Who Debates, Who Wins? At-Scale Experimental Evidence on the Supply of Policy Information in a Liberian Election
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data_voter.dta

This file contains the survey data defined at the respondent level. Manuscript provides additional information on the survey procedures. For each of the index outcomes, which are prefixed by "std_", different weighting schemes are applied to construct the index, always standardized with respect to respondents in electoral districts assigned to control and are denoted by the suffix of the variable name. "_w1" corresponds to "Obs" weights; "_w2" corresponds to "Reg" weights; "_w3" corresponds to "Dem" weights. See Tables A1-A2 for descriptive statistics and Appendix A.6.2 for references to specific survey questions used to construct outcome variables.

EDCODE	: Code for the respondent's electoral district.
OperatorId	: Code for the enumerator.
r_age	: Age of respondent; Count.
r_education	: Highest education level of the respondent.
r_ed_1	: Education: Primary or greater; {0,1}.
r_ed_2	: Education: Secondary or greater; {0,1}.
r_ed_3	: Education: Tertiary or greater; {0,1}.
r_survey_day	: Day of survey enumeration (days since September 1, 2017); Count.
r_male	: Respondent is male; {0,1}.
ED_week	: Week of candidate debates in electoral district.
ED_n_debates	: Number of debates held in electoral district.
ED_n_cand_17	: Number of candidates running for office in electoral district in 2017.
ED_incum_run	: Indicator for incumbent running for office in electoral district in 2017.
ED_ran_11	: Share of 2017 candidates who ran in 2011.
ED_log_reg_17	: Log of number of registered voters in electoral district in 2017.
ED_vote_1_11	: Vote share of the first-placed candidate in electoral district in 2011.
ED_vote_2_11	: Vote share of the second-placed candidate in electoral district in 2011.
ED_vote_3_11	: Vote share of the third-placed candidate in electoral district in 2011.
ED_hhi_11	: Herfindahl index of vote shares among candidates in electoral district in 2011.
ED_turnout_11	: Turnout in electoral district in 2011.
ED_pop_dens_08	: Log population density in electoral district based on 2008 census.
ED_age_18	: Share of population above 18 in electoral district based on 2008 census.
ED_ed_sec	: Share of population in electoral district with secondary education.
ED_gsm_15	: Share of land area of electoral district covered by GSM phone signal in 2015.
ED_own_radio	: Share of population in electoral district owning a radio (Afrobarometer, 2016).
ED_radio_news	: Share of population in electoral district using a radio for political news (Afrobarometer, 2016).

ED_radio_cov	: Average number of partner radio station signals covering each locality in electoral district (2016).
t_block	: Randomization block of the electoral district.
t_invite	: Treatment indicator for assignment to Intensive Invite intervention; {0,1}.
t_broadcast	: Treatment indicator for assignment to Rebroadcasting intervention; {0,1}.
obs	: Number of survey respondents in electoral district; Count.
reg	: Number of registered voters in electoral district; Count.
wgt_dem	: Demographic weights for respondent.
seq	: Index of respondent in electoral district.
deb_attend_share	: Share of candidates that attended debate; [0,1].
deb_attend_incumbent	: Incumbent attended debate; {0,1}.
deb_attend_chal	: Share of challengers that attended debate; [0,1].
deb_attend_nonchal	: Share of other candidates that attended debate; [0,1].
deb_attend_winner	: Election winner attended debate; {0,1}.
deb_attend_chal_a	: Share of actual challengers that attended debate; [0,1].
deb_attend_nonchal_a	: Share of actual other candidates that attended debate; [0,1].
std_d_exposure	: Debate listening index; z-score.
d_heard_d	: Change in whether respondent heard debate between baseline and endline; {0,1}.
d_heard	: Heard debate; {0,1}.
d_heard_N	: Number of times heard debate; Count.
std_d_knowledge	: Debate knowledge index; z-score.
d_winner_attend	: Debate winner attended debate; {0,1}.
d_share_participants	: Stated share of participating candidates; [0,1].
d_share_top3	: Stated share of participating leading candidates; [0,1].
std_p_knowledge	: Policy knowledge index; z-score.
i_CDF correct_d	: Switches to correctly identifying manager of CSDF; {0,1}.
i_CDF_cit_law_d	: Switches to correctly citing CSDF reporting requirements; {0,1}.
i_CDF_rep_law_d	: Switches to correctly citing CSDF citizen involvement requirements; {0,1}.
std_i_demand	: Political information demand index; z-score.
i_radio_d	: Change in radio listening; [-6,6].
i_other_sources	: Demand for non-radio information sources; [0,7].
i_friends_d	: Change in political discussion with friends; [-6,6].
d_discuss_friends	: Discussed debate with friends; [1,5]
d_discuss_coordinate	: Discussion of debate led to coordination; [1,5].
rb_confirm	: Number of rebroadcasts confirmed by radio monitors; Count.
rb_survey	: Number of rebroadcasts reported by partner radio station; Count.
rb_treat_bl	: Respondent is surveyed at baseline after the first broadcasting of the district debate; {0,1}.

