

Data Appendix to "Please Don't Vote for Me: Voting in a Natural Experiment with Perverse Incentives"

This appendix provides a description of all data used in the paper as well as precise definitions together with the exact sources of all variables.

A. Precinct Level Variables

Data containing the official results of the 2002, 2005, and 2009 elections to the Bundestag by polling precinct (*Wahlbezirk*) have been purchased from the Federal Statistical Office of Germany. These data include information on the number of list and candidate votes for each party and each candidate, the number of eligible voters, as well as the number of valid and invalid votes. Throughout the analysis the following precinct level variables are used:

Number of Eligible Voters is defined as the number of residents of each precinct that were allowed to vote in the particular year. In general this encompasses all German citizens over the age of 18, who have not been declared mentally unfit, or whose voting rights have not been suspended due to criminal behavior.

Absentee Precinct is an indicator variable equal to one if a given precinct handles only absentee ballots. Absentee voters are individuals who were not physically present in District 160 on election day, or who were not physically able to appear at a polling station in person, i.e. some of the elderly or handicapped citizens. Absentee ballots are generally cast by mail and are reported separately in the official data.

Turnout is defined as the number of actual voters over the number of eligible voters. This number cannot be calculated for Absentee Precincts, as absentee voters are included in the number of eligible voters in their district of residence. Hence, in-person turnout in each district needs to be adjusted for absentee voters. In practice, this is done by multiplying the number of issued absentee ballots by .95 (which corresponds to the empirical frequency with which they are cast) and adding them to the ballots that are cast in person.

CDU Share of Candidate Vote is defined as the portion of all valid candidate votes (in %) that are cast for the respective candidate of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU).

SPD Share of Candidate Vote is defined as the portion of all valid candidate votes (in %) that are cast for the respective candidate of the Social Democratic Party (SPD).

FDP Share of Candidate Vote is defined as the portion of all valid candidate votes (in %) that are cast for the respective candidate of the Free Democratic Party (FDP).

The Left Share of Candidate Vote is defined as the portion of all valid candidate votes (in %) that were cast for the respective candidate of The Left in 2005 and 2009, or for the candidate of the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS) in 2002.

Green Party Share of Candidate Vote is defined as the portion of all valid candidate votes (in %) that are cast for the respective candidate of the Green Party.

Others' Share of Candidate Vote is defined as the portion of all valid candidate votes (in %) that were not cast for candidates of the parties listed above.

CDU Share of List Vote is defined as the portion of all valid list votes (in %) that are cast for the Christian Democratic Union (CDU).

SPD Share of List Vote is defined as the portion of all valid list votes (in %) that are cast for the Social Democratic Party (SPD).

FDP Share of List Vote is defined as the portion of all valid list votes (in %) that are cast for the Free Democratic Party (FDP).

The Left Share of List Vote is defined as the portion of all valid list votes (in %) that are cast for The Left in 2005 and 2009, or for the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS) in 2002.

Green Party Share of List Vote is defined as the portion of all valid list votes (in %) that are cast for the Green Party.

Others' Share of List Vote is defined as the portion of all valid list votes (in %) that are not cast for the parties listed above.

B. *District Level Variables*

Information on demographic and socio-economic characteristics of districts has been taken from Bundeswahlleiter (2002, 2005, 2009). The numbers in these publications are based on official figures from the Federal Statistical Office which have been aggregated to the level of the electoral district (or when necessary imputed). The following district level variables are used throughout the analysis:

Population is defined as the number of individuals of all ages (in 1,000) that reside within the district.

Population Density is defined as a district's number of residents over its geographic area (in km²).

Population Growth is defined as the yearly change in the number of residents (from all sources) per 1,000 residents.

Number of Cars is defined as the number of officially registered cars per 1,000 residents.

Percent of Labor Force in Manufacturing is defined as the share of all workers subject to social insurance contributions that work in manufacturing.

Percent of Labor Force in Service Industry is defined as the share of all workers subject to social insurance contributions that work in commerce and sales, telecommunications, or other service jobs.

Unemployment Rate is defined as the number of all officially registered unemployed individuals over the sum of the gainfully employed and those registered as unemployed. For each year this number corresponds to the published official unemployment rate.

C. *Mapping Polling Precincts and Municipalities over Time*

As mentioned in the main text, the state of Saxony contained 17 electoral districts in 2002 and 2005, but only 16 in 2009. This necessitates the construction of a consistent mapping

from Saxony's polling precincts into geographically constant districts, on which the main results can be based. In constructing this mapping the paper relies on municipality identifiers contained in the raw data as well as the appendices to the Bundeswahlgesetz, which list all municipalities in any given district. 2005 serves as the base year. In a very small number of instances absentee precincts are associated with multiple municipalities which (in another election year) belonged to different electoral districts. In such cases the absentee precinct is allocated to the district that contains the greater municipality.

In the robustness checks in Table 7 this paper also uses other districts in East and West Germany as a comparison group. Since migration led to the redrawing of districts in a number of instances, a second mapping had to be constructed. This mapping assigns a unique identifier to all districts in 2002. If a district remained unchanged over the course of 2002-2009, then the same identifier is also used in subsequent years. In cases in which borders were redrawn a new (unique) identifier is assigned to the resulting district.

In order to account for the fact that some municipalities merge and dissolve over time and to still be able to use municipality fixed effects this paper also creates a time invariant mapping of Saxony's municipalities. Again, 2005 serves as the base year. That is, all municipalities that are autonomous in 2005 are assigned a unique time invariant identifier. Villages that existed before 2005, but had merged with others by then, are assigned the identifier of the (new) municipality to which they belonged in 2005. In a handful of cases different parts of a village merged with two or three other municipalities before 2005. These villages are assigned the identifier of the autonomous municipality that received the larger part of the village's population. In practice, very few municipalities merge or dissolve between 2002 and 2009. Between 1994 and 2002, however, about 48% of municipalities merge with others due to extensive reforms of administrative boundaries.

References

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