The Bundestag Roll Call Vote Data (BTVote), 1949-2013

Codebook

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0. Citation Information

The BTVote data consists of three separate datasets VOTE CHARACTERISTICS, MP CHARACTERISTCS and VOTING BEHAVIOR. The three datasets and the codebook are available at the Harvard Dataverse using the following link:

https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/btvote

They can freely be used for academic and educational purposes as long as they are correctly cited. When using the data in any type of publication, please cite

(a) The dataset(s) you use

Vote Characteristics: Bergmann, Henning/Bailer, Stefanie/Ohmura, Tamaki/Saalfeld, Thomas/ Sieberer, Ulrich, 2018, "BTVote Vote Characteristics", https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/AHBBXY, Harvard Dataverse, V1.

MP Characteristics: Bergmann, Henning/Bailer, Stefanie/Ohmura, Tamaki/Saalfeld, Thomas/ Sieberer, Ulrich, 2018, "BTVote MP Characteristics", https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/QSFXLQ, Harvard Dataverse, V1.

Voting Behavior: Bergmann, Henning/Bailer, Stefanie/Ohmura, Tamaki/Saalfeld, Thomas/ Sieberer, Ulrich, 2018, "BTVote Voting Behavior", https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/24U1FR, Harvard Dataverse, V1.

(b) The following publications:

Sieberer, Ulrich/Saalfeld, Thomas/Ohmura, Tamaki/Bergmann, Henning/Bailer, Stefanie, 2018, "Roll call votes in the German Bundestag. A new dataset, 1949-2013", *British Journal of Political Science*.

For the variables on electoral safety in the MP Characteristics dataset:

Stoffel, Michael/Sieberer Ulrich (2018). "Measuring re-election prospects across electoral systems. A general approach applied to Germany", *West European Politics* 41 (5), 1191–1207.

(c) If relevant this codebook

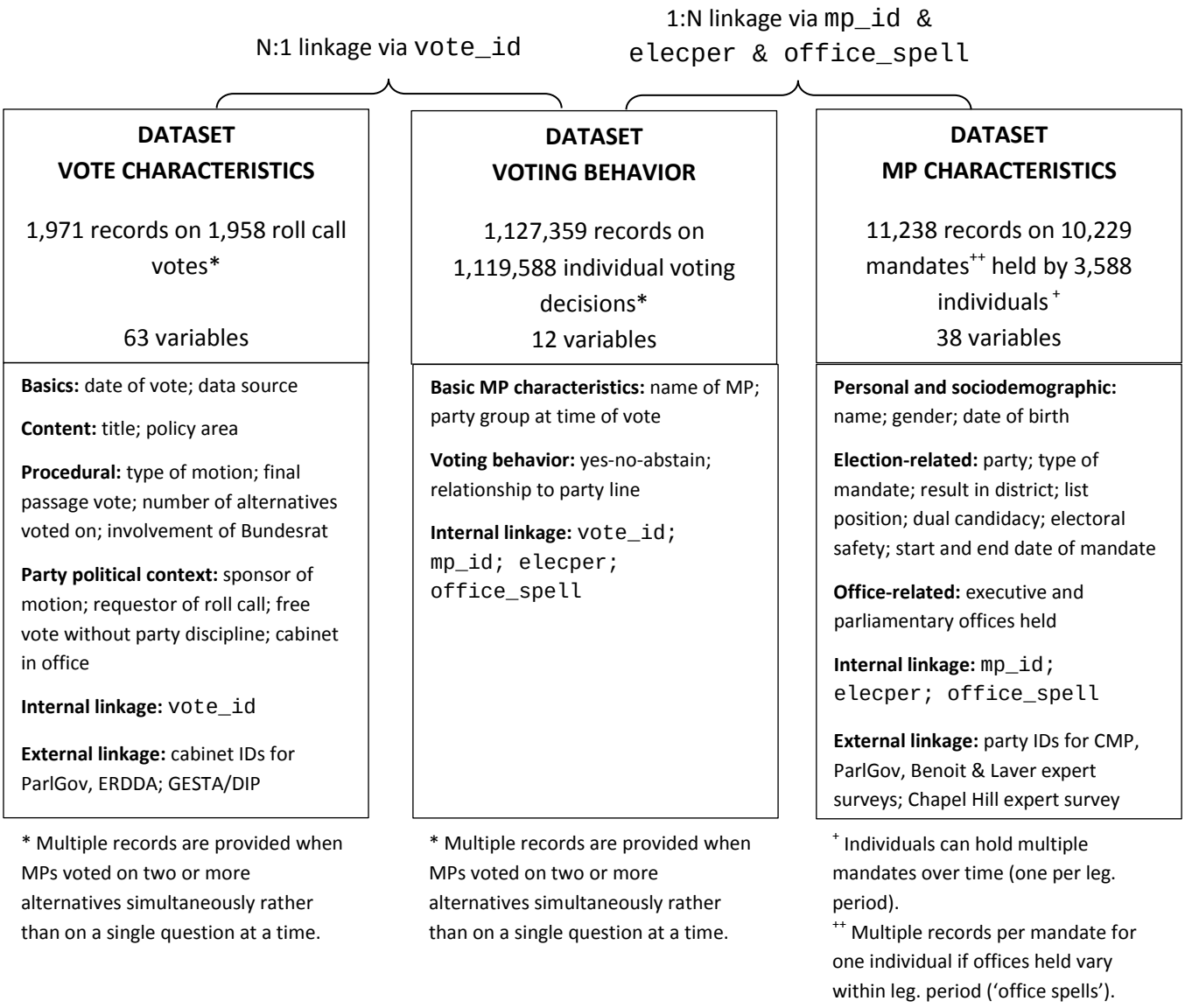
Bergmann, Henning/Bailer, Stefanie/Ohmura, Tamaki/Saalfeld, Thomas/Sieberer, Ulrich, 2018, "Codebook for BTVote datasets", https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/RESB5L , Harvard Dataverse, V1.

