_categorical (1247)	0 if the court targeted by the bill includes all or some courts 1 if the targeted court is a trial court 2 if the targeted court is an intermediate appellate court 3 if the targeted court in the state supreme court		Individual bill-level	
sponsor_lower_distance (948)		Ideological distance between the sponsor and the median lower court ideology (CF scores)	Individual bill-level	Lower court ideology from Bonica CF scores
trialcourt (1248)	1 if bill curbs trial court 0 otherwise		Individual bill-level	
IAC (1248)	1 if bill curbs intermediate appellate court 0 otherwise		Individual bill-level	
SSC (1248)	1 if bill curbs state supreme court 0 otherwise		Individual bill-level	
trial_constestable (1248)	1 if judges on trial courts are elected in contestable elections 0 otherwise		State level	
trial_merit (1248)	1 if judges on trial courts are selected with merit selection 0 otherwise		State level	
newid (864)		The variable measures the difference between the democratic share of presidential votes for each bill sponsor's district and the democratic share of presidential votes for each trial court or jurisdiction a bill targets. The variable	State level	

		captures the difference between sponsor ideology and lower court ideology. The democratic share of presidential votes is taken from the most recent presidential election that happened before the court-curbing bill

* Unless otherwise noted, all variables in this data from Leonard, Meghan E., 2022, "Replication Data for: New Data on Court Curbing by State Legislatures" https://doi.org/10.15139/S3/MJMNUG, UNC Dataverse, V1

Data File: Lower Court Curbing.dta

Variable (Obs)	Code	Explanation	Unit of analysis	Source*
state_fips (550)	01 ALABAMA 02 ALASKA 04 ARIZONA 05 ARKANSAS 06 CALIFORNIA 08 COLORADO 09 CONNECTICUT 10 DELAWARE 12 FLORIDA 13 GEORGIA 15 HAWAII 16 IDAHO 17 ILLINOIS 18 INDIANA 19 IOWA 20 KANSAS 21 KENTUCKY 22 LOUISIANA 23 MAINE 24 MARYLAND 25 MASSACHUSETTS 26 MICHIGAN 27 MINNESOTA 28 MISSISSIPPI 29 MISSOURI 30 MONTANA 31 NEBRASKA 32 NEVADA 33 NEW HAMPSHIRE 34 NEW JERSEY	Numerical state identifier	State-year	

	35 NEW MEXICO 36 NEW YORK 37 NORTH CAROLINA 38 NORTH DAKOTA 39 OHIO 40 OKLAHOMA 41 OREGON 42 PENNSYLVANIA 44 RHODE ISLAND 45 SOUTH CAROLINA 46 SOUTH DAKOTA 47 TENNESSEE 48 TEXAS 49 UTAH 50 VERMONT 51 VIRGINIA 53 WASHINGTON 54 WEST VIRGINIA 55 WISCONSIN 56 WYOMING			
year (550)	1 Decision-making	Numerical identifier for Type	State-year	
leg_prof (450)		Squire state legislative professionalism score	State-year	
lower_leg_distance (250)	. missing value		State-year	Lower court ideology calculated from Bonica CF scores
uh_perc_d (550)		The variable measures the percentage of Democrats in each state's upper house.	State-year	Data from Ballotpedia
rep_cont_one (450)	1 if Republicans control at least one of the houses of the legislature or the governorship 0 otherwise		State-year	
trial_dummy	1 if the bill curbs a trial court 0 otherwise			

IAC_dummy	1 if the bill curbs an intermediate appellate court 0 otherwise			
trial_constestable (450)	1 if judges on trial courts are elected in contestable elections 0 otherwise		State-year	Book of the states
trial_merit (450)	1 if judges on trial courts are selected with merit selection 0 otherwise		State-year	Book of the states
iac_ordinal (450)		Number of bills in the state year that curb intermediate appellate courts	State-year	
trial_ordinal (450)		Number of bills in the state year that curb trial courts	State-year	
fipstate (450)	01 ALABAMA 02 ALASKA 04 ARIZONA 05 ARKANSAS 06 CALIFORNIA 08 COLORADO 09 CONNECTICUT 10 DELAWARE 12 FLORIDA 13 GEORGIA 15 HAWAII 16 IDAHO 17 ILLINOIS 18 INDIANA 19 IOWA 20 KANSAS 21 KENTUCKY 22 LOUISIANA 23 MAINE 24 MARYLAND 25 MASSACHUSETTS 26 MICHIGAN 27 MINNESOTA 28 MISSISSIPPI 29 MISSOURI 30 MONTANA 31 NEBRASKA 32 NEVADA 33 NEW HAMPSHIRE 34 NEW JERSEY 35 NEW MEXICO 36 NEW YORK	Numerical state identifier	State-year	

```
37    NORTH
CAROLINA
38    NORTH DAKOTA
39    OHIO
40    OKLAHOMA
41    OREGON
42    PENNSYLVANIA
44    RHODE ISLAND
45    SOUTH
CAROLINA
46    SOUTH DAKOTA
47    TENNESSEE
48    TEXAS
49    UTAH
50    VERMONT
51    VIRGINIA
53    WASHINGTON
54    WEST VIRGINIA
55    WISCONSIN
56    WYOMING
```

* Unless otherwise noted, all variables in this data from Leonard, Meghan E., 2022, "Replication Data for: New Data on Court Curbing by State Legislatures" https://doi.org/10.15139/S3/MJMNUG, UNC Dataverse, V1

References:

Bonica, Adam. 2024. Database on Ideology, Money in Politics, and Elections: Public version 4.0 [Computer file]. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Libraries. **https://data.stanford.edu/dime.**

"Source: The Council of State Governments." https://bookofthestates.org/

Leonard, Meghan E., 2022, "Replication Data for: New Data on Court Curbing by State Legislatures" https://doi.org/10.15139/S3/MJMNUG, UNC Dataverse, V1