**Date: 21/09/2020**

This document explains A) how to obtain the data used for the empirical analysis and B) how to replicate the empirical results in the paper “Do political parties matter? – Evidence from German municipalities”.

1. **Data**

In the following we outline the different data sets used for the empirical analysis and how this data can be obtained by researchers.

We use four different data sets. These are the **(i) “Jahresrechnungsstatistik”, (ii) “Statistik Lokal”, (iii) Council and Mayor election data** for German municipalities and **(iv) information on the “Sonntagsfrage”**.

**(i) The “Jahresrechnungsstatistik”** is provided by the Research Data Centres of the Statistical Offices of the Federation and the Federal States and can be used by researchers against a small fee. For more information see [https://www.forschungsdatenzentrum.de](https://www.forschungsdatenzentrum.de/sites/default/files/rechnungsergebnisse_1992-2006_suf_ak.pdf).

**(ii) “Statistik Lokal”** is provided by the Federal Statistic Office.

The data from 2001 onwards is included in Statistik Lokal, which is available as CD (until 2003) or DVD. The data can be bought from the Federal Statistical Office or the State Statistical Offices against a small fee or accessed in the Library of the Federal Statistical Office in Bonn (Graurheindorfer Str. 198, 53117 Bonn) or Wiesbaden (Gustav-Stresemann-Ring 11, 65189 Wiesbaden,).

See also <https://bibliothek.destatis.de/webOPACClient/search.do?methodToCall=volumeSearch&dbIdentifier=-1&forward=success&catKey=272921779&periodical=N>).

All data the year before 2001 can either be obtained, against a small fee, from one of the State Statistical Offices in Germany or for the municipalities in a particular state from the respective State Statistical Office. For some states, the data can also be downloaded directly (see below). Our empirical analysis includes municipalities in the following West German States: Baden-Wuerttemberg, Bavaria, Hesse, Lower Saxony, North-Rhine Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland, and Schleswig-Holstein.

*Baden-Wuerttemberg:* All data for municipalities in Baden-Wuerttemberg can be download from <https://www.statistik-bw.de/> or obtained, in some cases against a small fee, from the State Statistical Office of Baden-Wuerttemberg (Auskunftsdienst@stala.bwl.de or  +49 711 641-2833).

*Bavaria:* All data for municipalities in Bavaria can be obtained, in some cases against a small fee, from the State Statistical Office of Bavaria (vertrieb@statistik.bayern.de or 0911 98208-6311). For more information see <https://www.statistik.bayern.de>

*Hesse:* The political party data for municipalities in Hesse can be found at <https://statistik.hessen.de/zahlen-fakten/kommunalwahlen.>

All other data for municipalities in Hesse can be obtained, in some cases against a small fee, from the State Statistical Office of Hesse (info@statistik.hessen.de  or +49 611 3802802). For more information see <https://statistik.hessen.de>.

*Lower Saxony:* All data for the municipalities in Lower Saxony can be downloaded from <https://www1.nls.niedersachsen.de/Statistik/default.asp>.

*North-Rhine Westphalia:* All data for municipalities in North-Rhine Westphalia can be downloaded from <https://www.landesdatenbank.nrw.de/ldbnrw/online>.

*Rhineland-Palatinate:* All data for municipalities in Rhineland-Palatinate can be obtained, in some cases against a small fee, from the State Statistical Office of Rhineland-Palatinate (info@statistik.rlp.de or +49 2603 71444). For more information see <http://www.statistik.rlp.de.>

*Saarland:* All data for municipalities in Saarland can be found in the yearly publication “Saarlaendische Gemeindezahlen”, which are available at <https://www.destatis.de/GPStatistik/receive/SLSerie_serie_00000010?list=all>

*Schleswig-Holstein:* All data for municipalities in Schleswig-Holstein can be obtained, in some cases against a small fee, from the State Statistical Office of Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein (info@statistik-nord.de or +49 40 42831-1766). For more information see <https://www.statistik-nord.de>.

**(iii) Council election** data has been obtained from the Statistical Offices of the Federal States (see under (ii)) and the **mayor election** data has been provided to us by R. Freier and C. Odendahl.

**(iv) Information on “Sonntagsfrage”** is provided by GESIS. For more information see <https://www.gesis.org/wahlen/politbarometer/aktuelle-zeitreihe>

Since we are not allowed to share the “Jahresrechnungsstatistik”, “Statistik Lokal”, information on the “Sonntagsfrage” and the mayor election data, the data folder includes only the local council election data.

1. **Do-Files**
2. **Data Preparation and Estimation Sample**

The do-files **1a\_expenditure\_voluntary, 1b\_expenditures\_total and 1c\_grants** prepare the voluntary and overall expenditure data as well as the grant data. The main data set used is the “Jahresrechnungsstatistik” for German municipalities. This data is grouped according to “Gliederungsnummern” and “Gruppierungsnummern”. The “Gliederungsnummer” refers to the spending category, e.g. schools, general administration, etc. The “Gruppierungsnummer” refers to the type of expenditure/income, e.g. grants, investment expenditure, etc.

A detailed description can be found here:

<https://www.forschungsdatenzentrum.de/sites/default/files/rechnungsergebnisse_1992-2006_suf_ak.pdf>

**1a\_expenditure\_voluntary** prepares the voluntary expenditure. **1b\_expenditures\_total** prepares the overall expenditure data and **1c\_grants** prepares the data on grants.

**1d\_sample** matches the different data sources, Statistik Lokal, the expenditure/income data produced with do-files 1a, 1b and 1c, and the election data.

In addition, the do-file **1d\_sample** generates the dependent variables, the control variables, and the political variables (majority in the council).

Lastly, the do-file **1d\_sample** creates the estimation sample, which consists of two sub-samples (Panel A and Panel B). Panel A includes two consecutive election period for municipalities for which the council majority was either unchanged SPD or changed from SPD to CDU. Panel B includes two consecutive election period for municipalities for which the council majority was either unchanged CDU or changed from CDU to SPD.

To create these sample, we first construct a sample that includes all available combinations of two consecutive election periods for municipalities (e.g. if three election periods for a municipality are observed, there are 2 two consecutive election periods for this municipality (1-2 and 2-3).

Then all two consecutive election periods with the particular pattern for the council majority in Panel A and B are selected. Lastly, the pre-election period variables (used for the matching strategy) are generated. Panel A and Panel B are saved separately.

1. **Construction Instrument**

The do-file **2\_instrument** generates the instruments used. It uses the election data as well as information from the “Sonntagsfrage”.

1. **IV Estimation Results (Council Majorities)**

The do-file **3\_estimation\_iv** combines Panel A and B and generates the regression weights using entropy-balancing and propensity score matching.

In addition, the do-file includes the code to produce the descriptive statistics and the estimation results for the local council majority analysis.

1. **RDD Estimation Results (Majors)**

The do-file **4\_estimation\_rdd** generates the RDD estimation sample, the RDD variables and the descriptive statistics and RDD estimations results.