The following dataset contains variables related to elections for the U.S. House, including spending patterns of incumbents and challengers. The data is at the electoral district level. Each observation represents a specific election. Each line of the data includes information about the district, the incumbent, and the challenger (if there is one). Note that some variables are in a logarithmic scale.

1 Variables

year - year of election, from 1956 to 1996.

congress - the congress number being elected (e.g., the 103rd Congress).

chalspend - challenger spending - dollars spent by the challenger in the election (log thousands of dollars).

incspend - incumbent spending - dollars spent by the incumbent in the election (log thousands of dollars).

incspend2 - incumbent spending - dollars spent by the incumbent in the election (thousands of dollars).

difflog - difference in spending between the incumbent and the challenger (each in log thousand of dollars).

presvote - presidential vote - vote share for the presidential candidate of the incumbent congressional candidates’ party in the two most recent elections in the district.

voteshare - vote share - share of votes for the incumbent (votes for the incumber divided by the total of votes given to candidates from the two major parties).

inparty - the variable equals 1 when the party of the incumbent is the president’s party; 0 otherwise.

incparty - incumbent’s party - the variable equals 1 when the incumbent belongs to the Democratic Party, and 0 when it belongs to the Republican Party.

seniority - seniority of the incumbent - number of terms the incumbent has served in congress.

midterm - midterm election - the variable equals 1 when the election is a midterm election; 0 otherwise.
chalquality - challenger quality - the variable equals 1 when the challenger has previously won an elected position; 0 otherwise.

south - Southern states - the variable equals 1 when the election is conducted in southern state; 0 otherwise.

population - log(population) at the district level.

urban - urban population at the district level (logged).

age65 - population over 65 at the district level (logged).

milpop - military population at the district level (logged).

unemployed - number of people unemployed at the district level (logged).