This document contains the variable names and definitions described in:

Byers, Jason and Laine Shay(laine.shay@tamucc.edu). 2025. "The Electoral Connection, State Attorneys General, and the Dynamics of Incarceration Rates." *Journal of Public Policy*. Please refer to the article for a fuller account of these data.

VARIABLE DEFINITIONS AND LABELS

year: An integer representing each year in the data for each state-year observation.

state_revenue: this measure is a state's total revenue in a year divided by the state's GSP. The revenue data comes from the U.S. Census Bureau's *Annual Survey of State Government Finances*. The GSP data comes from Klarner (2013).

dv: This is the dependent variable for this analysis. It is the number of inmates in state correctional facilities (per 100,000 state population). This comes from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics (2024). The state population data (Klarner 2013).

elected: This is coded as whether a state has an elected attorney general (1) or not (0). This data comes from various editions of *The Book of the States*.

fip: The state FIPS code is a two-digit numerical identifier assigned by the federal government to uniquely represent each U.S. state.

Citizen: This is William Berry and his colleagues' measure of ideology among citizens in a state in a given year. Specifically, it relies on DW-NOMINATE scores (Berry et al. 2010). Higher values indicate greater liberalism. We use the most recently updated scores.

Govt_Ideol: This is William Berry and his colleagues' measure of state government ideology for a state in a given year. Specifically, it relies on DW-NOMINATE scores (Berry et al. 2010). Higher values indicate greater liberalism. We use the most recently updated scores.

GOP_Elected: Whether a state has an elected Republican Attorney General (1) or not (0). The data are collected from publicly available state records online.

Dem_Elected: Whether a state has an elected Democratic Attorney General (1) or not (0). The data are collected from publicly available state records online.

south: Whether a state belongs to the South (1) or not (0). We identify states as Southern if they were part of the Confederacy during the Civil War.

percentblack: This is the percentage of the state's population that identifies as African American. This data comes for the U.S. Census.

urban: This is the percentage of the state that is urban as defined by the U.S. Census (Iowa Community Indicators Program 2023). We log this variable.

crime: This is the violent crime rate in a state in a given year. This data is compiled by the *Correlates of State Policy Project* (Grossman et al, 2021). The original source is from Sorens et al. (2008).

povrate: Is the estimated poverty rate in a state in a given year. This data is compiled by the *Correlates of State Policy Project* (Grossman et al, 2021). The original source is from the University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research.

income: A measure of in income per capita in a state in a given year. We log this variable. This data is compiled by the *Correlates of State Policy Project* (Grossman et al, 2021).

gsp: A measure of state's GDP in a given year. This data is compiled by the *Correlates of State Policy Project* (Grossman et al, 2021). We log this variable.

police_percent: The percentage of total state expenditures allocated to policing in a given year. This data comes from U.S. Census Bureau's *Annual Survey of State Government Finances.*

leg: Squire's legislative professionalism (2007). This variable is logged.

elected_term: Whether a state has an elected attorney general whose office has term limits (1) or not (0).

elected_noterm: Whether a state has an elected attorney general whose office does not have term limits (1) or not (0).

law_enforcement_spending: This data comes from the U.S. Census Bureau's *Annual Survey of State Government Finances* dataset, and it is measured as the amount of state spending devoted to police per capita. The data for state population comes from Klarner (2023).

gop_gov: whether the governor is a Republican (1) or not (0). This data comes from *The Book of the States* and Gunderson (2022).

dem_gov: whether the governor is a Democrat (1) or not (0). This data comes from *The Book of the States* and Gunderson (2022).

leg_gop: Whether the Republican Party control the legislative branch (1) or not (0). This data comes from *The Book of the States* and Gunderson (2022).

leg_dem: Whether the Democratic Party control the legislative branch (1) or not (0). This data comes from *The Book of the States* and Gunderson (2022).

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