Vote by Mail: GOV2001 Second Deliverable

Christopher T. Kenny, Dominic J. Valentino

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Our replication of the main results of Thompson et al. (2020) is as follows:

Table 1: **Vote-by-Mail Expansion Does Not Appear to Favor Either Party.**

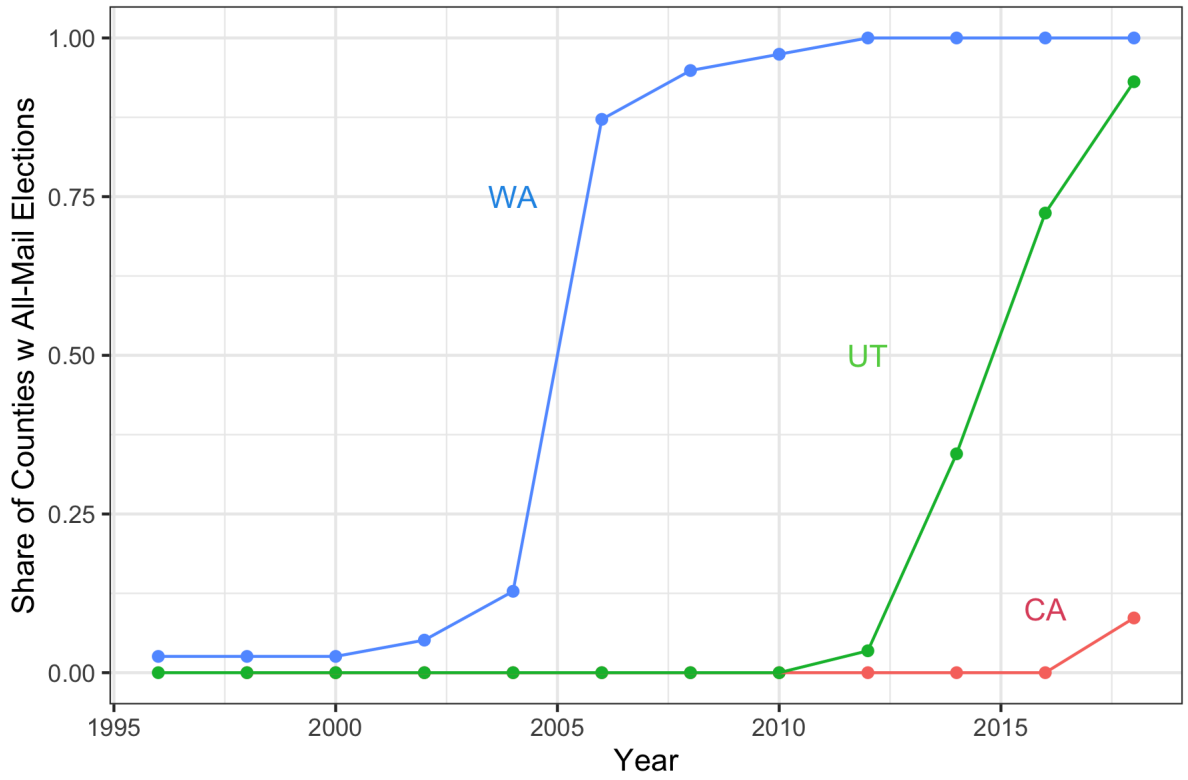
	Dem Turnout Share [0-1]			Dem Vote Share [0-1]		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
VBM	0.007	0.001	0.001	0.028	0.011	0.011
	(0.003)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.011)	(0.004)	(0.004)
# Counties	87	87	87	126	126	126
# Elections	23	23	23	31	31	31
# Obs	986	986	986	1998	1998	1998
County FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
State by Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
County Trends	No	Linear	Quad	No	Linear	Quad

Robust standard errors clustered by county in parentheses. The number of counties is smaller in columns 1-3 because we have partisan turnout share for CA and UT, but not WA. Columns 4-6 use data from all three states.

