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Read Me

This document provides information needed to replicate all of the results in Berdejó and Yuchtman, "Crime, Punishment, and Politics: An Analysis of Political Cycles in Criminal Sentencing," *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 95(3), pp. 741-756.

The files needed for the replication are as follows:

1. berdejo_yuchtman_replication.do
2. berdejo_yuchtman_replication_baseline_data.dta
3. berdejo_yuchtman_replication_judge_level_data.dta
4. berdejo_yuchtman_replication_1985-2006_data.dta
5. berdejo_yuchtman_replication_oregon_data.dta

Overview:
Four datasets are used in the empirical analysis:

(1) The baseline dataset (berdejo_yuchtman_replication_baseline_data.dta), in which the unit of observations is the case, which contains rich case and sentencing data from Washington State, including information on judges, from 1995-2006.

(2) A judge-level dataset (berdejo_yuchtman_replication_judge_level_data.dta), in which the unit of observation is the judge, which contains information on the characteristics of the 265 judges included in our study.

(3) An extended Washington dataset (berdejo_yuchtman_replication_1985-2006_data.dta), in which the unit of observation is again the case, and which contains data for more years than the baseline dataset (1985-2006). This dataset includes less detailed case-level data than available in the baseline dataset (for example, it lacks information on a case's judge).

(4) A dataset including Oregon criminal case outcomes (berdejo_yuchtman_replication_oregon_data.dta), in which the unit of observation is the case. This dataset contains sentencing outcomes for Oregon cases, and is used in a falsification exercise.

A single .do file (berdejo_yuchtman_replication.do), to be executed in Stata will produce all of the results (tables and figures) presented in the main paper and the online appendix. In order to run the .do file, a user should insert the "use" commands necessary to call up each dataset from the working directory chosen [use "filename"], as necessary to execute the file (each point at which a dataset needs to be called up is well-marked in the .do file). Any questions about the data sources, dataset construction, or analysis can be directed to the authors by email.