

The Effects of Geographical Representation on Legislators' Behavior

In this paper, we examine how an increase of a jurisdiction's number of seats in the national parliament impacts the effort level of its representatives? We estimate the effect of a jurisdiction having one additional seat using a regression discontinuity design and data for Australia, Canada, Mexico, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United States. Our outcomes span multiple dimensions of politician, including parliamentary attendance, party-line voting, speech and district-specific references in speeches.