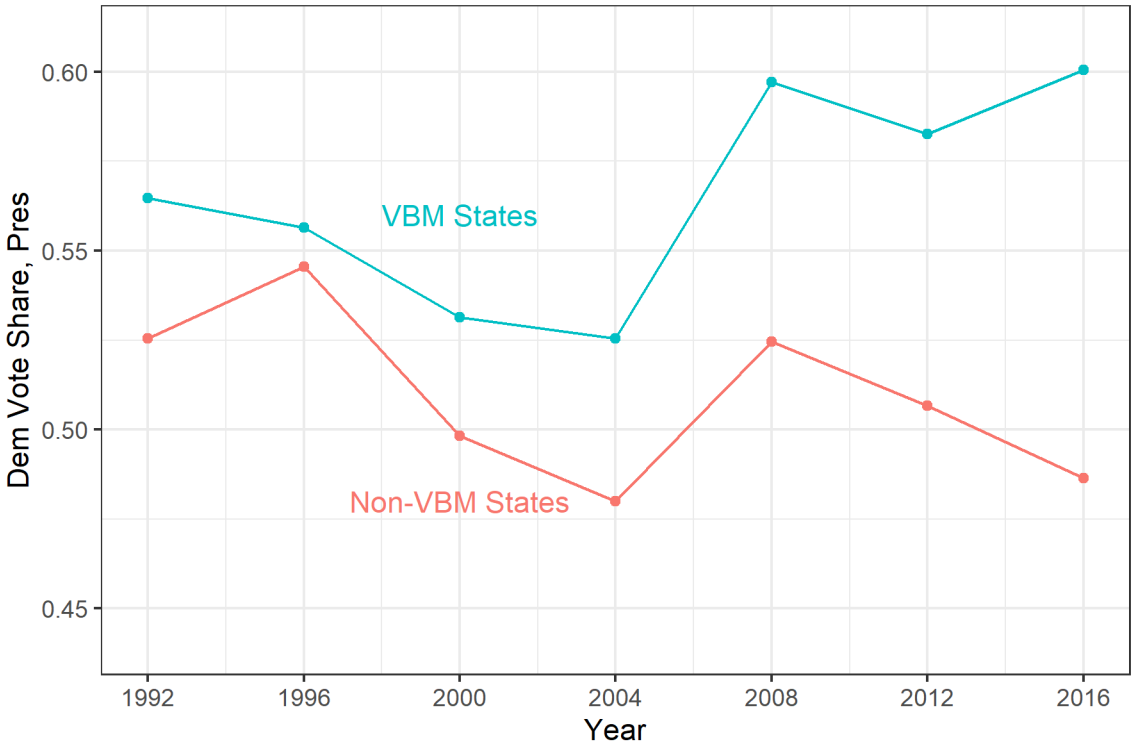
Table 2: **Vote-byMail Expansion Increases Participation.**

	Dem Turnout Share [0-1]			Dem Vote Share [0-1]		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
VBM	0.021	0.022	0.021	0.186	0.157	0.157
	(0.009)	(0.006)	(0.006)	(0.026)	(0.033)	(0.033)
# Counties	126	126	126	58	58	58
# Elections	30	30	30	10	10	10
# Obs	1240	1240	1240	580	580	580
County FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
State by Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
County Trends	No	Linear	Quad	No	Linear	Quad

Robust standard errors clustered by county in parentheses.



These are the two main tables in the body of the paper as well as the main figure displaying the distribution of the treatment variable (universal vote-by-mail) across counties, elections, and states. Please note that we were not able to replicate the results in the tables exactly. We still aren't sure what is wrong, but in both tables, the sixth column is incorrect (exactly matching the fifth column) for reasons we still can't figure out. Not only that, but several of the standard errors are incorrect as well; when our standard errors diverge from the authors', ours are always smaller by .1-.2. Again, we aren't sure why this is happening, but we think it may be a combination of divergent rounding procedures and how the two programs (STATA and R, in particular reghdfe in STATA and lfe in R) handle clustering of standard errors. All point estimates (aside from the last column in both tables, inexplicably) match the paper. Finally, we also include a replication of Figure S1 from the paper below, because it helps to highlight the discrepancy between VBM and Non-VBM states that we hope to discuss in the extension part of the paper.



References

Thompson, Daniel M, Jennifer A Wu, Jesse Yoder and Andrew B Hall. 2020. "Universal vote-by-mail has no impact on partisan turnout or vote share." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* .