CODEBOOK: HOW DO ELECTORAL INCENTIVES AFFECT LEGISLATOR BEHAVIOR?

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Chapter 1

Introduction

The dataset `termlimited.dta` contains information on legislators who served in states with term limits from the 1980s to 2016. This codebook describes the dataset.

The dataset comprises the complete universe of elected legislators. To facilitate meaningful comparisons across legislators, we do not include legislators who were elected in special elections in the middle of a term. Each row in the dataset pertains to a legislator in a particular term, and the variables contain legislator- and legislature-level information.

Chapter 2

Description of Variables

Each row in the dataset is uniquely identified by a state legislator in a given term. The dataset contains 227 variables. Each variable is briefly described below.

`state`	String variable. String variable that reports the state. The variable has 16,727 non-missing observations and 14 distinct values.
`chamber`	String variable. String variable that reports the legislator serves in the upper chamber (==senate) or lower chamber (==house) in the state legislature in a particular term. The variable has 16,727 non-missing observations and 2 distinct values.
`CandId`	Numeric variable. Discrete variable that uniquely identifies an individual state legislator. This is also the id in the Klarner dataset. The variable has 16,727 non-missing observations and 6,207 distinct values.
`CandName`	String variable. String variable reporting the name of the legislator. The format is **Lastname, Forenames** with nicknames in parenthesis. The variable has 16,727 non-missing observations and 6,189 distinct values.

`party` String variable. String variable reporting the party of the legislator. The variable has 16,727 non-missing observations and 3 distinct values.

`term` String variable. String variable reporting the legislative term. The format is **First Year, Last Year**, where First Year is the first year after the election in which the legislator was elected to office, and Last Year is the year of the subsequent general election. The variable has 16,727 non-missing observations and 21 distinct values.

`year` Numeric variable. Discrete variable that reports the year in which the legislator was elected to office. The variable has 16,727 non-missing observations and 21 distinct values.

`chamber_term` Numeric variable. Discrete variable that identifies a particular term in a particular legislative chamber. The variable has 16,727 non-missing observations and 190 distinct values.

`chamber_party_term`
Numeric variable. Discrete variable that identifies a party in a particular term in a particular legislative chamber. The variable has 16,727 non-missing observations and 405 distinct values.

`cohort_term` Numeric variable. Discrete variable that identifies a cohort-by-term observation where cohort is defined by the first year in which a legislator was elected to the legislature. The variable has 16,727 non-missing observations and 147 distinct values.

`termlimited` Numeric variable. A dummy variable indicating whether the legislator is term limited (==1) or not (==0) in the particular term. The variable has 16,727 non-missing observations and 2 distinct values.

`termlimits_effective`

Numeric variable. Discrete variable that reports the year when term limits took effect in a particular state. The variable has 16,727 non-missing observations and 7 distinct values.

`termlimits_effective_dummy`

Numeric variable. Dummy variable that indicates whether term limits are effective in a particular state in particular term. The variable has 16,727 non-missing observations and 2 distinct values.

`permitted_terms` Numeric variable. Discrete variable that reports the number of permitted terms a legislator can serve in a particular legislative chamber. The variable has 16,727 non-missing observations and 4 distinct values.

`lifelimit` Numeric variable. Dummy variable that indicates that the term limits in a particular state are a life-time ban. The variable has 16,727 non-missing observations and 2 distinct values.

`lifelimitXtermlimited`

Numeric variable. Dummy variable that interacts the life-time variable with the termlimited variable. The variable has 16,727 non-missing observations and 2 distinct values.

`salary_per_day` Numeric variable. Continuous variable that reports the average compensation per legislative work day. The information comes from Bowen and Greene (2014). The variable has 14,656 non-missing observations and 140 distinct values.

`rank_prof` Numeric variable. Continuous variable that reports the ranking of state legislatures with respect to professionalization. For ease of interpretation, the rankings are stan-

dardized such that the most professional legislature gets a score of 1 and the least professional legi > slature gets a score of 0. The information comes from Bowen and Greene (2014). The variable has 14,656 non-missing observations and 43 distinct values.

`pc1` Numeric variable. A continuous variable that summarizes the legislative productivity of the legislator in a particular term. The variable is constructed by extrating the first principal component from the variables log of sponsored bills, the index of committee activity, a > nd the percent participation in floor votes. See details in the paper. The variable has 11,109 non-missing observations and 10,381 distinct values.

`sponsored` Numeric variable. Discrete variable that counts the number of bills that the legislator sponsored in a particular term. The variable has 16,727 non-missing observations and 251 distinct values.

`log_sponsored` Numeric variable. A continuous variable that takes the log of the sponsored bills. The variable has 16,727 non-missing observations and 251 distinct values.

`cmt_index` Numeric variable. A continuous variable that measures a legislator's responsibilities and activities in legislative committees. See the paper for the full description of the construction of the index. The variable has 16,255 non-missing observations and 31 distinct values.

`pct_floorvotes` Numeric variable. A continuous variable that measures the percent of the total floor votes in a chamber in a particular term in which the legislator is recorded as having cast either a Yes or No vote according to the official roll calls.

The variable has 11,109 non-missing observations and 6,634 distinct values.

`wnom` Numeric variable. A continuous variable that reports the W-Nominate scalings. See the paper for additional details. The variable has 5,267 non-missing observations and 5,251 distinct values.

`max_terms_in_office`
Numeric variable. Discrete variable that counts the total number of terms that a legislator served in office at the end of her legislative career. The variable has 16,727 non-missing observations and 15 distinct values.

In addition to the variables described above the data set contains 65 variables with ratings from different interest group. These variables are have the `rating` followed by an id number. The names and issue areas of the interest groups can be found in the variables `sig_name` and `sig_issues`.