1. General Overview and structure of the datasets

The data collection contains information on all roll call votes taken in the German Bundestag during its first seventeen legislative periods from 1949 to 2013. In addition to individual voting behavior, a wide array of characteristics of the motions voted upon and of the legislators taken these votes is recorded. The data are arranged in three datasets with different units of analysis that are linked via various ID variables. This procedure allows interested researchers to easily create datasets on different levels of aggregation that are tailored to their specific research needs. Additional ID variables allow linking the datasets to existing data on party positions (Bakker et al. 2014; Benoit and Laver 2007; Volkens et al. 2013) and cabinet characteristics (Andersson, Bergman, and Ersson 2014; Döring and Manow 2016).

The three datasets are VOTE CHARACTERISTICS, MP CHARACTERISTICS, and VOTING BEHAVIOR. The structure of the datasets and the linkage between them is visualized in Figure 1.

Figure 1: The structure of the datasets



Note: Variable names from the datasets are printed in `courier`. All other entries refer to the content of (groups of) variables. Precise variable names and descriptions are available in section 4 of this codebook.

DATASET VOTE CHARACTERISTCS

This dataset contains information on all 1,958 motions decided by roll call during the period of observation (1949-2013). In most cases, MPs have the opportunity to vote 'yes' – 'no' – 'abstain' on these motions (as well as not participating in the vote). A few motions offered two or more substantive alternatives that were decided in a single vote. For these motions, the dataset contains multiple records (one per alternative) coded with the same choice options yes – no – abstain. For example, an MP facing options A, B, and C and votes B is coded as 'yes' for the record on alternative

B and 'no' on the records for alternatives A and C. Due to these multiple records, the dataset overall contains 1,971 records on the 1,958 roll calls.

The dataset contains 63 variables covering

- ID variables for the record (one per alternative) and the roll call vote;
- basic characteristics of the motion such as the date and the data source;
- the content of the motion such as its title and policy field;
- procedural characteristics of the motion such as the type of motion (bill, resolution, …), whether it was a final passage vote, the number of alternatives voted upon (one or more than one), and the involvement of the second chamber, the Bundesrat (no involvement, suspensive veto that can be overruled by the Bundestag ['Einspruchsgesetz'], absolute veto ['Zustimmungsgesetz']);
- the party political context of the roll call such as the sponsor of the motion voted upon in substantive terms; the actor (usually a parliamentary party group) who requested that the vote be taken by roll call; the cabinet in office at the time of the vote; and whether party discipline was suspended on the vote by at least one party ('free vote');
- variables to link the data to other outside datasets, i.e. the cabinet data in the European Representative Democracy Data Archive (Andersson, Bergman, and Ersson 2014), the cabinet data in the ParlGov database (www.parlgov.org), and data on the roll call vote from the electronic information system of the Bundestag (GESTA/DIP; http://dip.bundestag.de/).

The dataset can be linked to the dataset on voting behavior via the unique identifier variable `vote_id`.

DATASET MP CHARACATERISTICS

This dataset contains information on all 3,588 MPs who cast at least one roll call vote during the period of observation. Many of these individuals served for multiple legislative periods. Furthermore, the offices they held in addition to their seat in parliament (see below) sometimes vary over the course of a legislative period. To account for this time-variant data, we record the information in a highly disaggregated fashion. For each MP, we record at least one observation per legislative period, which we call a 'mandate' (N=10,229). If the offices held by an MP during a legislative period vary, we record each office constellation as a separate record ('office spell') which leads to a total of 11,238 records in the dataset. Several of the variables (identified in the detailed information below) were kindly provided by Philip Manow (University of Bremen) and were originally published in Manow and Flemming 2012 and Manow 2015. The dataset only records the voting behavior of MPs who belong to a parliamentary party group and thus misses a few unaffiliated MPs (usually MPs who left or were expelled from a party group during a legislative period and did not join a new party group). Note, however, that these cases are very few and unaffiliated MPs never had relevant influence on decisions in the Bundestag.