std_d_exposure_b : Debate exposure index (standardized to control in rebroadcasting condition); z-score.

data_voter_candidate.dta

This file contains the survey data defined at the respondent-candidate level. Manuscript provides additional information on the survey procedures. For each of the index outcomes, which are prefixed by "std_", different weighting schemes are applied to construct the index, always standardized with respect to respondents in electoral districts assigned to control and are denoted by the suffix of the variable name. "_w1" corresponds to "Obs" weights; "_w2" corresponds to "Reg" weights; "_w3" corresponds to "Dem" weights. The "i_" and "c_" prefixes for these variables reflect whether they have been standardized with respect to incumbents or challengers. See Table A3 for descriptive statistics and Appendix A.6.2 for references to specific survey questions used to construct outcome variables.

EDCODE	: Code for the respondent's electoral district.
OperatorId	: Code for the enumerator.
r_age	: Age of respondent; Count.
r_education	: Highest education level of the respondent.
r_ed_1	: Education: Primary or greater; {0,1}.
r_ed_2	: Education: Secondary or greater; {0,1}.
r_ed_3	: Education: Tertiary or greater; {0,1}.
r_survey_day	: Day of survey enumeration (days since September 1 2017); Count.
r_male	: Respondent is male; {0,1}.
ED_week	: Week of candidate debates in electoral district.
ED_n_debates	: Number of debates held in electoral district.
ED_n_cand_17	: Number of candidates running for office in electoral district in 2017.
ED_incum_run	: Indicator for incumbent running for office in electoral district in 2017.
ED_ran_11	: Share of 2017 candidates who ran in 2011.
ED_log_reg_17	: Log of number of registered voters in electoral district in 2017.
ED_vote_1_11	: Vote share of the first-placed candidate in electoral district in 2011.
ED_vote_2_11	: Vote share of the second-placed candidate in electoral district in 2011.
ED_vote_3_11	: Vote share of the third-placed candidate in electoral district in 2011.
ED_hhi_11	: Herfindahl index of vote shares among candidates in electoral district in 2011.
ED_turnout_11	: Turnout in electoral district in 2011.
ED_pop_dens_08	: Log population density in electoral district based on 2008 census.
ED_age_18	: Share of population above 18 in electoral district based on 2008 census.
ED_ed_sec	: Share of population in electoral district with secondary education.
ED_gsm_15	: Share of land area of electoral district covered by GSM phone signal in 2015.
ED_own_radio	: Share of population in electoral district owning a radio (Afrobarometer, 2016).
ED_radio_news	: Share of population in electoral district using a radio for political news (Afrobarometer, 2016).
ED_radio_cov	: Average number of partner radio station signals covering each locality in electoral district (2016).
t_block	: Randomization block of the electoral district.

