Codebook and Data Descriptions for:

The (Sometimes Untraceable) Origins of Policy Ideas in Congress: An Analysis of Seven Landmark Laws

This dataset is called ‘originspolicyodeas_data.csv.’ The associated STATA do file replicates the tables and figures from the paper. The unit of analysis is the non-boilerplate enacted bill section from the seven landmark laws analyzed in the paper.

- **bill1**: Bill number of enacted landmark law.
- **section**: Bill and section numbers of enacted landmark law.
- **date1**: Date bill is enrolled.
- **bill2**: Bill that contains original section.
- **sec2**: Bill and section that contain original section.
- **date2**: Date original section first appears on agenda.
- **case_id**: Integer designation for each landmark law.
- **time_on_agenda**: Difference between date1 and date2.
- **same_bill**: Indicator for whether original section first appears in bill that becomes landmark law.
- **same_cong**: Indicator for whether original section first appears in the same congress as the landmark law.
- **enrolled**: Coded 1 if section first appears in enrolled landmark law; blank otherwise
- **first_intro_type**: Variable for when original section first appears on congressional agenda. 1 = previous term; 2 = same term, different bill; 3 = vehicle that becomes landmark law; 4 = post-vehicle introduction.
- **initial**: Indicator for whether original section first appears in an introduced section.
- **house_orig**: Indicator for whether original section first appears in the House
- Congress: Congressional term original section first appears.
- **icpsr**: ICPSR for sponsor of original section (blank if section first appears in a version that is not initially introduced on the floor) from Adler and Wilkerson (2015).
- **congress_enr**: Congressional term landmark law is enacted
- **democrat**: Indicator for whether sponsor is a Democrat from Volden and Wiseman (2018; 2014).
- **sponsor**: Name of sponsor from Volden and Wiseman (2018; 2014).
- **dwnom1**: Sponsor's first dimension DW-NOMINATE score from Volden and Wiseman (2018; 2014).

- **ideodist_floormedian**: Ideological distance between sponsor and floor median from Volden and Wiseman (2018; 2014).
- **les_score**: Sponsor's legislative effectiveness score in the term the section was originally introduced from Volden and Wiseman (2018; 2014).
- **chair**: Indicator for whether sponsor is a committee chair in the term the section was originally introduced from Volden and Wiseman (2018; 2014).
- **day**: Number of days between the law being enrolled and the original section being added to the congressional agenda
- **les_score_final**: Sponsor's legislative effectiveness score in the term the section was enacted from Volden and Wiseman (2018; 2014).

'LESFull.dta' is a dataset that combines the House and Senate legislative effectiveness data from Volden and Wiseman (2018; 2014).

This dataset is called ‘handcheck_data.csv.’ It includes every matched section for each enacted section. Once an enrolled section was matched to an antecedent section (beginning with the earliest antecedent section first), no additional potential matches were analyzed.

- **bill1**: Bill number of enacted landmark law.
- **sec1**: Bill and section numbers of enacted landmark law.
- **raw_txt1**: The unedited text of the enacted section.
- **clean_txt1**: The enacted section’s text after being processed.
- **date1**: Date bill is enrolled
- **bill2**: Bill number containing the antecedent section.
- **sec2**: Bill and section number of the antecedent section.
- **raw_txt2**: The unedited text of the antecedent section.
- **clean_txt2**: The antecedent section’s text after being processed.
- **date2**: Date antecedent section is first recorded on congressional agenda.
- **first_match**: Coded 1 if enacted and antecedent are matches.

This dataset is called ‘enr_handcheck.csv.’ It includes all sections initially not matched to any antecedent section.

- **bill1**: Bill number of enacted landmark law.
- **section**: Bill and section numbers of enacted landmark law.
- **raw_txt1**: The unedited text of the enacted section.
- **clean_txt1**: The enacted section’s text after being processed.
- **date1**: Date bill is enrolled
- **bill2**: Bill number containing the antecedent section OR if none identified is equal to bill1.
- **sec2**: Bill and section numbers of antecedent section OR if none is identified is equal to section.
- **no_match:** Dichotomous variable coded as 1 if no earlier section match could be identified through keyword searches on Congress.gov. 0 if an earlier section is identified.
- **match**: Bill and section of earliest identified antecedent section.

References

Adler, E. Scott and John Wilkerson. 2016. *Congressional Bills Project.*

Volden, Craig, and Alan E. Wiseman. 2014. *Legislative Effectiveness in the United States Congress: The Lawmakers*. New York: Cambridge University Press; updated at www.thelawmakers.org.

Volden, Craig, and Alan E. Wiseman. 2018. "Legislative Effectiveness in the United States Senate," *Journal of Politics* 80(2): 731-735; updated at www.thelawmakers.org.