The dataset contains 38 variables that refer to

- ID variables for the MP, the legislative period and the office spell of the MP within this period;

- basic personal data such as name of the MP; date of birth; gender;
- the way the MP gained his or her mandate such as the party label under which she was elected; the type of mandate (either elected via district tier or list tier), details on how she was elected (for district candidates: district ID; closeness of district race; for list candidates: which list; list position; total number of positions on the list); whether the MP ran in both tiers (dual candidate), her estimated reelection probability in both tiers and overall (based on the procedure developed by Stoffel & Sieberer 2017 [forthcoming]); and the start and end dates of the mandate (as a substantial number of MPs enter or leave the Bundestag during the legislative period) and the recorded office spell;
- offices held by the MP in the executive branch (minister and junior minister ['parlamentarischer Staatssekretär' or 'Staatsminister']) and within the Bundestag (president or vice president; chair or vice chair of a standing committee; chair or vice chair of a party group; party whip);
- variables to link the dataset to party position data from the CMP/MarPor project (Volkens et al. 2013; https://manifesto-project.wzb.eu/), the ParlGov database (Döring and Manow 2016; http://www.parlgov.org), the expert survey on party positions by Benoit and Laver (2007) and the Chapel Hill expert survey on party positions (Bakker et al. 2014; http://chesdata.eu).

The dataset can be linked to the dataset on voting behavior by the combination of the variables `mp_id`, `elecper`, and `office_spell`.

DATASET VOTING BEHAVIOR

This dataset contains the actual roll call vote information, i.e. it records how every individual MP who was eligible to vote on a roll call (i.e. was a member of parliament at the date of the vote) voted. The dataset contains information on 1,119,588 individual voting decisions. Due to multiple entries per vote in the case of more than one substantive alternative (see above), the dataset contains a total of 1,127,359 records.

The dataset contains 12 variables that refer to

- basic characteristics of the MP taking the vote, i.e. her name and party affiliation at the time of the vote
- individual voting behavior recorded in two variables that code (a) how the MP voted on the motion (yes – no – abstention – not present) and (b) how the MP voted in relation to the party line, i.e. the position taken by the absolute majority of his or her party group (agreement, different degrees of defection) or, if there was no absolute majority within the party group, the position taken by the head of the party group..

The dataset can be linked to the datasets on vote characteristics via the variable `vote_id` and to the dataset on MP characteristics via the combination of the variables `mp_id`, `elecper`, and `office_spell`.

2. Data sources and coding

The data in the datasets was collected from various primary and secondary sources. The information on voting behavior and various characteristics of the motion was extracted from the official minutes of the Bundestag. In addition, we relied on the information system of the Bundestag (GESTA/DIP) for coding other aspects of the motions. Most information on MP characteristics stem from various editions of the semi-official biographic handbook on members of the Bundestag ('Kürschners Volkshandbuch Deutscher Bundestag'), the extensive data handbooks on the history of the Bundestag published by the Bundestag's internal research services ('Datenhandbuch zur Geschichte des Deutschen Bundestags'; Feldkamp 2013; Schindler 1999), and with regard to elections the official election results published by the Federal Returning Officer ('Bundeswahlleiter'). Several of these variables (identified in the detailed information below) were originally collected by Philip Manow (Manow and Flemming 2012). We thank him for sharing them with us. Precise information on the sources of each variable is provided below.

Most of the data were collected, recorded and coded by student assistants at the University of Bamberg and supervised by Henning Bergmann who also coded some variables himself. All difficult coding decisions (esp. those regarding the policy coding of the motion) were done independently by two coders and, in case of disagreement, discussed and ultimately decided by Henning Bergmann. The variable `free_vote` was coded by Tamaki Ohmura. Some data for the 12th to 17th legislative periods were originally collected and coded by Ulrich Sieberer and Tamaki Ohmura and were later double-checked by the team in Bamberg to ensure consistency.

3. Note of caution

We have invested a lot of time and energy in double checking the data and correcting coding errors. In case you find mistakes in the data, we would be grateful if you let us know so we can correct the dataset. We also ask all users to treat the variable `free_vote` with some caution. The variable is coded based on contemporary newspaper articles found via the Lexis-Nexis database. As newspaper coverage varies over time we cannot exclude the possibility that our coding missed some roll calls that were actually free votes.

References

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Volkens, Andrea, Pola Lehmann, Nicolas Merz, Sven Regel, and Annika Werner. 2013. *The Manifesto Data Collection. Manifesto Project (MRG/CMP/MARPOR). Version 2013b*. Berlin: Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB).