t_invite : Treatment indicator for assignment to Intensive Invite intervention; {0,1}.
t_broadcast : Treatment indicator for assignment to Rebroadcasting intervention; {0,1}.
obs : Number of survey respondents in electoral district; Count.
reg : Number of registered voters in electoral district; Count.
wgt_dem : Demographic weights for respondent.
ID_cand : Code for the candidate.
incumbent : Candidate is incumbent; {0,1}.
top_chal : Candidate is challenger; {0,1}.
party_UP : Candidate belongs to incumbent Unity Party; {0,1}.
party : Candidate's political party.
attend : Candidate attended debate; {0,1}.
perf_pred : Predicted debate performance of candidate; [0,1].
perf_obs : Observed jackknife debate performance of candidate; [0,1].
pref_match : Policy alignment between respondent and candidate at baseline; [0,1].
std_cand_ground : On-the-ground campaigning index; z-score.
cand_campaign_leaf : Candidate visited respondent's community; {0,1}.
cand_campaign_visit : Candidate distributed leaflets in respondent's community;{0,1}.
cand_vbuy : Frequency with which candidate was reported to buy votes in respondent's community; [1,5].
std_cand_radio : Radio campaigning index; z-score.
cand_radio : Frequency with which respondent heard candidate on the radio; [1,5].
std_cand_comp_sure_d : Standardized change in certainty about candidate competence between baseline and endline; z-score.
std_cand_issue_sure_d : Standardized change in certainty about candidate policy priorities; z-score.
std_cand_comp_d : Standardized change in beliefs about candidate competence; z-score.
std_cand_issue_d : Standardized change in share of candidate's policy priorities correctly named; z-score.
cand_comp_sure_d : Change in certainty about candidate competence between baseline and endline; [-4,4].
cand_issue_sure_d : Change in certainty about candidate policy priorities; [-4,4].
cand_comp_d : Change in beliefs about candidate competence; [-4,4].
cand_issue_d : Change in share of candidate's policy priorities correctly named; [-1,1].
cand_comp_bl : Beliefs about candidate's competence at baseline; [1,5].
cand_comp_sure_bl : Certainty about candidate's competence at baseline; [1,5].
cand_issue_sure_bl : Certainty about candidate's policy priorities at baseline; [1,5].
v_cand : Respondent reports voting for candidate; {0,1}.
v_cand_d : Respondent switches to voting for candidate between baseline and endline; {0,1}.
v_cand_bl : Respondent reported intention to vote for candidate at baseline; {0,1}.
rb_treat_bl : Respondent is surveyed at baseline after the first broadcasting of the district debate; {0,1}.

data_ps.dta

This file contains polling station level electoral data.

EDCODE	: Code for the respondent's electoral district.
PS_vreg	: Number of registered voters in polling station in 2017.
PS_n_stations	: Number of polling stations in the polling place (Voter Registration Center).
PS_new	: Polling place was added as a new Voter Registration Center between 2011 and 2017 elections.
PS_vreg_11	: Number of registered voters in polling station 2011.
PS_n_stations_11	: Number of polling stations in the polling place in 2011.
PS_turnout_11	: Turnout at polling station in 2011.
PS_invalid_11	: Share of invalid votes cast at polling station in 2011.
PS_covered	: Polling station is covered by radio signal from a partner radio station.
PS_urban	: Polling station is in a locality defined as being urban.
ED_week	: Week of candidate debates in electoral district.
ED_n_debates	: Number of debates held in electoral district.
ED_n_cand_17	: Number of candidates running for office in electoral district in 2017.
ED_incum_run	: Indicator for incumbent running for office in electoral district in 2017.
ED_ran_11	: Share of 2017 candidates who ran in 2011.
ED_log_reg_17	: Log of number of registered voters in electoral district in 2017.
ED_vote_1_11	: Vote share of the first-placed candidate in electoral district in 2011.
ED_vote_2_11	: Vote share of the second-placed candidate in electoral district in 2011.
ED_vote_3_11	: Vote share of the third-placed candidate in electoral district in 2011.
ED_hhi_11	: Herfindahl index of vote shares among candidates in electoral district in 2011.
ED_turnout_11	: Turnout in electoral district in 2011.
ED_pop_dens_08	: Log population density in electoral district based on 2008 census.
ED_age_18	: Share of population above 18 in electoral district based on 2008 census.
ED_ed_sec	: Share of population in electoral district with secondary education.
ED_gsm_15	: Share of land area of electoral district covered by GSM phone signal in 2015.
ED_own_radio	: Share of population in electoral district owning a radio (Afrobarometer, 2016).
ED_radio_news	: Share of population in electoral district using a radio for political news (Afrobarometer, 2016).
ED_radio_cov	: Average number of partner radio station signals covering each locality in electoral district (2016).
t_block	: Randomization block of the electoral district.
t_invite	: Treatment indicator for assignment to Intensive Invite intervention; {0,1}.
ps	: Number of polling stations in electoral district in 2017; Count.
reg	: Number of registered voters in polling station in 2017; Count.
seq	: Index of polling station in electoral district; Count.

incumbent	: Candidate is incumbent; {0,1}.
top_chal	: Candidate is challenger; {0,1}.
party_UP	: Candidate belongs to incumbent Unity Party; {0,1}.
voteshare	: Vote share of candidate at the polling station in election; [0,1].
perf_pred	: Predicted debate performance of candidate; [0,1].
pref_match	: Policy alignment between candidate and all respondents in electoral district at baseline; [0,1].

data_candidates.dta

This file contains the survey data from our survey of candidates running in the election. Manuscript provides additional information on the survey procedures.

