Replication files for, “Lights, Camera, Inaction? The Effects of Gavel-to-Gavel Floor Coverage on U.S. State Legislatures”

Jeffrey Lyons
Associate Professor
School of Public Service
Boise State University
jeffreylyons@boisestate.edu

Josh M. Ryan
Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
Utah State University
Corresponding author for data: josh.ryan@usu.edu

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Data Availability and Provenance Statements

The main treatment examined in the papers was collected by the authors. Additional detail on data collection is provided in various places in the main text and in the Appendix/Supplemental Information.

The treatment variable was merged with data from: Bucchianeri, Peter / Volden, Craig / Wiseman, Alan E. “Legislative Effectiveness in the American States” 2025*, American Political Science Review*, Vol. 119, No. 1, p. 21-39;
Shor, Boris and Nolan McCarty. 2011. “The ideological mapping of American legislatures.” American Political Science Review 105(3):530–551;
Harden, Jeffrey J. and Justin H. Kirkland. 2021. “Does Transparency Inhibit Political Compromise?” American Journal of Political Science 65(2):493‐509.

These datasets are publicly available from these authors.

Statement about Rights

- x We certify that the author(s) of the manuscript have legitimate access to and permission to use the data used in this manuscript.

Summary of Availability

- x All data **are** publicly available.

Computational requirements

Analyses run on Stata 18.0 SE using packages estout, grystyle, coefplot, reghdfe, ftools, outreg2, bacondecomp.

Additional analysis run in R 4.4.1. All relevant packages are loaded in the R replication files.

Setting the seed is required for the Stata analysis. It is done at 123456789 at the beginning of the relevant Stata files.

The xtlogit models take a few minutes, and the panelmatch analysis in R takes a few minutes each on a Windows 11 machine.

Description of programs/code

There are two sets of analyses: chamber-level and legislator-level (districts). The paper is separated into these analyses as they use different datasets and have different models and slightly different estimation techniques.

There are two main datasets:
1. chamber_level_forstata_v4_102524.dta
2. leg_level_forstata_v6_102524.dta

There are two Stata .do files for each of these:
1. replication_chamber_level_v9_061725 is the code used for all chamber-level analyses,
2. replication_legislator_level_v7_061725 is the code used for all legislator-level results.

The codebook for each can be found by using the "describe" command in Stata. Separate codebook files are also included in the dataverse materials.

Additionally, some figures and additional models using Panelmatch are completed in R. The R files are as follows:
01panelmatch_displaytreatment_v2_102524.R creates Figure A1, which displays treatment by state-chamber year of adoption.

Chamber-level analyses:
02panelmatch_balancetests_cham_level_v5_040925.R produces balance data at the chamber-level and creates Figures E1-E6, "Covariate Balancing for Different Methods".

Main analyses are in: 03panelmatch_analysis_v3_061725.R

Analyses dropping some states for "clean" analysis are in:
04panelmatch_analysis__cleanadoption_v2_061725.R

Legislator-level:
02panelmatch_balancetests_leg_level_v4_102524.R produces balance data and creates Figures I2-I4. (Running this entire file takes approximately 45 minutes).

Main analyses are in: 03panelmatch_analysis_leg_level_v4_061725.R

Analyses dropping some states for "clean" analyses at the legislator-level are in:
03panelmatch_analysis_cleanadoption_leg_level_v2_061725.R

Additional Information:

All tables and figures are labeled in the Stata and R code. The order mostly matches that in the main text and the appendix.

The main legislator-level and chamber-level replication produce the null effects (precision) results shown in Figures 2 and 6. This results are saved in null_effects_analysis_v2.xlsx, and the R file 04_nulleffects_analysis_v1_121223 loads these values and produces the graph.

There are additional datasets related to the tests around heterogeneous treatment effects. These results are created in Stata, then saved into a separate dataset, then imported into Stata. The main analysis code here will run the models, then import the saved results from those models. These results at the chamber-level create Figure 4 and Table D1: Estimated Chamber-Level Treatment Effects Over Time

The datasets are: bacondecomp_time_aggregate.dta (for chamber-level analysis), bacondecomp_time_aggregate_leg_level (for legislator-level analysis), and bacondecomp_time_aggregate_leg_level_clean(for legislator-level analysis dropping some states).

Replication Code to Create Figures in the Main Text:

Figure 1: replication_chamber_level_v9_061725.do
Figure 2: 04_nulleffects_analysis_v1_121223.R
Figure 3: replication_chamber_level_v9_061725.do
Figure 4: 03panelmatch_analysis_v3_061725.R
Figure 5: replication_legislator_level_v7_061725.do
Figure 6: 04_nulleffects_analysis_v1_121223.R
Figure 7: replication_legislator_level_v7_061725.do
Figure 8: 03panelmatch_analysis_leg_level_v4_061725.R