Kürschners Volkshandbuch Deutscher Bundestag. Rheinbreitbach: NDV (various editions, years, and editors).

4. Detailed information on the variables

DATASET VOTE CHARACTERISTICS

Variable name	Variable label	Value label	Data source	Notes
vote_id	unique ID of record (multiple records per RCV for simultaneous votes on 2+ alternatives)		Own variable	This variable uniquely identifies the records in the VOTE CHARACTERISTITCS dataset and is used to link the data to our other datasets. It does NOT uniquely identify RCVs because RCVs with two or more substantive options are recorded in multiple records to allow coding with the customary yes-no-abstention scheme (one record per substantive alternative). The numeric value of the four/five-digit id has the following structure: First one/two digit(s) indicate(s) legislative period; last three digits indicate roll call vote within legislative period; for votes with two or more substantive options the ids contain one additional digit at the end (for example, vote_ids 141641 and 141642 refer to the voting behavior of MPs with regard to the first and second option).
vote_id2	ID of RCV (one ID per RCV for simultaneous votes on 2+ alternatives)		own variable	This variable identifies individual RCVs. First one/two digit(s) indicate(s) legislative period; last three digits indicate roll call vote within legislative period. As this variable does not uniquely identify records in the dataset, do NOT use this variable to link the data to our other datasets but use the variable vote_id (see explanation for that variable)

Variable name	Variable label	Value label	Data source	Notes
vote_id_elecper	consecutive ID of RCV per legislative period		Own variable	Letters (e.g., 128a, 128b) indicate votes on two or more options (i.e. those vote_ids with one additional digit)
elecper	legislative period		Official protocols of the Bundestag	
vote_date	date of RCV		Official protocols of the Bundestag	
source	source of RCV in parliamentary protocol		Official protocols of the Bundestag	First two digits indicate EP/median three digits indicate protocol number/last digits indicate page number
vote_title	title of motion voted		Official protocols of the Bundestag	Text; also contains in most cases the number of the motion (Drucksache/Umdruck)
vote_type	type of motion	1 motion; 2 amendment; 3 amendment to committee recommendation (Beschlussempfehlung); 4 amendment to resolution (Entschließungsantrag); 5 amendment to bill; 6 amendment to treaty; 7 rejection of Bundesrat veto; 8 committee recommendation (Beschlußempfehlung); 9 resolution (Entschließungsantrag); 10 bill; 11 procedural motion; 12 disapproval (Mißbilligung); 13 treaty	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official document of the Bundestag (Drucksachen)	
vote_finalpassage	vote on final passage of a bill	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official document of the Bundestag (Drucksachen)	

Variable name	Variable label	Value label	Data source	Notes
vote_numproposals	vote on more than one alternative at once	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	Identifies simultaneous votes on more than one substantive alternative (i.e. those vote_ids with one additional digit). For these RCVs, there are multiple records in the dataset. Records on the same RCV have the same value on the variable vote_id2.
policy1	primary policy field of motion	1 macroeconomics (including budget); 2 civil rights, minority issues, and civil liberties; 3 healthcare; 4 agriculture; 5 labor, employment, and immigration; 6 education; 7 environment; 8 energy; 10 transportation; 12 law, crime, and family issues; 13 social welfare; 14 community development and housing issues; 15 banking, finance, and domestic Commerce; 16 defense; 17 space, science, technology and communications; 18 foreign trade; 19 international affairs and foreign aid; 20 government operations; 21 public lands and water management; 24 state and local government administration; 25 reunification; 26 media; 27 constitutional amendments; 99 other, miscellaneous, and human interest	Own coding based on the CAP coding scheme	Categories (except 27 constitutional amendments) taken from German Policy Agendas Codebook (PI: Christian Breunig, University of Konstanz, https://www.polver.uni-konstanz.de/gpa/home-and-project/)
policy2	secondary policy field of motion	See policy1	Own coding based on the CAP coding scheme	See policy1

Variable name	Variable label	Value label	Data source	Notes
policy3	tertiary policy field of motion	See policy1	Own coding based on the CAP coding scheme	See policy1
sponsor1	first sponsor of motion		Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	As text (information in numerical form available below in dummy variables for each party)
sponsor2	second sponsor of motion		Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	As text (information in numerical form available below in dummy variables for each party)
sponsor3	third sponsor of motion		Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	As text (information in numerical form available below in dummy variables for each party)
sponsor4	fourth sponsor of motion		Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	As text (information in numerical form available below in dummy variables for each party)
sponsor_kpd	motion sponsored by KPD	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	
sponsor_leftpds	motion sponsored by Left Party (previously PDS)	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	

Variable name	Variable label	Value label	Data source	Notes
sponsor_greens	motion sponsored by Greens (including B90)	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	
sponsor_spd	motion sponsored by SPD	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	
sponsor_fdp	motion sponsored by FDP	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	
sponsor_cducsu	motion sponsored by CDU/CSU	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	
sponsor_dsu	motion sponsored by DSU	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	
sponsor_gbbhe	motion sponsored by GB/BHE	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	
sponsor_dafvp	motion sponsored by DA/FVP	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	