EDCODE	: Code for the respondent's electoral district.
ID_cand	: Code for the candidate.
t_block	: Randomization block of the electoral district.
t_invite	: Treatment indicator for assignment to Intensive Invite intervention; {0,1}.
took_survey	: Candidate responded to candidate survey; {0,1}.
wgt_all	: Number of responding candidates in electoral district; Count.
wgt_chal	: Number of responding challengers in electoral district; Count.
incumbent	: Candidate is incumbent; {0,1}.
top_chal	: Candidate is challenger; {0,1}.
party_UP	: Candidate belongs to incumbent Unity Party; {0,1}.
cand_type	: Candidate type; {Incumbent, Challenger, Other}.
pref_match_cand	: Policy alignment (based on candidate's reported policy priorities); [0,1].
pref_match_share	: Policy alignment (based on voter survey); [0,1].
perf_pred	: Predicted debate performance of candidate; [0,1].
attend	: Candidate participated in debate; {0,1}.
r_age	: Age of candidate in years; Count.
r_ed_uni	: Candidate has university education; {0,1}.
r_ran_before	: Candidate ran in a prior election; {0,1}.
r_gov_job_before	: Candidate held a non-elected government job previously; {0,1}.
r_NGO	: Candidate has prior experience working for an NGO; {0,1}.
r_adv	: Candidate has prior experience working on an advocacy campaign; {0,1}.
r_expenditure	: Self-reported total amount spent on election campaign (USD); Count.
r_radio_yes	: Candidate either owns, or manages, a radio station; {0,1}.
r_male	: Candidate is male; {0,1}.
why_duty	: Candidate cited their democratic duty as influencing their decision to participate; {0,1}.
why_policy	: Candidate cited the opportunity to present their policy priorities as influencing their decision to participate; {0,1}.
why_comp	: Candidate cited the opportunity to present their competence as influencing their decision to participate; {0,1}.
why_publicity	: Candidate cited the opportunity for campaign publicity as influencing their decision to participate; {0,1}.
why_radio	: Candidate cited the specific benefits of radio broadcasting as influencing their decision to participate; {0,1}.
why_attack	: Candidate cited the opportunity to attack other candidates as influencing their decision to participate; {0,1}.
e_prom_diff	: Candidate believes that candidates make different promises on radio versus on-the-ground campaigning; {0,1}.
e_prom_rally	: Candidate believes that promises made by candidates at rallies are very likely to be fulfilled; {0,1}.

e_prom_radio : Candidate believes that promises made by candidates on radio are very likely to be fulfilled; {0,1}.

data_transcript.dta
This file contains coded data from the debate transcripts.

cand_type	: Candidate type; {Incumbent, Challenger, Other}.
intro_words	: Number of words spoken in debate introduction; Count.
emph_education	: Candidate highlighted their educational attainment in their introduction; {0,1}.
emph_experience	: Candidate highlighted their relevant experience in their introduction; {0,1}.
words_cdf	: Number of words spoken about ways to improve management of County Social Development Funds; Count.
words_lsp	: Number of words spoken about priorities for spending Legislative Support Projects funds; Count.
attacked	: Candidate was verbally attacked by another candidate; {0,1}.
attacker	: Candidate verbally attacked another candidate; {0,1}.

data_incumbents.dta

This file contains incumbent parliamentary attendance data from IREDD (2016). Manuscript provides additional details.

EDCODE	: Code for the respondent's electoral district.
t_block	: Randomization block of the electoral district.
t_invite	: Treatment indicator for assignment to Intensive Invite intervention; {0,1}.
wgt_reg	: Number of registered voters in electoral district; Count.
SC_present	: Share of parliamentary sessions in 2016 that incumbent attended; [0,1].
SC_absent	: Share of parliamentary sessions in 2016 that incumbent was absent from; [0,1].
SC_distant	: Share of parliamentary sessions in 2016 that incumbent was away from Monrovia for; [0,1].