README for Replication of "Exploiting a Manager Blunder to Study Policy Accountability: Trump and His COVID Stance in 2020"

Overview

This folder contains materials to replicate the results in the paper titled *Exploiting a Manager Blunder to Study Policy Accountability: Trump and His COVID Stance in 2020*. To generate the figures, tables, and key statistics discussed in the paper and appendices, follow the instructions below.

Instructions for Replication

1. **Install Required Software**
    - Install **R version 4.4.3**.
    - Install the **rmarkdown** R package.
    - Install a **LaTeX engine** to allow RMarkdown to compile the paper.
2. **Knitting the RMarkdown File**
    - Open paper.Rmd in RStudio.
    - Use the **Knit** button in RStudio to generate the paper. This will reproduce all figures, tables, and relevant statistics.
3. **Ensuring Package Versions**
    - Use the **groundhog** R package to ensure all required packages match the versions as of **March 24, 2025**. This ensures precise replication of results.

Data Files and Code

Main Coding Files

- **cleandata_pre.R**: Prepares the pre-wave data.
- **cleandata_post.R**: Prepares the post-wave data.
- **mergeprepost.R**: Merges the pre-wave and post-wave data files.

Note: These coding files previously required respondents' identification numbers to merge panel waves. These identifiers have been removed to ensure respondent anonymity.

Data Folder

- **/Data/raw/**: Contains the original pre-election and post-election survey files. These have no personally identifying information.
- **/Data/cleaned/**: Contains the cleaned data file used by paper.Rmd to generate results.

Software Environment

- **R version 4.4.3**
- **RStudio version 2024.12.0 build467**

While the RStudio version may not be critical for replication, we recommend using this version if possible for consistency.

If you encounter any issues or have questions, please contact [Gabriel] at glenz.berkeley.edu.