Variable name	Variable label	Value label	Data source	Notes
sponsor_dp	motion sponsored by DP	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	
sponsor_fu	motion sponsored by FU	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	
sponsor_noparty	motion sponsored by nonpartisan actor	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	
sponsor_govall	motion sponsored by all government parties	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	
sponsor_govone	motion sponsored by at least one government party	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	
sponsor_mps	motion sponsored by single MPs	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	
request1	first party requesting RCV		Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	As text (information in numerical form available below in dummy variables for each party)

Variable name	Variable label	Value label	Data source	Notes
request2	second party requesting RCV		Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	As text (information in numerical form available below in dummy variables for each party)
request3	third party requesting RCV		Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	As text (information in numerical form available below in dummy variables for each party)
request4	fourth party requesting RCV		Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	As text (information in numerical form available below in dummy variables for each party)
request_kpd	RCV requested by KPD	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	Coded as 0 if requestor unknown or nonpartisan actor
request_leftpds	RCV requested by Left Party (previously PDS)	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	Coded as 0 if requestor unknown or nonpartisan actor
request_greens	RCV requested by Greens (including B90)	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	Coded as 0 if requestor unknown or nonpartisan actor
request_spd	RCV requested by SPD	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	Coded as 0 if requestor unknown or nonpartisan actor

Variable name	Variable label	Value label	Data source	Notes
request_fdp	RCV requested by FDP	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	Coded as 0 if requestor unknown or nonpartisan actor
request_cducsu	RCV requested by CDU/CSU	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	Coded as 0 if requestor unknown or nonpartisan actor
request_gbbhe	RCV requested by GB/BHE	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	Coded as 0 if requestor unknown or nonpartisan actor
request_dafvp	RCV requested by DA/FVP	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	Coded as 0 if requestor unknown or nonpartisan actor
request_dp	RCV requested by DP	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	Coded as 0 if requestor unknown or nonpartisan actor
request_fu	RCV requested by FU	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	Coded as 0 if requestor unknown or nonpartisan actor
request_noparty	RCV requested by nonpartisan actor	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	Coded as 0 if requestor unknown

Variable name	Variable label	Value label	Data source	Notes
request_unknown	unknown who requested RCV	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	
request_gov	RCV requested by government	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	Coded as 99 if requestor unknown or nonpartisan actor
request_govpart	RCV requested by one or more government parties	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	Coded as 99 if requestor unknown or nonpartisan actor
request_oppo	RCV requested by at one or more opposition parties	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	Coded as 99 if requestor unknown or nonpartisan actor
request_govoppo	RCV requested by at least one party from government and opposition	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official protocols of the Bundestag; official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag	Coded as 99 if requestor unknown or nonpartisan actor
free_vote	free vote by at least one party	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Own coding based on contemporary newspaper articles identified via LexisNexis	Free votes identified from contemporary newspapers via LexisNexis database; the variable is coded based on our best judgement but should be treated with some caution.

Variable name	Variable label	Value label	Data source	Notes
bundesrat	involvement of Bundesrat	0 no involvement; 1 suspensive veto (Einspruchsgesetz); 2 absolute veto (Zustimmungsgesetz); 99 no data	Official documents (Drucksachen) of the Bundestag; official information system of the Bundestag (DIP/GESTA)	In contested cases, coded according to how the passed bill was ultimately treated; if not passed coded according to statement in the motion itself
gesta	Gesta/DIP ID		ID from the Gesta/DIP information system of the Bundestag (http://dip.bundestag.de; http://dipbt.bundestag.de)	ID that allows linking the data to the Gesta/DIP information system of the Bundestag (http://dip.bundestag.de; http://dipbt.bundestag.de)
cabid_parlgov	cabinet ID from ParlGov database		Variable cabinet_id from ParlGov database (www.parlgov.org)	Allows linking data to ParlGov Database (Döring & Manow 2016; www.parlgov.org
cabid_erdda	cabinet ID from ERDDA dataset		Variable v002e from the European Representative Democracy Dataset (Andersson et al. 2014, http://www.erdda.se/index.php/projects/erd/data-archive)	Allows linking to the European Representative Democracy dataset (Andersson et al. 2014, http://www.erdda.se/index.php/projects/erd/data-archive)
cabinet	name of cabinet		Datenhandbuch zur Geschichte des Deutschen Bundestages (Schindler 1999; Feldkamp 2013)	
cab_start	start date of cabinet		Datenhandbuch zur Geschichte des Deutschen Bundestages (Schindler 1999; Feldkamp 2013)	

