

Read Me: Replication file for “Debates: Voting and Expenditure Responses to Political Communication” by Bidwell, Casey and Glennerster

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Before running the replication:

- Download and unzip the “Debates_data&replication” file folder
- Install user written command “estout” in Stata (ssc install estout, replace)

What to expect:

- The folder contains the cleaned, de-identified data from several surveys. The “debates_replication.do” file uses these datasets, runs the analysis, and generates all estimates reported in the main text tables and figures, as well as those in the online appendix. (See inventory list below.)
- As “debates_replication.do” runs, it produces several outsheet and estout files in the folder. These files contain the estimates and can be opened in Excel.
 - To view the .out files, open them in Excel, choose the option “delimited” data type in the dialogue box, then “tab” delimiter, then “general” column data format.
 - To view the estout files, open them in Excel, choose the option “fixed width” data type, adjust break lines to accommodate up to two stars after the coefficients, and then change all column data formats to “text.”
- Questionnaires that accompany the survey data can be found in the “Surveys” subfolder.

Other things to note:

- Familywise error rate (FWER) adjustments in main text Table 1 are based on 10,000 iterations, which take a long time to run, so the replication file uses the same code but runs only 500 iterations. The resulting FWER p -values are thus not identical to those in the paper.
- Outputs for Appendix A and some of Appendix C are omitted as the content identifies individual MPs.
- The folder includes Michael Anderson’s “fdr_sharpened_qvalues.do” file that makes false discovery rate (FDR) corrections, check his website for updates:
https://are.berkeley.edu/~mlanderson/ARE_Website/Research.html

Detailed inventory:

- Public datasets in the “Debates_data&replication” folder:
 - deb_vrc_exit
 - deb_ind_exit
 - deb_nec_vrc
 - deb_vrc_implem
 - deb_comm_exit
 - deb_experts
 - deb_parl_records
 - deb_field_audits
- Tables, figures and appendix materials generated by “debates_replication.do” with output file names:
 - Table 1: tab1_cols1_2_5, tab1_col4
 - Table 2: tab2, tab2_nec
 - Table 3: tab3, tab3_alt1, tab3_alt2, tab3_panC_apc, tab3_panC_slpp, tab3_panC_pmdc
 - Table 4: tab4_mei, tab4_ios

- Table 5: tab5a_rows123, tab5a_rows45, tab5b_priv, tab5b_public
- Appendix C: appC_panA
- Appendix D: appD
- Appendix G: appG
- Appendix H: appH, appH_panC_apc, appH_panC_slpp, appH_panC_pmdc
- Appendix I: appI_mei, appI_ios
- Appendix J: appJ
- Appendix K: appK_a, appK_b
- Appendix L: appL
- Appendix M: appM_mei, appM_ios
- Appendix N: appN_priming, appN_reinforcing

Any questions or comments? Please contact Kate Casey at kecasey@stanford.edu.