The Political Economy of Budget Trade-offs

Guide to Replication Files

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This archive contains data and code sufficient to reconstruct the tables and figures in "The Political Economy of Budget Trade-offs."

1 Data File

The relevant data are contained in `dataABK.csv`. Table 1 provides a key to the variables contained in this file.

2 R Scripts

Six replication scripts written in R are provided:

`Model1.R`
`Model2.R`
`Model3.R`
`Model4.R`
`Model5.R`
`Descriptives.R`

In addition, replicators will need to have the file `helper.r` in their working directory and will need to install the following libraries from the included package files:

tile
simcf

Current versions of simcf and tile as well as instructions on how to install these packages in R from a local repository can also be found at http://faculty.washington.edu/cadolph/software.[1]

Replicators will also need to have installed the packages obtainable from CRAN:

MASS
compositions
systemfit
plm

After installing all required packages, replicators should be able to reproduce the baseline model reported in the main paper (including all dotplots of simulated results) using the script Model1.R.[2] Replicators can reproduce the descriptive statistics in Figure 1 and Appendix Table A2 and the panel unit root tests reported in Appendix Table A3 using the script Descriptives.R. Finally, replicators can reproduce the robustness checks of Models 2 through 4 reported in the Appendix using the appropriately named scripts.

3 Additional queries

Please refer all questions to:

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1 Note that if you are using RStudio, it may be easier to install these packages using your R installation. These packages will then be available in RStudio following a restart.
2 Note that this script may take many hours to run to complete the 100,000 iterations of the simulation code. If you are uncertain whether your code is running properly, it may help to do a test run with sims set to a lower value (such as 100) before proceeding to the full set of simulations.

Variable	Description
State	Two letter state abbreviation
Statename	Full state name
FIPS	Unique numeric code for each state from FIPS
Year	Year of data
K12Ed	Total spending on K-12 Education in dollars
Welfare	Total spending on Medicaid & Welfare in dollars
Medical	Total spending on Public Health & Hospitals in dollars
Miscellaneous	Total Other Spending in dollars
HigherEd	Total spending on Higher Education in dollars
NaturalResources	Total spending on Natural Resources in dollars
PublicSafety	Total spending on Police & Prisons in dollars
Highways	Total spending on Highways in dollars
ACIR	Budget stringency index
Midwest	Region dummy for the Midwest, broadly defined
West	Region dummy for the West, broadly defined
Northeast	Region dummy for the Northeast, broadly defined
South	Region dummy for the South, broadly defined
DUG	Dummy for Unified Democratic Government
RUG	Dummy for Unified Republican Government
pctunder19	Proportion of population 18 years of age or less
pctover65	Proportion of population 65 years of age or older
rpincpc	Real per capita income in thousands of dollars
Unemployment	State-level unemployment in percent
govadd	Index of Governor Power from Beyle
popdensity	Population density
trend	A simple trend variable
RealPctChBudgetPC	Real change in per capita total state budget, as a fraction of last year's budget
TEL	Dummy for any tax and expenditure limits
GovPowerKS	Alternative measure of governor powers from Krupnikov-Shipan

Table 1. Codebook for Adolph, Breunig, and Koski data. See main text of "The Political Economy of Budget Trade-Offs" for data sources.