Variable name	Variable label	Value label	Data source	Notes
cab_end	end date of cabinet		Datenhandbuch zur Geschichte des Deutschen Bundestages (Schindler 1999; Feldkamp 2013)	
elecper_start	start date of legislative period		Datenhandbuch zur Geschichte des Deutschen Bundestages (Schindler 1999; Feldkamp 2013)	
elecper_end	end date of legislative period		Datenhandbuch zur Geschichte des Deutschen Bundestages (Schindler 1999; Feldkamp 2013)	
cab_parties	names of cabinet parties (string)		Datenhandbuch zur Geschichte des Deutschen Bundestages (Schindler 1999; Feldkamp 2013)	

DATASET MP CHARACTERISTICS

Variable name	Variable label	Value label	Data source	Notes
mp_id	unique ID for MP		Own variable; most of the data stem from Philip Manow (Manow and Flemming 2012)	Mostly equal to the identifier variable in the candidates dataset assembled by Philip Manow except for some corrections
lastname	last name of MP		Official protocols of the Bundestag; most of the data stem from Philip Manow (Manow 2015; Manow and Flemming 2012)	Last name of MP at the time of election; the name can differ over time and from the variable lastname in the dataset VOTING BEHAVIOR
firstname	first name(s) of MP		Official protocols of the Bundestag; most of the data stem from Philip Manow (Manow 2015; Manow and Flemming 2012)	First name of MP at the time of election; the name can differ over time and from the variable firstname in the dataset VOTING BEHAVIOR
elecper	legislative period		Official protocols of the Bundestag	
gender	gender of MP	0 female; 1 male	Kürschner Volkshandbuch Deutscher Bundestag (various editions); official website of the Bundestag	
year_birth	year of birth of MP		Kürschner Volkshandbuch Deutscher Bundestag (various editions); official website of the Bundestag; most of the data stem from Philip Manow (Manow 2015; Manow and Flemming 2012)	
date_birth	date of birth of MP		Kürschner Volkshandbuch Deutscher Bundestag (various editions); official website of the Bundestag; most of the data stem from Philip Manow (Manow 2015; Manow and Flemming 2012)	In Stata date format

Variable name	Variable label	Value label	Data source	Notes
date_birth_text	date of birth of MP (string)		Kürschner Volkshandbuch Deutscher Bundestag (various editions); official website of the Bundestag; most of the data stem from Philip Manow (Manow 2015; Manow and Flemming 2012)	As text string
mandate_start	start date of MP's mandate (in this legislative period)		Datenhandbuch zur Geschichte des Deutschen Bundestages (Schindler 1999; Feldkamp 2013)	In Stata date format
mandate_end	end date of MP's mandate (in this legislative period)		Datenhandbuch zur Geschichte des Deutschen Bundestages (Schindler 1999; Feldkamp 2013)	In Stata date format; always coded as the day before the constitutive meeting of a new Bundestag
office_spell	ID for office spell of MP in this legislative period		Own variable	Starts with value 1 for each MP in each legislative period; a new spell starts with every change in office held by the MP.
spell_start	start date for office spell		Own variable	In Stata date format
spell_end	end date for office spell		Own variable	In Stata date format
party_elec	party of MP (at the time of the election)	1 SPD; 2 CDU; 3 CSU; 4 FDP; 5 Greens; 6 Left Party/PDS; 11 other party; 99 unaffiliated	Official election results published by the Federal Returning Officer (Bundeswahlleiter)	Party of MP at the time of the election; simplified coding collapsing small parties and transient parties in category 'other'; due to static coding, the variable can differ from the variable party_det in the dataset VOTING BEHAVIOR

Variable name	Variable label	Value label	Data source	Notes
party_elecdet	party of MP (at the time of the election), detailed coding	1 SPD (Social Democratic Party of Germany); 2 CDU (Christian Democratic Union); 3 CSU (Christian Social Union); 4 FDP (Free Democratic Party); 5 Greens; 6 Left/PDS (The Left, previously Party of Democratic Socialism); 7 GB/BHE (All-German Block/Party of Displaced Persons); 8 BP (Bavarian Party); 9 DA/FVP (Free People's Party); 10 DP (German Party); 11 National Right/DRP (German Reich Party); 12 FU (Federalist Union); 13 KPD (Communist Party of Germany); 14 WAV (Economic Reconstruction League); 15 Z (Center Party); 16 SSW (Southern Schleswig Voter Committee); 17 CVP (Christian People's Party (Saarland)); 18 DPS (Democratic Party Saar (liberal party in Saarland)); 99 unaffiliated	Official election results published by the Federal Returning Officer (Bundeswahlleiter)	Party of MP at the time of the election; due to static coding, the variable can differ from the variable party_det in the dataset VOTING BEHAVIOR

Variable name	Variable label	Value label	Data source	Notes
mandate	type of mandate held by MP	0 list mandate; 1 district mandate	Official election results published by the Federal Returning Officer (Bundeswahlleiter); most of the data stem from Philip Manow (Manow 2015; Manow and Flemming 2012)	Type of mandate held by the MP; simplified coding
mandate_detailed	type of mandate held by MP (detailed coding)	1 district mandate; 2 list mandate (at time of election); 3 elected by GDR parliament (only EP 11); 4 replacement mandate from list; 5 by-election (only EP 1)	Official election results published by the Federal Returning Officer (Bundeswahlleiter); most of the data stem from Philip Manow (Manow 2015; Manow and Flemming 2012)	Type of mandate held by the MP; detailed coding
dualcand	MP ran as dual candidate (in district and on state list)	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Official election results published by the Federal Returning Officer (Bundeswahlleiter)	
district_id	ID of district in which MP ran		Official election results published by the Federal Returning Officer (Bundeswahlleiter); most of the data stem from Philip Manow (Manow 2015; Manow and Flemming 2012)	District IDs can differ over time because new districts are created (e.g. with the accession of the Saarland and with reunification), district borders are changed and districts were renumbered in 2002. Thus the data does not form a consistent time series of electoral districts!
districtvote	vote share of MP in the district (Erststimme)		Official election results published by the Federal Returning Officer (Bundeswahlleiter); most of the data stem from Philip Manow (Manow 2015; Manow and Flemming 2012)	
closeness_district	closeness of district race		Official election results published by the Federal Returning Officer (Bundeswahlleiter)	Vote share of winner on district votes - vote share of second-placed candidate on district votes

Variable name	Variable label	Value label	Data source	Notes
list	state list on which MP ran	1 Nordrhein-Westfalen; 2 Bayern; 3 Baden-Württemberg; 4 Niedersachsen; 5 Hessen; 6 Sachsen; 7 Rheinland-Pfalz; 8 Berlin; 9 Schleswig-Holstein; 10 Brandenburg; 11 Sachsen-Anhalt; 12 Thüringen; 13 Hamburg; 14 Mecklenburg-Vorpommern; 15 Saarland; 16 Bremen; 17 Baden (only EP 1); 18 Württemberg-Baden (only EP 1); 19 Württemberg-Hohenzollern (only EP 1)	Official election results published by the Federal Returning Officer (Bundeswahlleiter); most of the data stem from Philip Manow (Manow 2015; Manow and Flemming 2012)	
listpos	list position on which MP ran		Official election results published by the Federal Returning Officer (Bundeswahlleiter); most of the data stem from Philip Manow (Manow 2015; Manow and Flemming 2012)	
listpos_total	number of position on the list on which MP ran		Official election results published by the Federal Returning Officer (Bundeswahlleiter); most of the data stem from Philip Manow (Manow 2015; Manow and Flemming 2012)	

Variable name	Variable label	Value label	Data source	Notes
elecsafe_district	electoral safety in district		Stoffel & Sieberer 2017	Measure of electoral safety in the district as described in Stoffel & Sieberer 2017
elecsafe_list	electoral safety on list		Stoffel & Sieberer 2017	Measure of electoral safety on the party list as described in Stoffel & Sieberer 2017
elecsafe_overall	overall electoral safety in both tiers		Stoffel & Sieberer 2017	Overall measure of electoral safety calculated as [elecsafe_district + elecsafe_list - (elecsafe_district*elecsafe_list)]; see Stoffel 2014
minister	MP is chancellor or cabinet minister	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Datenhandbuch zur Geschichte des Deutschen Bundestages (Schindler 1999; Feldkamp 2013)	
junminister	MP is junior minister (Parlamentarischer Staatssekretär)	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Datenhandbuch zur Geschichte des Deutschen Bundestages (Schindler 1999; Feldkamp 2013)	
parlpres	MP is president or vice president of the Bundestag	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Datenhandbuch zur Geschichte des Deutschen Bundestages (Schindler 1999; Feldkamp 2013)	
commchair	MP is chair or vice chair of a Bundestag committee	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Datenhandbuch zur Geschichte des Deutschen Bundestages (Schindler 1999; Feldkamp 2013)	
ppgchair	MP is chair or vice chair of a parliamentary party group	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Datenhandbuch zur Geschichte des Deutschen Bundestages (Schindler 1999; Feldkamp 2013); websites of the party groups	
whip	MP is party whip (Parlamentarischer Geschäftsführer)	0 no; 1 yes; 99 not applicable	Datenhandbuch zur Geschichte des Deutschen Bundestages (Schindler 1999; Feldkamp 2013); websites of the party groups	

Variable name	Variable label	Value label	Data source	Notes
partyid_cmp	party ID comparative manifestos project		Variable ID from manifesto project dataset (https://manifestoproject.wzb.eu/)	Allows linking the data to the Manifesto Project dataset (https://manifestoproject.wzb.eu/)
partyid_ches	party ID Chapel Hill expert survey		Variable PARTY_ID from CHES dataset (http://chesdata.eu/)	Allows linking the data to the Chapel Hill expert surveys on political parties (CHES)
partyid_bl	party ID Benoit & Laver 2006		Variable PartyName from Benoit & Laver dataset (Benoit & Laver 2007; http://www.tcd.ie/Political_Science/ppmd/)	Allows linking the data to the Benoit & Laver expert survey on party positions
partyid_parlgov	party ID ParlGov database		Variable party_id from ParlGov database (www.parlgov.org)	Allows linking the data to the ParlGov database
partyid_parlgov2	party ID ParlGov database (for parties with >1 ID)		Variable party_id from ParlGov database (www.parlgov.org)	Allows linking the data to the ParlGov database; second value for CDU, CSU and FVP for which ParlGov registers two different party ids

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Variable name	Variable label	Value label	Data source	Notes
mp_id	unique ID for MP		Own variable	Mostly equal to the identifier variable in the candidates dataset assembled by Philip Manow except for some corrections
lastname	last name of MP		Official protocols of the Bundestag	Last name of MP at the time of the vote; the same MP (same mp_id) can have different names over time, e.g. because of marriage or typing errors
firstname	first name(s) of MP		Official protocols of the Bundestag	First name(s) of MP at the time of the vote; there are many inconsistencies in first names over time.
party_det	party of MP (detailed coding)	1 SPD (Social Democratic Party of Germany); 2 CDU (Christian Democratic Union); 3 CSU (Christian Social Union); 4 FDP (Free Democratic Party) ; 5 Greens; 6 Left/PDS (The Left, previously Party of Democratic Socialism); 7 GB/BHE (All-German Block/Party of Displaced Persons); 8 BP (Bavarian Party); 9 DA/FVP (Free People's Party); 10 DP (German Party); 11 National Right/DRP (German Reich Party); 12 FU (Federalist Union); 13 KPD (Communist Party of Germany); 14 WAV (Economic Reconstruction League); 15 Z (Center Party); 16 SSW (Southern Schleswig Voter Committee); 17 CVP (Christian People's Party (Saarland)); 18 DPS (Democratic Party Saar (liberal party in Saarland)); 99 unaffiliated	Official protocols of the Bundestag	Party of the MP at the time of the vote; due to the dynamic coding, this party may differ from the variable partyelec in the dataset MP CHARACATERISTICS.

Variable name	Variable label	Value label	Data source	Notes
ppg	parl. party group	1 SPD; 2 CDU/CSU; 4 FDP; 5 Greens; 6 Left/PDS; 11 other; 99 independent MP	Official protocols of the Bundestag; Datenhandbuch zur Geschichte des Deutschen Bundestages (Schindler 1999; Feldkamp 2013)	Parliamentary party group of the MP at the time of the vote (most importantly, codes CDU and CSU as one party group)
party_text	party of MP (text)		Official protocols of the Bundestag; Datenhandbuch zur Geschichte des Deutschen Bundestages (Schindler 1999; Feldkamp 2013)	
elecper	legislative period		Official protocols of the Bundestag	
office_spell	ID for office spell of MP in this legislative period		Own variable	Starts with value 1 for each MP in each legislative period; a new spell starts with every change in office held by the MP.

Variable name	Variable label	Value label	Data source	Notes
vote_id	unique ID of RCV		Own variable	This variable uniquely identifies the records in the VOTE CHARACTERISTICS dataset and is used to link the data our other datasets. It does NOT uniquely identify RCVs because RCVs with two or more substantive options are recorded in multiple records to allow coding with the customary yes-no-abstention scheme (one record per substantive alternative). The numeric value of the id has the following structure: First one/two digit(s) indicate(s) legislative period; last three digits indicate roll call vote within legislative period; for votes with two or more substantive options the ids contain one additional digit at the end (for example, vote_ids 141641 and 141642 refer to the voting behavior of MPs with regard to the first and second option).
vote_date	date of RCV		Official protocols of the Bundestag	
vote_beh	voting behavior of MP	0 excused absence; 1 yes; 2 no; 3 abstain; 11 unexcused absent; 22 invalid vote; 44 voting behavior not/wrongly protocolled	Official protocols of the Bundestag	

Variable name	Variable label	Value label	Data source	Notes
vote_deviate	deviation of MP from party line	0 excused absence; 1 no deviation; 2 strong deviation; 3 weak deviation; 11 unexcused absent; 22 invalid vote; 44 voting behavior not/wrongly protocolled; 88 no party line due to tie within party group; 99 no party line because no absolute majority within the party group	Official protocols of the Bundestag	The party line is defined as the absolute majority position within the party group in the roll call vote; if there is no absolute majority position, the position taken by the chair of the parliamentary party group is coded as party line; if the party group leader did not vote, codes 88 or 99 are used. Strong deviation: MP votes yes and party group votes no or the other way around; weak deviation: MP or party group abstains and the other votes yes or no